



Special points of interest:

The SoulCare Experience, a 13-week DVD course is released

The PAPA Prayer Society comes to life

The NEW *Life On The Narrow Road* Conference takes off

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VOLUME 1, ISSUE 1

DECEMBER 21, 2006

PAPA Prayer Society

This was the first letter Larry sent to the PAPA Prayer Society: My plan is to update you monthly with a thought or a tip about this approach to praying, something that comes directly out of my own experience and study.

Each update will be purposefully brief (that is, brief for me; I tend to be wordy) and designed to encourage you to stay the course on "relating through praying."

This past week I had surgery on my lower right leg to remove a patch of skin cancer. That was Tuesday. Wednesday a dentist cemented a large gold crown on my lower left molar. My wife Rachael had cataract surgery on Thursday, and on Friday our older son went in for a minor surgical procedure.

Next week (it's Saturday as I write), I leave for Vancouver to present four messages at the Regent College Pastors Conference. From there, I travel to Los Angeles to participate in a Spiritual Formation Forum. I come home to complete (I've only begun) an extensive manual on bringing spiritual formation into the local church that will be given to several hundred attendees at our Advanced School of Spiritual Direction in mid-July. Between now and then, I teach another week long basic School of Spiritual Direction in June, then fly to D.C. to lead a short Bible study at the White House on the PAPA prayer. And in that time, I must finish work on a DVD course on Soul Care that's due for release early summer.

I say all this, not to whine (though the temptation is familiar) nor to

make a case that I'm busier than you, but to identify with what I'm certain you feel in different seasons of your life. We all get overwhelmed, pressed beyond our limit, plates fill up, and we sag in weariness. Dentists and doctors need to be visited, garage door openers need replacement (ours did last Monday), and family and church responsibilities continue.

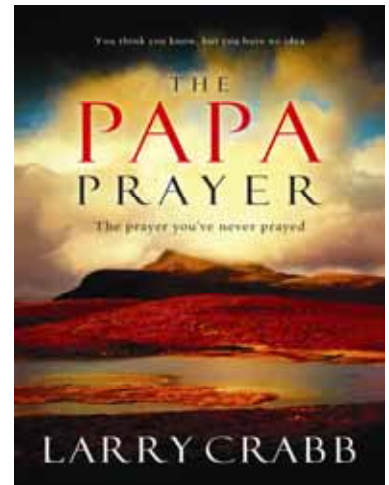
And then one unexpected thing happens that sends us over the edge. Had it happened at another time, we could have handled it better. For me, this unexpected thing happened an hour ago. The crowned tooth began to ache, not badly, but with a promise of things to come.

It's Saturday night; I leave Monday morning for two weeks. I've got a ton of creative work to do and I don't always get creative when I set aside time to create. The Spirit cannot be counted on to cooperate with my schedule. I don't need a toothache right now. When I felt the first twinge, I got really frustrated.

So I prayed. I know God is in the particulars of life, so I prayed. The PAPA prayer did not come to mind. I was more interested in petitioning God than relating to Him. And my interest seemed to grow out of Scripture.

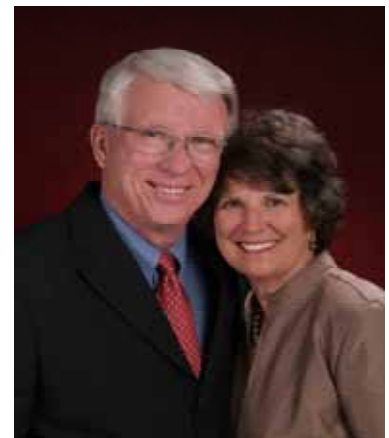
I had just begun a study of Genesis this afternoon and, from the first chapter, I was meditating on God's power over creation and His delight in it, especially in His creation of people, people with bodies, with teeth.

