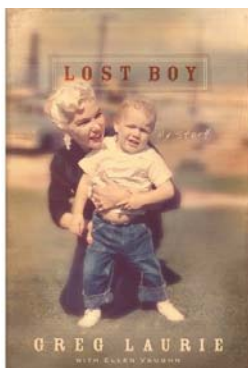


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Lost Boy Finds a Life Renewed

Evangelist Greg Laurie shares life from broken childhood to world-wide crusades



Riverside, Calif. – Greg Laurie is an illegitimate child, born in the sixties to an alcoholic mother who preferred men, promiscuity and multiple marriages over caring for her son. In his gripping autobiography, *Lost Boy* (Regal Books), Laurie recalls a life filled with pain, loss and renewal that eventually lead him to becoming a world-renowned evangelist and the pastor of Harvest Christian Fellowship, one of the largest churches in America with over 15,000 members.

When Laurie's mother was seventeen, she ran away with a sailor. In late 1952, Laurie was born but his mother continued a life filled with heavy drinking and multiple affairs- many of these men were abusive to both Laurie and his mother.

Laurie recalls happier childhood memories cartooning and spending time with his grandparents and his adoptive father Oscar Laurie. When he felt lonely, Laurie found comfort in his imaginary friend "Mr. Nobody." "I saw things no child should see, but I count my less-than-honorable beginnings as a blessing...my story is one of hope as a boy from bad beginnings, who was lost and got found by a God," says Laurie.

As a teenager who had already been moved around the country with his dysfunctional mother, from New Jersey to Hawaii, he found himself living as a hippie in the 1960's drug culture, like so many of his generation, Laurie experimented with drugs and the party lifestyle. However, at 17, Laurie found God in the Jesus Movement in Southern California and left behind his partying lifestyle and drug and party oriented friends.

Shortly after, Laurie drew a biblical tract based on "Living Water" passage of John 7. He gave the tract to Chuck Smith, his pastor and a leader of the booming Calvary Chapel. Soon the cartoon booklet was distributed to over two million people. At 19, Laurie started leading a Bible study and getting paid \$30 a week. He was asked to start a church whose attendance quickly grew from hundreds to thousands.

Lost Boy also shares Laurie's love story with his wife Cathe, who he married in 1974 and today are the parents of two sons and grandchildren. Laurie also details his encounters with Billy Graham, the late Lonnie Frisbee (the 60's evangelist who died of AIDS in 1993), evangelistic crusades at Disneyland, Madison Square Garden, Angel Stadium and in New Zealand, in addition to tracking down his adopted father and biological father and the impact of his mother's death.

About *Lost Boy*:

Lost Boy: My Story by Greg Laurie with Ellen Santilli Vaughn. Published by Regal Books. June 2, 2008. Hardcover, 256 pages. \$22.99. ISBN: 978.08307.45784.

About Greg Laurie

Author of *Lost Boy*

The senior pastor of Harvest Christian Fellowship in Riverside, California, **Greg Laurie** began his pastoral ministry at age 19 by leading a Bible study of 30 people. Since then, God has transformed that small group into a church of some 15,000 people. Today, Harvest is one of the largest churches in America, as well as the third largest in California.

In 1990, Laurie began holding public evangelistic events called Harvest Crusades. Since that time, nearly three million people have attended Harvest Crusades in California, Seattle, Oregon, Philadelphia, New York, Hawaii, Florida and in Australia.

Laurie is the featured speaker of Harvest Ministry's nationally syndicated radio program, *A New Beginning*. *A New Beginning* has listeners coast-to-coast and overseas. Recently, the U.S. Armed Forces Radio and Television Service added *A New Beginning* to their programming, enabling Pastor Greg to reach over 800,000 people in 73 countries and territories, as well as every U.S. Navy ship.

