



# STRAIGHT TALK

ministries



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## Leaving a Legacy

### What Will be Left Behind?

I once read a biography of D.L. Moody. Moody came home late one evening from an evangelistic meeting. His wife asked him how the meeting had gone and he commented that there were only one and half decisions for Jesus. When asked by his wife how there could be one and a half decisions, Moody responded that there was a child and older adult. His wife let him know she understood by saying "I see. The child is the half." Moody corrected her by saying the child was the one.



Randy's audience at Stillwood

The adult was the half because his life was more than half over.

I am convinced that students are the most reachable, teachable, and important people group for Jesus' Kingdom. They may very well be the most vulnerable as well. It has never been harder to be a Jr. or Sr. High student. They face challenges and obstacles that were unimaginable when I was their age. Studies are showing that they are leaving churches in alarming numbers. What we do for and with our youth matters more now than ever!

In 2009 I had the privilege of getting to work with Westside Kings Church to mentor their youth pastor, Kyle Harnett. For 18 months we worked together and

### An Offer too Good to Refuse

This year we are celebrating Straight Talk's 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary. In many ways it's hard to believe God has been providing opportunities, prayer and financial support for us through this vehicle we call Straight Talk for so long. We feel blessed to have been part of some truly amazing heart and life change both in Canada and around the globe. We hope you do too. We look back with gratitude at what God has accomplished through our partnership with you and we look forward to a legacy. We want to be strategic about the future of this ministry by pouring into others so that the ministry of heart and life change can continue.

Last weekend I had the privilege to participate with a team of seasoned communicators in a day of training for emerging speakers. My part in the day was to help them overcome the great reluctance many speakers have to invite people to accept



Donna sharing at the Speaker's Intensive Seminar

Jesus. I am aware of this hesitation because I am often asked to do this part of a program, even at events when I am not the speaker. Presenting this amazing offer is such a privilege and so important. I believe the tools to effectively present Jesus' offer of relationship and invite people to respond are ones all speakers need in their toolkit.

**Did you know...?**  
 We depend on the informed prayers of our prayer partners. If you would be willing to pray for us and would like to receive regular email prayer requests and updates please send an email to [admin@straighttalkministries.com](mailto:admin@straighttalkministries.com) to sign up!

he graciously allowed me to speak into his life and ministry. Kyle is a really godly, wise and high integrity guy. I have told him he made me look a lot smarter than I really am. I was able to help him think through strategy and in some cases, because of my age and experience, I was able to advocate for him and the youth with parents and church leaders. As we have reflected on that experience we agree that it was a fantastic experience for us and for the youth ministry at Westside Kings. Kyle once said to me that he thought he would have been able to figure out what we worked through on his own but it would have taken him a lot longer. Mentoring can make a huge difference in a young leader's longevity and effectiveness in students' lives. Since then God has opened the doors to several other opportunities to mentor youth workers.

Over the past few months I have been thinking a lot about legacy. What will I leave behind? Maybe it is my mom's sudden passing in January. Perhaps it is the fact that July 1 will be the 20th anniversary of Straight Talk. Possibly it is just a result of getting old. Whatever it is, I have been thinking about legacy, what Straight Talk will leave behind.

I still love speaking to students. In fact, as I write this I have just returned from a weekend retreat at Stillwood Camp with 400 Jr. High students where God moved in huge ways. A number of students told me the weekend was a life changer for them. That will never get old! But these days I am wondering if my greatest area of impact for God's Kingdom will be mentoring those who work directly with students weekly. In that way my impact over these 20 years with Straight Talk and the 11 proceeding as a youth pastor can be multiplied many times over.

Your prayers and financial support are what make it possible for Straight Talk to carry on. You are a part of **building a legacy of changed hearts and lives** among students.

I began...

*You are the speaker. You have the rapt attention of an audience dotted with unbelievers. You've given a compelling testimony and now the moment is here. You have spent close to an hour building rapport with the people in front of you. They relate to you. They believe you. And now you have the amazing opportunity to invite these people into a relationship with Jesus. What will you say? How will you phrase the invitation without sounding like a televangelist? How will you lead them in a prayer that is individual and authentic? How will you know if anyone responds so that they can be walked through the next steps in their spiritual journey?*

The women soaked it in. Some came to me and said they had never thought of using fresh words and phrases giving the old clichés new meaning. Others expressed the thought that they had never heard such a personal way of leading people in a salvation prayer. Still others felt that they could overcome their reluctance to present Jesus offer of salvation now that they knew how.

What could be more thrilling than seeing people change their citizenship from the kingdom of darkness to the kingdom of light? And what could be more important than to multiply those who are equipped to do it? Straight talk is about more than Randy and Donna getting on a plane or in a car to trundle off to speak somewhere. It is about legacy. Thanks for being a part of building that legacy with us over the years, though your prayer and giving. And if you aren't presently giving to this ministry, will you ask God if he wants you to? Together we can make a difference, not just in this generation but well into the future.

## Find us & follow!



Straight Talk Ministries  
Donna Carter

[www.straighttalkministries.com](http://www.straighttalkministries.com)



Donna—STMDonnaC

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Straight Talk Ministries conducts annual financial audits. Financial statements are available upon request.

Tax Receipts are issued annually for gifts over \$10.00.

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