

Livin' It: Interview with Stephen Baldwin

October 18, 2006 - Wednesday 6:30PM - Dr. David H. McKinley

[Dr. McKinley, message, Livin' It: Interview with Stephen Baldwin]

[Cheers, applause] ... MCKINLEY: May I ask you tonight, my man.

LOVELL: You know, I don't think I've ever been in any movies.

MCKINLEY: Never been in a movie.

BALDWIN: Never. No.

MCKINLEY: Well now that's not true because you guys make movies every weekend. Tell us a little bit about Jimmy Spielberg and all the movies that are going on down in student ministry. [laughter]

LOVELL: Well we do have a great video guy in Student Ministry. I... I dubbed him and gave him the nickname Jimmy Spielberg because he's that good. And ah... we do... we produce anywhere from, you know, probably 6 to 8 videos a week down there in Student Ministry. And tonight typically we have CHAOS which is an Outreach event for our junior high students, which is incredible and our high school kids are spread out all over the metroplex, doing in home Bible studies called SPOTS. And so it's great for us to be able to come and join you guys in Connection Service. It's my first experience and ah... it's a good one.

MCKINLEY: Well, we're pumped that you've come tonight. We have our junior high here on campus on Wednesday night, senior high in homes all over the city, AWANA... we have nearly 1000 kids and workers who are here over in the children's ministry building, and then have almost 500 back in the choir... area every Wednesday night. So ah... this campus is happening as is the outreach of the ministry every week. So... ah... it's a great thing. Tell us a little bit about what's happening these days with you guys and your heartbeat in the ministry.

LOVELL: Sure, just being here almost 4 months now, you know God has ah... showed us a lot as He's been giving vision and we've been trying to be obedient and following His steps into... into that vision, He's just made it very clear to us what we ought to be about, and it's about loving God and impacting lives. And so every thing we're doing in the student ministry is about that. It's helping our students love Christ more and as a result of them loving God so much, impacting the lives around them everyday, on their campuses, across the world even as we do missions through the choir and everything else here at the church. So that's really what's going on.

MCKINLEY: That's awesome. Do you have opportunities for people to ah... get connected, to get involved in student ministry and ...[both speakers talking-inaudible]

LOVELL: Absolutely, so glad you asked! In fact, ... in fact this weekend if... if you'd like to go with us, we're going to stay up all night long with our junior high students. [both talking] Nine o'clock at night go to about 7 the next morning and if you'd like to be a part of that just ah... find me right after this! I promise you we can use you! The other way we could use people is just on Sunday mornings in our family groups. On Sunday morning we always need adult leaders and ah... without you guys it was really hard for us to break down 1300 students like we do every Sunday morning. So if you'd like to be a part of that, find us and we'll definitely get you trained and ready to go.

MCKINLEY: Why don't we take a moment and recognize some of our student ministries staff and leadership who are here tonight because this doesn't happen without parts that are engaged and involved every week. So ah...

LOVELL: That's true. We have a great student ministry staff and it's composed of a high school staff and a junior high staff. They do a great job... Shawn Callander is our High School Minister... he's out there somewhere if you'll [both talking] [applause]. Michael... Michael Wood is our High School Associate Pastor... he's out there! [cheers] Good guy... good guy. Of course, you all know Jared Wood that was up here a minute ago, and we have many ah... interns and [cheers] and others that work with us in the High School Ministry.

And then we... our Junior High staff is ah... Kelly... Kelly Edwards [cheers] soon to have a different last name... ah... is getting married here November 4 and she's our Junior High Associate, and then we have many interns and others that work with us. And then Phil McMichael is our Minister of Spiritual Development [cheers] and Students ... such a great job. And then Chrissie Dunham works with our Girl's Ministry. [cheers]

MCKINLEY: Awesome! That's a great leadership team and we're grateful for every one of you and all that you're doing as well, as all of those volunteers that are a part of this ministry and you help to make an incredible difference by being a part of this ministry.

Well, Alec, William, Daniel and Stephen make up one of the most acclaimed and most famed of all of the Hollywood ah... entertainment families... the Baldwin brothers. And they have been anything but the Brothers Grimm. In fact, especially the one who's here tonight. He's always known as the brother of fun. And ah... Stephen has spent a lot of his life ah... living wide open, enjoying full throttle experience in life.