So I prayed (and the following is nearly verbatim): "God, you made me. You made my body. The plan didn't include tooth-



aches. I know the fall messed everything up. But you take delight in health. And I know you still can, even after the fall, stop this tooth from hurting. Please. I really can't take one more thing. I don't know how I could get to my dentist before I leave Monday morning. So please – you've already allowed skin cancer to grow on my leg and cataracts to form in Rachael's eyes. Couldn't you just get rid of this toothache?"

That's a request. That's petitionary prayer. And it's good. Well, not entirely. You may have noticed a hint of negotiation mixed in with my petition. That always



Larry and Rachael



“PAPA, I’m really frustrated right now, and worried, and scared, and I guess, a little annoyed...”



Glen Eyrie Conference Center

happens when relational prayer isn’t the context for the petition. Still, God likes us to come to Him as little children who trust their Papa enough to ask for His help. So petition away!

But don’t forget the PAPA prayer. Relational prayer has a higher end in view than a specific blessing desired for our comfort. Relational prayer aims toward knowing God better, bringing Him pleasure by trusting His love in any circumstance, and becoming more like Jesus who “always pleased the Father.” Relational prayer must be the foundation and framework for all petitionary prayer.

When I caught myself negotiating with God, I stopped. I related. I realized God could heal my tooth. With all my heart. I believe He can make the pain go away, with just a word, a quiet snap of His fingers. But I also realize He’s under no obligation to do so. His love for me (which Calvary settles once and for all) doesn’t compel Him to ease my pain (whether in a tooth, a marriage, a job; whatever) anymore than a mother’s love compels her to provide her child with ice cream, especially if the child has yet to finish his carrots.

As I thought about that, something stirred in me. It kind of scared me. Getting in touch with what is deepest in your soul lifts you into unfamiliar territory, into your longing for another world where you lose control. I could sense that I was moving toward awareness of what’s already in me, an appetite to know God that I’d pay any price to satisfy, including a seriously painful tooth.

The PAPA prayer began to flow out of me, just 20 minutes ago, carried by the current of my awakened desire to know God in the particulars of my life right then. Here’s how I prayed:

“PAPA, I’m really frustrated right now, and worried, and scared, and, I guess, a little annoyed that I can’t count on you to heal my tooth (presenting). But I know you’re good, and that you’re always good to me. And in your goodness, you’re committed to a higher purpose that I don’t always appreciate (attending). It’s so easy for me to want second things more than first things, to prefer relief of pain (which I really want) over your using my pain to put me in touch with how much I want you. And that’s what’s been happening in me these last few minutes (purging).

“So, although I’m still asking you to stop the pain in my tooth and not let it come back, at least for two weeks, there really is something I want more. If you can draw me closer to you and get pleasure out of my life by letting the pain get worse, then I accept that. I can feel my desire to have you satisfy my soul with your presence and to make me more like Jesus, more able to love my wife, deliver messages in your power, impact my kids and grand kids for good. That’s what I most want and I came to you for it (approach).”

I finished praying that prayer just before I began writing this update. My tooth is still hurting. Maybe less. I’m not sure. I have every confidence that God could fix my tooth and no guarantees that He will.

But if the pain continues, even if it gets worse, I’m right now sensing the beginnings of peace, almost excitement, that something I really do want more than a pain-free tooth is coming my way. I might just mature a bit, become a little more patient, fall in love more strongly with Jesus, depend more on the Spirit for all that lies ahead, and relax in Papa’s presence a little more fully. And God will get a tad more glory out of my life as I value knowing Him

above a healthy tooth.

The Spirit through the PAPA prayer got me thinking like that. And I’m grateful.

Well, that’s it till next time. Keep relating to God.. Keep praying the PAPA prayer. And invite your friends to join the **PAPA PRAYER SOCIETY**. No fee required. Just a hunger to know God better.

