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From the desk of
JOHN BRADSHAW



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Dear It Is Written friend,

Every week, our It Is Written staff pray together for requests that come in to the ministry. With the exception of health concerns, the most common prayer request we receive is, “Please pray for my children.” ***Literally every day people tell us, “My children have left the church,” or “My children or grandchildren have wandered from God.”***

You might be well acquainted with the pain of seeing a child turn from faith in God. At It Is Written, ***we’re taking another step to give children a chance to know Jesus as their best Friend forever.***

“If it wasn’t for child evangelism, my life would be very different.”

Research indicates that 43 percent of American children make a decision for Christ before the age of 13.¹ It is especially important that we do all we can to reach children with the kindness of God and the love of the Savior.

In fact, if it wasn’t for child evangelism, my life would be very different, and my children would never have been born.



Melissa (center) with her sisters and parents at her father’s baptism.

1 The Barna Group, Ltd. 2009. *Evangelism is Most Effective Among Kids*. Retrieved from <https://www.barna.com>.

When my wife, Melissa, was six years old, her mother attended an evangelistic series. While her mother was in the adult meetings, Melissa and her sisters were in meetings of their own, learning songs and Bible stories taught by teachers who loved children and wanted to see them in heaven. The girls were learning to love God. As her mother was making a decision for Jesus, Melissa was making her very own six-year-old decision for Jesus.

When we invest in children, we're also investing in their families. Two years later—knowing her daddy had still not made a decision to be baptized—Melissa climbed up on his knee and said, “Daddy, I don’t want you to get the mark of the beast!” I’m not sure if she fully understood what she was saying, but my father-in-law did. His heart melted, and he made his decision right there to surrender his life entirely to Jesus. Since then, my parents-in-law have influenced countless people in the direction of Jesus, due in large part to the influence of a child and the role child evangelism played in her life.

I want to see Melissa’s experience repeated in thousands upon thousands of families. Melissa now leads It Is Written’s ministry for children, My Place With Jesus. ***Right now, Melissa and others on our It Is Written team are working to create a children’s evangelistic program that mirrors the meetings adults attend.*** Imagine the dinner conversation after a meeting about the subject of death and the resurrection! These would be powerful, rich discussions with the children reciting their recent memory verse. I can hear them now: “But Mom! The Bible says the dead don’t know anything!”



“The My Place With Jesus Bible Guides are the best I have seen. I’m excited to see these at the heart of the kids evangelism resource.”

I know you care about the salvation of children. That’s why I’m asking you to help me secure the \$100,000 we need to introduce God’s children to Jesus. The wonderful truths of the Bible presented in these guides will draw young hearts to Jesus all over the world.

Over the past couple of years, as well as completing the My Place With Jesus app and website, It Is Written has published a Bible and a set of 21 Bible guides for children. These Bible guides have proven again and again to be very powerful tools. At my own home church in Chattanooga, Tennessee, Karen, a Sabbath school teacher and Bible worker, has been using them in studies with 21 young people. Seven have been baptized and five are getting ready for

baptism right now. Last summer, as the result of the decision made for baptism by one of Karen's students, the young lady's mother also made her decision for Christ. Both mother and daughter were baptized together! Karen says that the *My Place With Jesus Bible Guides* are "the best out there. I used three other lessons before I found these. Now these are the ones I turn to first and that have the greatest success." Many people have told me the same thing.



The My Place With Jesus Bible Guides are the foundation of our new evangelism resource for children.

My Place With Jesus is using these lessons as the foundation for designing a full-fledged evangelistic resource just for kids. Judy, a lifelong educator and school principal, is the children's program director at our Partnership weekends. "The *My Place With Jesus Bible Guides* are the best I have seen," Judy told me. "I'm excited to see these at the heart of the kids evangelism resource. Children will come away knowing what they believe."

As you can imagine, producing a resource like this is neither easy nor inexpensive. ***This will be life-altering for children, but \$100,000 is needed to bring it to completion.*** Yet I really believe it's a small price for something that will bring such enormous eternal returns. Not only will children be reached with the gospel, but in many cases their parents will be, too. Each Christ-centered program will include the Bible guides, original songs, subject-specific crafts (with instructional videos), nature and health videos, games, and presentation slides and instructions. This is real evangelism to reach the hearts of children! And it is desperately needed. I am often asked, "Is there anything especially for children?" Soon I'll be able to say, "Yes, there is!"

As Melissa works with many others on our It Is Written team to create this life-changing resource, your support will mean an enormous amount to both her and me. I have read hundreds of prayer requests for wandering children, and I can assure you that your It Is Written family cares greatly about the salvation of children.

To this day, my wife loves to tell the story of how her innocent appeal to her father led him to make a lifelong decision for Christ. It changed her (and my!) life forever. Now Melissa works full-time in children's ministry as she directs My Place With Jesus. She wants nothing more than to see children come to faith in God.

This is what she told me when I was preparing to write this letter.

“As a product of child evangelism, I know just how important this is. We have to invest in children. There is so much pulling them away from Jesus. I wish we could do more to give them a better chance in the great controversy. This evangelism series is going to do that.”

With your help I’m confident we can easily reach our goal of \$100,000. There is no more important appeal that I could make. ***There’s nothing more vital or more needed than reaching the hearts of children—and their families—with the message of the gospel.***

Jesus said in Matthew 19:14, “Let the little children come to Me, and do not forbid them; for of such is the kingdom of heaven.” Thank you for letting them come to Jesus.

Your brother in ministry,



Pastor John Bradshaw
Speaker/Director, It Is Written

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P.S. Melissa leads a ministry for children today because she attended a program for children offered during an evangelistic series. She learned to love Jesus, and her pointed appeal to her father resulted in him committing his life to Christ in baptism. Now, It Is Written wants to give that same experience to families all over the world. We are creating an evangelistic resource that will help children develop a relationship with Jesus for eternity. Thank you for helping Melissa and our It Is Written team reach children and their families with the love of Jesus.