But ah ... about 5 years ago the life that everyone would have wanted and the life that everyone would have embraced was a life that Stephen possessed but he realized that there was still something more. And I'm going to have him tell you a lot more about that tonight and what's happened in his life

but he's had an incredible opportunity... an incredible career. He's been in 65 different movies. He's been in movies like *The Usual Suspects*, *Bio-Dome* with Pauly Shore, and he played Barney Rubble in *The Flintstones*... so ah... [laughter, cheers] maybe you ah... remember seeing him there.

But for all the roles that he played and for all the paychecks that he earned and all the experiences that he had, he said, there's something that really would make life well worth living. And *Livin' It* is the heart of the new direction and the new ah... movement in his life in these days, and I want you to help me tonight to give a real big Texas welcome to Mr. Stephen Baldwin as he comes to join me this evening. [extending cheers and applause] Hey buddy, welcome. [laughter, introductions] Chris and David. Awesome, come on in. Right here in the middle. I put you here.

Hey, gang, he's the real deal. I told you he was coming. He's just been down somewhere on Rosemead. Did y'all stop at Dairy Queen while you were down that way?

BALDWIN: Starbucks!

MCKINLEY: Starbucks! I gotcha! You're kinda living on Starbucks these days with all you've got going on.

BALDWIN: Absolutely, absolutely!

MCKINLEY: Well, I know you blew into town this afternoon. You've already been at several other events today and you've still got another one going tonight, but we are absolutely thrilled that you've come to be at Prestonwood tonight and ah... [both talking]

BALDWIN: Thank you, thank you, it's a... it's a a wonderful opportunity for me to come here. I mean everybody talks about this church all over Dallas so it's a blessing for me.

MCKINLEY: We're grateful, we're glad. They talk good about us, I hope?

BALDWIN: They talk real good about you! [he laughs]

MCKINLEY: Fine, we want to know that. All right, I was just giving a little introduction about you and I've got to believe, Stephen, that 6 years ago the last place in the world you ever thought you'd be sitting, doing an interview would be on the platform of a Baptist church in a Wednesday night service talking about what's going on in your life. But, hey, something revolutionary has taken place. Tell us a little bit about that.

BALDWIN: Revelationalary, if that's a word.

MCKINLEY: I like that... revelationalary! I like it.

BALDWIN: But ah... you know ah... I've been a born-again Christian for 5 years now, and ah... my wife became a believer a year before I did. And ah... the thing that I'd like to share with people that ah... really was you know the thing in my kinda macho... kinda arrogant... kinda Hollywood... kinda perception ah... I wasn't always a Hollywood guy. I was... Dad was a schoolteacher and all this kind of stuff but you know when you start working in that business it really does skew your perspective so to speak. But ah... it was really my ability to witness my wife's walk that was the thing that really got me very curious about the experience. And eventually led to my becoming willing at least to give it a try.

MCKINLEY: Wow, because I understand if I'm correct that this wasn't a crash experience. You know, a lot of people say, "Boy, I hit bottom in life" or "I came the end" or "I was miserable." And I think you've really said that really wasn't me. It wasn't that I was miserable, living this horrible life

BALDWIN: No...

MCKINLEY: ... and it was a crash. Just the opposite. You're living full-throttle. You're having a life that anybody else would have wanted to... to have and to enjoy, but there was revelatory. There was a discovery

BALDWIN: Sure...

MCKINLEY: ... and you really... I think you've... ... identified as...

BALDWIN: You know what? I... Yes, but I'll say this. There was for me... there was a willingness to discover. That was the key for me... you know... cause... cause so many things in so many walks of faith... you know, I... I... see that usually... People try to... try to force certain ways of thinking that are very black and very white. And... and for me that didn't work. Ah... but when I figured out that there was a Book that was the key to life and if I would just become willing to believe in it and do what it says the way it says, instead of the way Stephen says, there... there was this potential for a whole different experience. So that's what I did.

MCKINLEY: So power in the Book is what you found.

BALDWIN: Amen... Amen!

MCKINLEY: Yeah, boy, that's great. Well, you know it's really wonderful for me to have you here tonight because for the last 6,7 weeks I've been doing a Wednesday night teaching here ah... that I've called SURRENDER. It's been a series on the life of Paul... the Apostle Paul. And, of course, what happened in Paul's life was a Damascus Road experience, and I think you've even described your experience like that. And the interesting thing with Paul is that when he was going about his life, driven, successful, achieving in every area, it wasn't that he was miserable. He thought he was doing the right thing. But he did come to a day where he met Jesus Christ and that changed everything. What was that day? What was that moment for you?