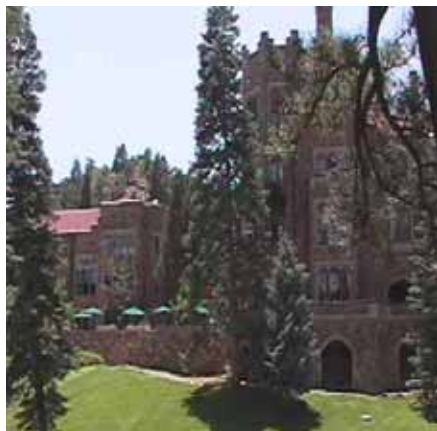
Dr. Larry Crabb is a psychologist, conference and seminar speaker, Bible teacher, popular author, and founder/director of **NewWay Ministries**. In addition to various other speaking and teaching opportunities, Dr. Crabb offers a weekend conference entitled *Life on the Narrow Road* throughout the country and a week-long *School of Spiritual Direction* held in Colorado Springs, CO. He currently is Distinguished Scholar in Residence at Colorado Christian University & serves as Spiritual Director for the American Association of Christian Counselors. Among the many books he has authored are *Understanding People*, *The Marriage Builder*, *Inside Out*, *Finding God*, *Connecting*, *The Safest Place on Earth*, *Shattered Dreams*, *The Pressure’s Off* and *SoulTalk*. His latest book, *The PAPA Prayer*, was released in February 2006.

NewWay Ministries, based in Denver, Colorado was formed in 2002 by Dr. Larry Crabb. It was birthed out of the passionate conviction that there is a *new way* to live made possible by the New Covenant that must become better known. NewWay Ministries (a non-profit ministry) joins with others excited about spiritual formation and authentic community to help ignite a revolution in how Christians live, think, and relate.

That revolution is the dream of NewWay Ministries.

School of Spiritual Direction enters fifth year at Glen Eyrie

The week long School of Spiritual Direction is an intensive course taught by Larry Crabb to a small group of 30 students.. Class number 21 completed in October as the fifth year of the course continues at beautiful Glen Eyrie Castle in Colorado Springs.



The course offers a newly developed model of spiritual direction that draws on both the age-old wisdom of the church and more recent perspectives. This model offers an understanding of the private and often confusing world beneath the surface of our everyday lives and a strategy for following the Spirit into the depths of our souls. For more information call NewWay (303.670.9900) or via www.newwayministries.org -School of Spiritual Direction.

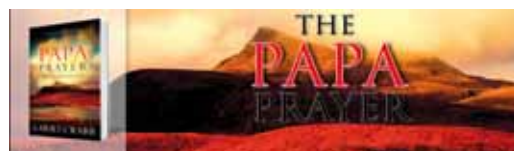
Reach the Heart Experience reaches from Florida to Alaska as it comes to an end.

The **Reach the Heart Experience**, a weekend event taught by Dr. Larry Crabb was sponsored by groups of local churches in cities across the nation. Dr. Crabb and his team build relationships with local pastors and volunteer leaders in each city for months before the event, then rely on the local organization to facilitate the weekend event. From Tallahassee to Anchorage, the system has produced wonderful weekends and lifelong friends. We will be forever grateful for the invitations. Participants learned a practical model for understanding how God changes us from **self-obsessed** to **God-obsessed** people, and how in our relationships we can cooperate with the Spirit in this process. Larry draws on all that he has previously written, by zeroing in on three topics: Encounter Transformation and Community.

A recent attendee wrote, "Larry, your books and your conferences have ministered to us in wonderful ways over the years. God has used them to call out our new heart and to invite us to walk into many places where we did not want to go. They have stirred something which my wife and I truly believe is authentic community. The timing of this conference was unbelievable. It appears God is inviting us to walk much deeper into the issues of our life. I want to seek his heart in all of this. Please pray that we might find God rather than merely looking for solutions. Thank you, brother, God bless you."

PAPA Prayer Society, created in March, now over 1,200 members.

Significant interest in the new PAPA Prayer book and it's approach to personal relationship with God has spurred interest in a new PAPA Prayer Society. Larry Crabb, author of *The Papa Prayer*, concluded that PAPA Prayer is a journey for himself and others who adopt this new approach to a prayer life. Dr Crabb has said "Learning about PAPA prayer certainly did not end for me when the book was completed. Every day I discover new lessons about getting more 'of God' rather than getting more 'from God.'" "The PAPA Prayer Society is my way of sharing the progress of my ongoing journey with others who have begun the trip.



