



STRAIGHT TALK

ministries



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Heart Change Life Change

The answer is “YES!”

Just the other day I was having lunch with a long-time friend and supporter of Straight Talk. As we spoke he asked a question I have not been asked for some time. It was simply, “You have been doing this for a long time. Do you still enjoy doing Straight Talk?” The reality is I have been doing Straight Talk for almost 22 years. That is a long time to be doing the same thing with the same organization!

My answer in part was “I love speaking to students. I

love getting to spend time with them. I really like getting to know them and hearing their stories. I love being a part of God changing

their hearts! I love getting to mentor and shape young youth pastors, and watching them grow, and how that is changing their approach to ministry. One of the



Did you know?

Straight Talk is fueled by informed prayer. Our goal is to recruit 1000 people to partner with us in heart and life change. To join the team, follow the instructions in the orange box on page 2.

What Easter Has to Do with Worry

(An excerpt from Kick the Boring Out of Your Life by Donna Carter- Harvest House Publishers 2015)

We worry about the future because it is totally out of our control—and we hate not having control. But it isn’t out of God’s. Granted, that fact matters to us only if:

- 1) We are convinced it is true, and
- 2) If we trust him to act in our best interest.



Courtenay is a large woman with a heart of corresponding size. Her husband is an average-sized man named Rick. Courtenay and Rick had occasion to attend an elegant dinner at boutique hotel. They were both dressed to the nines. Maybe it was because Courtenay wasn’t used to wearing such high heels that she lost her footing while descending the grand staircase that ended regally in the dining room. She stumbled and entered into that desperate series of wild gesticulations that naturally occurs when your feet can’t catch up to your body and you begin to tumble. Flailing violently, Courtenay grabbed the first thing she could get her hand on to try to steady herself. It happened to be her husband’s tie.

Now Rick loves Courtenay dearly. He would do anything in his power to help her anytime she needs help, but there are some things, try as he might, he just cannot do. Like stop a woman twice his weight being propelled by gravity from hurtling down a staircase. Not only could he not stop her dangerous decent, he could-

youth guys I mentor has already begun group outreach events with his youth group. In the first three events they have seen 8 students accept Jesus! They are working to connect and disciple those students. I love getting to be a part of that.

I would love to see that side of Straight Talk grow to include 4 groups of youth pastors in 4 cities. I think there is huge potential to help youth workers learn to make disciples, who in turn, make disciples. I don't like being away from home for days at a time, I really miss Donna, but that is a small price to pay to get to do what I love to do. "

He listened to my rather lengthy answer and when I had run out of steam he said "... so the answer is YES!"

That is correct, the answer is yes! I can't fully express my gratitude to our prayer and financial support team. You make it possible for me to live my dream. Our goal is to grow our prayer team to 1000 people who pray regularly for us. If you are already one of those people I



Please join the Straight Talk prayer force. You can register to receive email updates by going to... randycarter.org/prayer.

To receive updates via text message, text "@stmprayer" to 587-333-2775 and follow the instructions that will be texted to you.

n't do anything to stop himself from being lugged along behind her by a striped, silk noose.

Now just take a moment to imagine this scene: a 300-pound woman rapidly careening down the staircase, dragging her panicked looking husband by the necktie—toward the buffet table.

As committed to Courtenay as Rick was, even in this awkward situation—he was not in control. His devotion was simply not enough to save his wife from her dramatic entrance. Now had there been, by coincidence, a Sumo wrestler's convention going on at the hotel that same night and two or three of them happened to be on the staircase at the precise moment that Courtenay stumbled, they might have prevented her ungainly descent. If they had cared enough to be bothered.

For us to trust God, we have to believe, way down deep, that he is both committed to us—and in control. As we learn from Rick and Courtenay's story, one or the other is simply not enough. If he is deeply committed to us but not in control, God may be sympathetic, but we still fall. If he is in control but not committed, he may be content to watch us crash and burn when he might have prevented it. How can we be sure God offers us both?



Easter! Easter is what gives us hope that Jesus holds our future gently in his nail-scarred hands. Jesus' death and resurrection are

what convinces us that He is committed to us. And He is in control. How much more committed can you be than to lay down your life for someone? How much more control can you exercise than to defy death by reclaiming your life?

It's one thing to listen to a friend say, "Don't worry about it" or "It's going to be okay." It's quite another to place our trust in the One who lives in the future just as surely as he is here with us now, who is totally committed to our well-being, *and* who is in control.



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- With a gift of \$ _____
- By Praying. Join our weekly prayer team. Email: admin@straighttalkministries.com

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Donations can be mailed to:

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38 River Rock Crescent SE
Calgary, Alberta T2C 4J4

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heart change

life change