

# POWER *for* LIVING

A quarterly publication of Empowered Living Ministries

October - December 2007

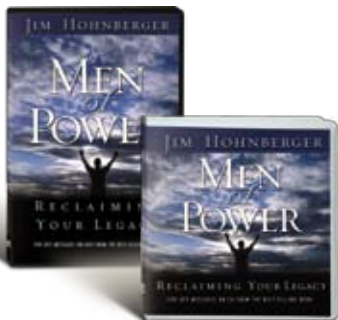
Dear friends,

A Romanian immigrant and his wife had given up on Adventism with its logical doctrines, compelling prophecies, and weekly church attendance. None of this impacted them behind closed doors. They were still the same persons—until they found what was missing. We know you will be touched by their testimony “**Right Pew—Wrong Experience**”.

The *Men of Power seminar* based on the book by that title is now available in **CD** and **DVD** format. Comments received from the field go like this: “Tremendous applications”...“Extremely practical”...“Speaks to the heart of every man in America”...“No fluff or rhetoric”...“Strikes at the core of the issues men deal with daily”...“I don’t want to put it down or have it end”...“The simple as well as the intellectual can understand it”. The CD set is priced at \$25, the DVD set at \$39, and the book at \$17.

We look forward to seeing you at our last two **camp meetings** for this year. Please bring a friend or relative with you. We just know their lives will be changed.

**We covet your prayers for our Brazil tour.** Three of our books have been translated into Portugese already and thousands are expected to attend. Your prayers and support are affecting lives all around the world.



Lifting up Jesus,

*Jim & Sally*

## SPEAKING SCHEDULE

October 18 - 21

Empowered Living Camp Meeting  
Bourbon, MO  
Call (417) 661-6161

October 20

Cranbrook SDA Church  
Cranbrook, BC—Canada  
Call (250) 489-8357  
Email [elliott@cintek.com](mailto:elliott@cintek.com)

November 1 - 18

Brazil

For itinerary and contact information,  
see our speaking schedule on  
[www.EmpoweredLivingMinistries.org](http://www.EmpoweredLivingMinistries.org)

December 6 - 9

Empowered Living Camp Meeting  
High Springs, FL  
Call (706) 375-1707

December 15

January 4-6, 2008

Lacombe SDA Community Church  
Lacombe, Alberta  
Call (403) 782-5275



*It's About Walking With God!*



# Right Pew

## Wrong Experience

**R**emus reached into the mailbox and pulled out a handful of mail. Walking back into the house, he nonchalantly flipped through the various letters, ads and magazines. Suddenly he stopped and stared at the return address on one of the envelopes.

As a Romanian immigrant who had completed his master's degree in Psychology, Remus had been sending out applications for over a year without receiving one response. He deeply wanted to find a solid position that would enable him to provide well for his family.

Now, in his mailbox, was an official looking envelope from one of the most prestigious positions he had applied for. He knew that dozens of other qualified individuals were applying for this position and that many would be eliminated without even an interview. Was this an invitation or a polite "sorry, we're not interested"?

### Tug-of-war

Stepping into the house, he tore open the envelope and pulled out the letter. Scanning it quickly, he was suddenly elated! Yes! The letter contained an invitation for an interview! He was still in the running for that job! Then his emotions plummeted. The date for the interview was May 18—just a few days away—and right in the middle of Empowered Living Camp Meeting in Oxford, WI.

A terrible tug-of-war began in his mind. "Forget Camp Meeting! An interview like this only comes around once. If you don't show up for it on May 18, you will be eliminated from the selection process. It's not worth it! After all, you've already experimented with religion and figured out that it is nothing more than a psychological mechanism invented to help people survive the hardships of life without going crazy or committing suicide."

In a flash, Remus remembered his ten years as an Adventist church member. He and his wife, Marinela, had attended church faithfully and prayed—but something was missing. In spite of the eloquent sermons, logical doctrines, and compelling prophecies, Remus found nothing that impacted his life behind closed doors. He was still the same person. His professional training taught him that people embrace all kinds of myths that help them evade the idea that they are mortal. He concluded that Adventism was just another variation on this theme and decided that he was no longer going to play the game--using religion to pretend something he wasn't experiencing. He and Marinela quit attending church.

Remus and Marinela were reasonably content. Little Anna was born and they both invested themselves in her. Remus was rather smug about his atheism. No one could win a debate

with him over religion. He had done his experiment, arrived at his conclusions and that was the end of the matter--he thought.

### Conclusions challenged

Seven years went by. Then a friend sent him *Escape to God* and challenged him to read it. Remus was suspicious, but decided to read it anyway. When he finished the final chapter he had a strong impression that Jim and Sally's wilderness experience with God was authentic. Was Remus' experiment faulty? Does God really exist? Can He make a real difference in the lives of real people where the rubber meets the road? His conclusive experiment no longer seemed so conclusive. Time passed by and he forgot about the book—until Marinela, his wife, found it and read it.