How to join the PAPA Prayer Society

One of the wonders of the electronic age is the ability to send very focused personalized communications to a large group of participants. Would you like to join the Papa Prayer Society? It's easy and free of charge. Just go to the web address below where you will find simple instructions. Then the marvels of the internet begin to function so that we can communicate to you regularly.

www.papaprayer.com

Rachael's Corner



Rachael's Corner Dec. 2006.

Several months ago I was commissioned to send prayer initiatives on behalf of the ministry team at NewWay--- WOW, what a joy to pray for those on the list and have them pray for us and the ministry! Larry and the team has definitely felt a power surge. Even in our old age we have felt a renewed vitality in the ministry and have realized that God isn't through with us. Do we get tired? You bet, but always mindful that we're told in Hebrews that we will enter into our rest when we see HIM. It's all about the Trinity and we're dancing, most of the time, with them. If you'd like to join the NewWay prayer team please email me directly and I'll

include you. Remember or beware, mine is not a fancy newsletter. I just jot down things to pray about in the rhythm of the Spirit.

I love picturing Acts 4:31, "And when they had prayed, the place in which they were gathered together was shaken, and they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and continued to speak the word of God with boldness." Let's do that!

Rachael

Rachaelcrabb@comcast.net



What's New

Re-Produced VHS to DVD:

Inside Out
Finding God
(To be released Mid-January)

Re-Produced Cassette to CD:

The Safest Place on Earth
Silence of Adam
Connecting
(To be released late January-
early February)

New CD's:

Life On The Narrow Road: A
Review of the Seven Questions
God has Chosen to Answer

A Christian Response to Homo-
sexuality: A New Look at an Old
Question

A Liberating Look at Gender:
Releasing True Masculinity and
True Femininity

Experiencing the Trinity: The
Trinitarian Community and Spirit-
ual Formation

Unpacking But Never Solving the
Mystery of Prayer: The PAPA
Prayer

What Every Christian Counselor
Needs to Know: 7 Keys to a
Spiritually Forming Conversation
(don't let the name fool you-this
is for everyone)

**To order prior to January 10,
2007 please email
andi@newwayministries.org
for an on-line order form.**

The PAPA Prayer Society-see page 1

The SoulCare Experience- see
page 5

Life on the Narrow Road- page 4-5

*January 10, 2007 New Website
and On-line Media Store*

New On-line Donation Site- page 6



Why *Life on the Narrow Road* Now?

Remember "bumper sticker" evangelism? Thousands of cars declared that their drivers had "found it". Those "I found it" announcements never did much for me. I would have been more drawn to a more honest but unworkably clumsy sticker that said, "I found the narrow gate but I haven't a clue what life on the narrow road is all about".

Jesus was so narrow-minded. He told us to squeeze through a narrow gate then live life on a narrow road, a road that would feel more confusing than free, at least for awhile. I've made it through the narrow gate – I've trusted Jesus to save me from sin's penalty – but, like most Christians, I'm having trouble living on the narrow road. Sometimes, more often than I care to admit, I can't even find it. Exactly what would it mean to live like Jesus in *this* moment, with *this* person, with *this* happening to me?

For the first third of my career, I thought like a Christian psychologist: what biblical wisdom can be applied to people's problems? How can I biblically counsel an anorexic, a troubled couple, a depressed businessman, a lonely woman, a single mom whose son smokes dope?

For the next third (beginning with *Connecting* and lasting through *The PAPA Prayer*), I thought more like a spiritual director: how can people draw near to God in the middle of life's problems, whether they go away or get worse? How can I spiritually direct others (and be spiritually directed by others) when a loved one dies a miserable death, when emptiness only gets deeper, when cancer strikes and relationships disintegrate and money troubles worsen?