In order to further preach the gospel, Laurie is also the featured host of the television program, *Harvest: Greg Laurie*. The program harnesses cutting-edge technology with the latest in Christian music. *Harvest: Greg Laurie* is seen internationally on the Trinity Broadcasting Network as well as the Daystar network. Along with his work at Harvest Ministries, Laurie serves on the board of directors of the Billy Graham Evangelistic Association and Samaritan's Purse, amongst others. He holds two honorary doctorates from Biola University and Azusa Pacific University.

As well as speaking and assisting other ministries, Laurie has authored a number of books, including the Gold Medallion Award Winner, *The Upside-Down Church*. His newest titles are *Wrestling with God* and *Breakfast with Jesus*. Laurie is also the author of *Why Believe?*, *The God of the Second Chance*, and a devotional for Couples called *The Marriage Connection*. He also has authored study notes for two Bibles in the New Living Translation: the *New Believer's Bible* and *The Seeker's Bible*. His books have been translated into many languages, including Korean, Latvian, Portuguese, and Spanish. Whether speaking or writing, God has gifted Pastor Laurie with the ability to apply biblical principles to current events in a way that is relevant and easily understood by people of all ages, from all walks of life. The trademark of a Greg Laurie sermon, book, or radio program is the contemporary, yet straightforward style and format.

For fun, Laurie enjoys riding his Harley Davidson, occasionally surfing (when the water is really warm), playing tennis, and working out. He's also somewhat of a techno-nut, always playing with the latest electronic gadget or gizmo. Greg and his wife Cathe have two children and reside in Southern California.

Suggested Interview Questions

For Greg Laurie, author of *Lost Boy*

1. Why did you decide to write an autobiography now?
2. Your mother was an alcoholic with seven broken marriages. What was it like growing up surrounded by dysfunction and instability?
3. What impact did your mother's lifestyle have on you? What became of your relationship with your mother?
4. One of your mother's marriages was to Oscar Laurie, who gave you his name. Unfortunately your mother left him and you lost contact. How influential was your time with him? What happened when you met him many years later?
5. You ventured into drugs, even experimenting with LSD. What was it like living as a teen in Newport Beach, California hippie culture in the 1960's?
6. You became a Christian in the midst of the Jesus Movement. How did you come to faith?
7. You're also an artist and cartoonist. Tell us about the story of the "Living Water" tract. How has your artistic abilities been used over the years?
8. How did you go from a teen to leading worldwide crusades? Not everyone was supportive of your preaching – how did these people's doubts motivate you?
9. Much of your story is about restoration. How would you encourage people who come from difficult beginnings that there is always hope?
10. How influential was Chuck Smith, Lonnie Frisbee and the Calvary Chapel people in your faith? Billy Graham?
11. You share stories of re-connecting with the people from your youth, notably the man who gave you his name and your birth father. What was it like going back to those painful places?
12. You've been married for 34 years and have kids. Tell us about your family?

**For an interview with Greg Laurie, contact Ben Laurro
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Excerpts from *Lost Boy*

By Greg Laurie

“What follows is just my story, about a kid who was lost and got found. A boy I used to know. This Greg I used to know came from pretty bad beginnings. He grew up to be a quirky adult with wild tales to tell. But the big story here isn’t so much about the lost boy. It’s about the great God who found him and would not let him go.” (9)

“My older cousin, a psychologist, interviewed me and told my mother that I would likely be in prison or on parole most of my adult life.” (15)

“I was a bastard, in the technical sense of that ugly term, the illegitimate result of a one-night stand. Some would call me a mistake, my very existence a slip-up that could have been whisked away.” (18)

“I remember a picture of Jesus on their living room wall. He was tan, His land blondish hair parted in the middle. He was looking somewhere else, not at me. He didn’t seem like He had any connection to my life, and I was more interested in playing with my plastic army men on the planked wooded floor.” (25)

“But most of the time, the violence wasn’t funny. It was terrifying, and it came to a head the night that Eddie nearly beat my mother to death with a heavy wooden statue.” (39)

“I didn’t want to become a drug addict. I just wanted to smoke pot and take LSD. That was how I was going to become a different person—more like the Beatles, less like me.” (52)