BALDWIN: Well, ah... again, it... it... it... People ask me all the time, you know, what was your Road to Damascus experience? And I tell people there never was any one specific, crazy, freaky, supernatural thing.

MCKINLEY: Right.

BALDWIN: There was... and this is all in this sphere. But ah... [Baldwin clears throat]

MCKINLEY: Let me just pause and tell people about that. This is a wonderful new book that's just come out on ah... Stephen's life. It's called *The Unusual Suspect*. Not *The Usual Suspect*... but *The Unusual Suspect*. And ah... it's the book of his life and his testimony. "My calling to the new hardcore movement of faith."

BALDWIN: Amen!

MCKINLEY: I love that. "My calling to the new hardcore movement of faith."

BALDWIN: Well, what I... what I describe in the book is... you know, 13 years ago... some folks have heard my testimony before, that my wife and I hired this cleaning woman from Brazil. My wife is from Brazil. And this gal comes all the way over from Brazil; she's working with us and explains to my wife that before she took the job back in Brazil, the reason she agreed to come over and work for us was one day at her church in a prayer group somebody felt they had received a message from the Lord about this opportunity for her to go to America... move to America, work for total strangers; and the message was that this gal who's name is Augusta [sp?] If she went on to work for this again total strangers... husband and wife, but at some point as a result of... of her presence that couple would come to faith in Jesus Christ. And at some point after that become involved in ministry.

MCKINLEY: Wow. [laughs softly]

BALDWIN: Now that was 13 years ago. So 6 years ago my wife got saved, and one year after that I followed. But I think to... to... to... to give you what for me would be the closest event that was the thing that really kinda made me stop and ask myself what's it all about was 9/11. 9/11 was an event that ah...

MCKINLEY: It shook the world; it shook us all.

BALDWIN: It shook... well... ah... but you know what, pastor, I'll be honest with you. There's some folks that it shook for about 12 months and they went right back into their... their lifestyles and they... they went to church for a little while and started to take their own world back ... and all that stuff. And for me 9/11 was... was simply an event that I believed to be impossible. Which means the day before 9/11 if you said to me, "Stephen, do you think

tomorrow 2 planes can take off in Boston and turn left and hit the Twin Towers and they can fall down," I'd have said..

MCKINLEY: ... no way..

BALDWIN: No way, it's not... not in 2001 in America! [MCKINLEY: Exactly] So with everything that had already been happening... my wife had already been a believer, I had become curious, 9/11 hit; 9/11 was the thing that kinda quantum-leaped me and said, "I'm going to give this thing a try because I'm really at a place in my life where I don't know where I am in my faith, I don't know the Bible like I should, I don't have a prayer life, and I don't... I don't really know why I'm here. So it made me willing to give it a try.

MCKINLEY: And it appears that all of those things are just the opposite today. You know why you're here, you know about your prayer life.. [Baldwin starts laughing quietly: Absolutely, absolutely] You got all these things working now. And it's pretty cool really to see all that's happening there. That's what I want to jump to and talk about a little bit because you have been ah... at the front edge of the movement that really is trying to impact future generations and impact this culture with the message of Christ in a radical and revolutionary way. I know that last weekend.. or maybe two weekends ago, you were in Houston [BALDWIN: Right]. You helped to put together the ah... kinda the extreme sports package of skateboarding, BMX biking, motocross, all that for ah... Luis Palau, which he's coming here by the way this Summer. KLTy and their ah... *Celebrate Freedom Weekend* is going to have Luis Palau here. It's going to be an incredible thing... this... this summer when it happens. [BALDWIN: I'll be here, too.] You'll be here. But you guys did that and I think had over a quarter of a million people.. Am I correct about that?

BALDWIN: 250,000 people came to ah... what they called *Cityfest-Houston* and ah... I... I think the final number is that over 5,000 people came to faith [Wow...] over those two days.

MCKINLEY: Isn't that great! [Leads congregation in applause] We need to celebrate that in the city of Houston. [Amen!] That is awesome. Well knowing that that's where you're putting a lot of your time and attention... in fact, I think I've got some of the other materials here. It's all about this organization that you've established and a movement called *Livin' It*. [Right] Talk to us a little about *Livin' It* and what's going on there.

BALDWIN: Well, for the last 3 years I've been... I've been... It... it... it's a long story. Basically we don't have the skate video here... I don't know if you have that in the bookstore but there's a... What happen was I went in March, 2003 I went to one of Palau's Festivals called Beach West Fort Lauderdale, and I was very new in my walk, when I was looking for the knurly radical fun Christian stuff. [McKinley laughs: You mean doughnuts and coffee?] Something like that [There we go; I gotcha.] Something like that.