I'm now beginning what I think is the final third of my career, the last run around the track. (It might be the 3rd quarter, with a 4th still ahead. I'll know in a decade or two). I see myself now as a hybrid, an oxymoronic mix of Christian psychologist who would love to see people's struggles resolved and a spiritual director who yearns to enter the region of the human heart where the Spirit does His deepest work, especially when life is hard.

It's that blend of wanting to see people overcome their problems, to see their quality of life improve, and at the same time wanting people (myself included) to get more in touch with God and what He's up to whether life gets better or not that seems to be defining the third third of my ministry. I want to see marriages improve and depressions lift and addictions lose their power. But even more I want to see people love God and love others. I think there's a connection between the two, not a linear connection, but still a real one.

And that's what I'm thinking about as I develop and tweak and develop more and revise again NewWay Ministries' newest weekend conference: *Life on the Narrow Road*. Friday evening will kick off the weekend with an informal, largely unplanned time of Q and A, impromptu conversations, and spontaneous discussion of the weekend topic; kind of an interactive evening with me and all who come.

Saturday, we'll get more intentional and focused on what this road is that Jesus told us not many find, maybe because it's tough, a tough way to live, a rough road to walk. The word Jesus used for narrow literally means "crushing". He was painting a very different picture than is presented by some TV preachers and best-selling Christian authors. The broad road markets better. Always has. Always will. Until judgment day.

COMING SOON: January 10, 2007 enjoy our new website and on-line media store.



"Don't look for short-cuts to God. The market is flooded with surefire, easygoing formulas for a successful life that can be practiced in your spare time. Don't fall for that stuff, even though crowds of people do. The way to life- to God!- is vigorous and requires total attention."

Jesus

"Christianity has not been tried and found wanting. It has been found difficult and left untried."

G.K. Chesterton

"I'm never better than when I am on the full stretch for God."

George Whitefield

It's time for a revolution in relationships, for joining each others' journey through the joys and sorrows of life into the presence of God!



Cont'd—Why *Life on the Narrow Road* Now?

On Saturday, I look at the seven questions that God has bothered to answer, not always the questions we wish He would answer as we face life's challenges, but the questions whose answers make clear what narrow road living looks like and why it's the only way to live.

God has a reliable way of messing up my reliable plans, but I'm pretty sure I'll be thinking about life on the narrow road for the rest of my years on earth. I really do want to walk with Jesus and become more like Jesus by the power of the Spirit for the pleasure of the Father. And I want to live like that right in the middle of all the joys and confusion and heartaches and challenges of my life, and I want joy to deepen and tensions to lessen.

My strongest prayer and prayer request is that I'll be given both discernment to more clearly see what life on the narrow road is really all about and courage to say what I see. Both require supernatural help.

One "teaser" thought: Life on the narrow road is more about hope than satisfaction. It fills us with *hope*, not the *experience of fulfillment*. Walk with Jesus and you become more aware of what you want but don't yet experience. And unless hope surrounds unmet longings, despair sets in, and we become sitting ducks for Satan's offer of instant fullness. But steadfast hope, combined with unsatisfied desires, yields joy, the delight of anticipation that strengthens faith and empowers love. That's what Paul said in Colossians 1:5: "... the faith and love that spring from hope". In other words, felt emptiness is a good thing. It's the soil in which hope alone can grow. Without hope of heaven, the flesh is irresistible. Our emptiness will seem to compel sin, because sin fills emptiness more quickly than the Spirit. Hope is our strongest defense against sin.

One more "teaser" thought: I think God is leading NewWay Ministries to mix spiritual direction and Christian psychology in three specific areas: (1) *family* (how can couples get closer, how can parents parent more wisely); (2) *pastors of small churches* (how can smaller congregations maximize their unique opportunities to promote spiritual formation); and (3) *conversations that matter* (how can ordinary Christians reach deep into each other's lives and make a lasting difference as they chat over coffee or meet in small groups or get together to deal with specific challenges).