“I liked the idea of Jesus as a hero, but I certainly had no intention of becoming a Jesus freak. That was not even on my radar screen.” (64)

“Lonnie led us in prayer. I repeated his words, asking Jesus Christ to come into my heart and forgive me of my sins. The prayer ended. I stood there, not really feeling anything. Other people were crying and hugging. But I felt no spiritual connection, no wave of warm emotion, no tears, no big deal. I dropped my head. It was a Charlie Brown moment.” (67)

“As people followed Jesus and were no longer slaves to addictions or themselves, they didn’t become clones of one another. They actually became more uniquely themselves. It was a lot more interesting than the homogenized cannabis mush of my hippie days.” (74)

“Cathe and I were off to great beginnings. We were young, full of energy and love, and thrilled about our future together. I couldn’t believe all God’s blessings in my life.” (93)

“I’m still just ‘Greg.’ And I now that God uses flawed, eccentric, failed human beings to highlight His power. That way, onlookers won’t give anyone else the credit due to God alone. That’s why He called me, of all people, to be an evangelist.” (107)

“Today there are a lot of white-collar preachers and evangelists, and they’re great at reaching white-collar audiences. But God appears to be using me to reach people who might not be drawn to an academic or upscale setting, people who might not have come from secure beginnings.” (109)

For an interview or to discuss an excerpt, contact Ben Laurro at Pure Publicity at 818.753.4056 or Ben@purepublicity.com

HARVEST WITH GREG LAURIE TO BRING LARGE-SCALE EVANGELISTIC OUTREACH TO BOTH COASTS IN 2008

Harvest Events Have Drawn More Than 3.6 Million Around the World Since 1990, Will Visit Anaheim, Philadelphia, New York City Area This Year

RIVERSIDE, Calif., May 20, 2008—Sports arenas and complexes from coast to coast will be filled with a different sort of team spirit this summer and fall when the large-scale evangelistic *Harvest with Greg Laurie* events brings its contemporary version of the timeless message of God's love to venues like Angel Stadium of Anaheim and Madison Square Garden. *Since 1990, the Harvest events have drawn more than 3.6 million people to similar venues in the U.S., Canada, Australia, and New Zealand.*

This year Harvest will return to **Angel Stadium of Anaheim, Calif. (Aug. 15 - 17)** for its 19th consecutive Harvest Crusade in Southern California, and will also return to Philadelphia after a nine-year absence, holding the **Greater Philadelphia Harvest '08 at Wachovia Center (Oct. 3 – 5)**. Rounding out the season, Harvest will, for the first time, bring large-scale evangelistic events to the **Izod Center at the Meadowlands Sports Complex in East Rutherford, NJ (Oct. 18)** and to **Madison Square Garden's main arena in New York City (Oct. 19)**.

The *Harvest with Greg Laurie* events are known for relating to audiences through contemporary means like top notch music, live Internet webcasts and hosted video podcasts, but the crux of each event is the nightly message presented by Southern California pastor and evangelist Greg Laurie. Called the "evangelist of the future" by Billy Graham, Laurie draws on Scripture, flavored with personal and cultural examples, to describe the relevance of faith in today's world. Laurie's talks encompass topics that appeal to people of any age and answer questions like: Why am I here? Is God real? What happens when I die?

In addition to serving as the founder and evangelist for the Harvest events, Laurie is the senior pastor at Harvest Christian Fellowship in Riverside, Calif., one of the largest churches in the U.S. He also serves on the board of directors for the Billy Graham Evangelistic Association and Samaritan's Purse.

2008 Harvest with Greg Laurie Schedule:

- ➔ Anaheim, Calif., Angel Stadium of Anaheim, August 15 - 17
- ➔ Philadelphia, Wachovia Center, October 3 - 5
- ➔ East Rutherford, NJ, Izod Center at the Meadowlands Sports Complex, October 18
- ➔ New York City, Madison Square Garden (main arena), October 19