"Remus," she exclaimed, "we must find a way to meet them. We've got to know if they are real—not fake 'wannabe' Christians!" They went on the internet and found that they would be speaking at Oxford, Wisconsin May 17-20 and they called to register to attend.

And now, just as they were about to leave for Wisconsin, this letter arrived. Why now? Remus' thoughts wrestled back and forth. Should he send his family alone? Should he miss the interview in order to check them out? Would that be irresponsible? Perhaps he should forget the possibil-



## Finding the Right Experience

ity of authentic religion and immerse himself in his career? What should he do?

But Remus was a man of his word and he had promised Marinela that he would take her to hear these meetings personally. He simply couldn't disappoint her. They went to camp meeting.

### Authentic or fake?

Arriving early for the first meeting, they scanned the people gathering to try to pick out Jim and Sally. Edging as close as they dared, they began to listen to their conversations and watch their interactions—suspiciously looking for the tell-tale signs of fakery. When the meeting started, they sat where they could hear and see everything. As the weekend progressed, their suspicion diminished and their hope swelled.

Remus wrote later to us, “We met a godly couple who shared an authentic experience with God and I suddenly felt that this was exactly what I had been missing during my entire ten years as an Adventist church member. I had embraced doctrines, religion, and church—but I didn't have Jesus. These meetings led me to seriously doubt my experiment that I had thought was closed and classified with the conclusion that God did not exist and religion was nothing more than a drug. I came to know Jesus. I love Him. I close my eyes and I feel He is guiding me and that He is with me all the time. Moreover, I now recognize that He was walking kindly beside me through all those years of atheism—only I didn't know it.

“Bit by bit, I gained the confidence to see that these circumstances were more than coincidental. Somebody wanted me to remain an atheist, a former SDA, a skeptic and a cynic. Praise God for showing me a way out of my skepticism and godless life.

“To top it all off, when I got home I found a second invitation to interview for the same position on June 1. Isn't God good? What a wonderful Friend I've been missing out on all these years!” *elm*

“We cannot thank God enough for the blessings we found at Camp Meeting. First of all, finding that wonderful experience with God after so many years! Your words went straight to our hearts petrified by doctrines. We felt the love of God filling us and we knew that from then on there was no way to go back to what we were before.

“We did not come to camp for marital counseling. But at the end of the meetings both of us knew that something had changed. Even the way we look at each other is different. We had to learn that we were missing the most important thing--to let Jesus lead us in every aspect of our lives. To come to Him every morning and to have that personal communion that gives us wisdom and strength.

“My daughter, Anna, who didn't want to hear much about Jesus before asked me if she could sing up front with the other kids. She loved the time that we spent in Wisconsin and she's always asking us when we will go back for another meeting. Since we came home she is asking us to go to church on Sabbath mornings. We say together our little prayers and she said she prayed for Remus on the day of his interview.

“Before this trip, I had a hard time starting my day because I hated my job. Not anymore! Now I start my mornings talking to God, asking for advice and giving Him all my worries. Now I know how good it is to have peace in your heart early in the morning and to let Jesus guide you throughout the day. I now love my job and find joy in it.

“There is so much real love in our family with Jesus in our hearts! Thank you for bringing such a simple, pure, and powerful message to us! You helped us learn how to listen to God's voice.

“It is just a timid beginning and sometimes it is not easy. I just know that I really want to stay on this path. It is so good walking with Jesus!”

--Marinela





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*It's About Walking With God!*

## 2007 - 2008 Empowered Living Camp Meetings

July 3-8, 2008 (tentative)  
Hood River, OR  
(541) 399-3020  
godsplan@gorge.net

Open House  
July 23-26, 2008  
Polebridge, MT  
(406) 387-4333  
office@EmpoweredLivingMinistries.org

May, 2008 (tentative)  
E. Oxford, WI  
(715) 343-1751  
pastordavidgl@netzero.net

April 24-27, 2008  
Grizzly Flats, CA  
(417) 296-3362  
empoweredfamilies@gmail.com

October 18-21, 2007  
Bourbon, MO  
(417) 661-6161  
empoweredfamilies@sbcglobal.net

September, 2008 (tentative)  
Angeles Oaks, CA  
(706) 398-7218  
cobos@EmpoweredLivingMinistries.org

August 28-31, 2008  
Cohutta Springs, GA  
(706) 398-7218  
cobos@EmpoweredLivingMinistries.org

March 27-30, 2008 (tentative)  
Athens, TX  
(706) 398-7218  
cobos@EmpoweredLivingMinistries.org

December 6-9, 2007  
High Springs, FL  
(706) 375-1707  
nancy@EmpoweredLivingMinistries.org

“Power for Living” is available free of charge, and is sent out quarterly by mail.

If you or someone you know are not receiving it and wish to be added to our mailing list, please feel free to contact us.

For information on any of the materials or events mentioned in the publication you can reach us at:

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