If you think of it, pray that our team (and our friends and supporters) will know how God wants us to follow up on these three leadings. Definite plans are taking shape. We're excited! I'd like a new bumper sticker to read, "I found the narrow road. I'm on it". Maybe I'll have that written on my tombstone, with one addition: "And it's the wide open country of real life. Now I know it!"

Jarvis

Who is God? What's He up to? Who are we? What's gone wrong? What has God done about our problem? How is God's Spirit moving today? How do we follow the Spirit's movement in each others' lives?

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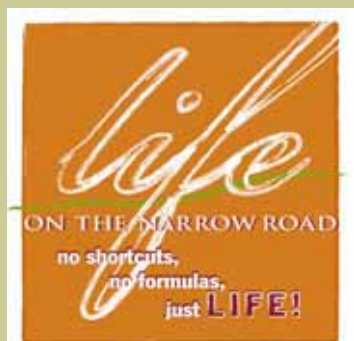
Please **NOTE NEW ADDRESS**

4887 Silver Spruce Lane
Evergreen, Colorado 80439

Phone: 303.670.9000

Fax: 303.670.3015

andi@newwayministries.org



*It's time for a revolution
in relationships, for
joining each other's
journey through the joys
and sorrows of life into
the presence of God!*

How can you help?

I believe those of you who have shared either the Reach the Heart Experience, **Life on the Narrow Road** or The School of Spiritual Direction know my heart and passion for God's calling on my life. It's for that reason we have formed NewWay Ministries. For 30 years, funds generated through books and conferences and teaching were enough to sustain that season of ministry. Over the last several years I believe God has called me and NewWay Ministries to help ignite a revolution in how Christians

live, think and relate. That revolution requires a new paradigm for understanding and living the NewWay of the Spirit. But to go forward with this fresh call from God, I need help. And that's a little uncomfortable for me. So if my words fumble a bit, please know that my heart is committed to this message more than to feeling comfortable. For the first time in my career, I am asking others to prayerfully consider financially supporting our efforts.

With the Spirit's leading, if you, your church or someone you know would be interested in making a tax-deductible

monthly donation of \$20, \$50 or \$100, or a one time gift to NewWay Ministries, you can respond in one of several ways:

Donate Online:

www.newwayministries.org
(Recurring or one-time gift)

Or by Mail:

NewWay Ministries
Attn: Andi Sawin
4887 Silver Spruce Lane
Evergreen, CO 80439

Or simply call us:

Office: 303.670.9900

Schedule for 2007. Please join us when you can.

School of Spiritual Direction:

- ◆ April 13-20, 2007
- ◆ August 3-10, 2007
- ◆ October 19-26, 2007
- ◆ November 9-16, 2007

Please note that the SSD is a Friday to Friday schedule.

Life On The Narrow Road:

- ◆ Greenville/Winterville, NC
Feb. 23-24, 2007
- ◆ Portage La Prairie, Manitoba
May 4-5, 2007
- ◆ Boca Raton, FL
May 18-19, 2007

Additional cities will be added.

Check the website on or after January 10, 2007 to register for an upcoming conference.

Speaking Engagements:

The speaking schedule will be out Jan. 10, 2007. Check the website then.



NOW AVAILABLE!
A 12-Lesson DVD *NewWay*
Course on Spiritual Friendship

Based on the book SoulTalk by Dr. Larry Crabb.

Exploding with insights into Spiritual Formation, and the real battle in the human soul.

The SoulCare Experience, a 13-week DVD course that offers a practical model for understanding how God changes us from self-obsessed to God-obsessed people, and how in our relationships we can cooperate with this process.

You can enter into life-transforming intimacy with the Trinity and then reproduce Trinitarian-like relationships with each other that spiritually form us into the likeness of Christ.

Learn how to enter the lives of others and make a difference ~ Discover the real battle in the human soul ~ Understand the Spirit's movement toward wholeness, and how to cooperate with the process.

For additional information, pricing and/or to order please email andi@newwayministries.org for an on-line order form.

COMING SOON: January 10, 2007 enjoy our new website and on-line media store.