So I go to this festival and they're using skateboarding, and I'd never seen anybody using a skateboard as a... a form of outreach for the Gospel to the youth culture so I turned and went to the Palau folks and I said, "I think you're on to something, but it's a little bit bigger than you realize." Because they weren't as aware of extreme sports globally as I was. I'm in Hollywood and you know, working in the movie business you just have more of a sense of that stuff. And I partnered with them and we made a skate video called *Livin' It*. The first one was made about 3 years ago and we had this goal and this vision to create a really street credible skateboard video that had skateboarding in it that the kids on the street would say this is cool. And the bonus features those same skateboarders would give a Gospel message, invitation, follow up material, all kinds of stuff like that. We hoped in 2003-2004 to distribute 20,000 packets, but we distributed 150,000 packets [wow-wow! Applause] And this thing just exploded.

MCKINLEY: Amen! That is awesome. Awesome! So that's the *Livin' It* video, and then...

BALDWIN: That's the *Livin' It* video. *Livin' It* II video LA, it's called *Livin' It-LA*... that just came out. All of this is on *Livin' It*... it's *Livin' It* without the 'g'... It's livinit.com. Then we had this opportunity to do these books (which I'll let you hold that up cause I'll hold it up the wrong way...) to the folks. [There it is] This is a *Livin' It* skate magazine called TESTIMONIES. Then we've got another book here for the kids called *Livin' It: What it is*. [What it is... what it is!] [laughter] Yeah, there you go.

Could I... could I tell you something funny? [What it is!] Yeah, you know what's funny? [Tell me.] When they first did the mock up of this, they had it like ah... [What is it] What is it! The original name for this was *Livin' It: What is it?* [laughter] And I came in and went "Guys, what it is... what it is. Got to make it cool for the kids, right?"

MCKINLEY: Tell us about this one.

BALDWIN: And this one is going nuts. Then ah... this... this type publishing called graphic novels which is one of these right here which is basically ah... a glorified comicbook is all it is, but the graphic novel industry is... is... is growing by 100 percent annually. It's a huge opportunity in publishing. And again, you know these guys had this... idea to do some publishing for some graphic novels so I brought in... and some folks will get a little nervous now... but I brought in some guys that I knew that were tattoo artists and I said will you guys do some artwork for these characters in this book because if you go into a lot of the Christian bookstores and a lot of even the mainstream stores, and you look at the graphic novels and the comicbooks that are out there today that are the Christian stuff, and you put it next to your Batman and the Superman and... it's not cool. So I... [It's mainstream but it's not extreme, right?]

Exactly! [There we go] Exactly! But... but... but yet, you see, the thing for me is... and it’s scriptural, you know... you gotta have the mind of a child. You really do. And my thing is: if the kids are buying up all the Batman and Superman stuff cause it looks a certain way and it has a certain feel, let’s give it the same look and feel with a Gospel message. [That’s correct, that’s good, absolutely] [applause begins] That’s the way to get the Gospel to them!

MCKINLEY: I mean, it’s translation. That’s what you’re talking about. Just like the Incredible Wycliffe organization has been all over the world, translating the Gospel into languages, graphic representation has become a language in our culture. [absolutely, absolutely!] And to be able to do that and to communicate, that’s really...

BALDWIN: So we did all this and then what happened was the Palau folks have now started this new arrangement ‘cause we’ve touring... After the books and the videos ... a... a... a... literally a *Livin’ It* skate tour was born. So for the last 3 years I’ve been going every Saturday to a different city in America. We’ve been to 100 cities and over 100,000 kids have gotten saved in 3 years [McKinley leads congregation in applause] for the *Livin’ It* skateboard. [100,000 kids!] [applause] But you know what? You know what’s really cool? It just goes to show that if you... you don’t ever change the Word, but you just... you make it more relevant to the culture, the kids will listen. They want to know the Lord. [yeah] They want to know the Lord. So *Livin’ It* Skate Tour was born. That’s been now...

Now January Stevie Bigg is going out on his own... I’m launching my own ministry which is going to be similar to what we’ve been doing in *Livin’ It*, but ah... on a much, much bigger scale. And we’ll be doing an arena tour with a ministry that I’ve created called the *Break Through ministry*. And we’re going to be doing something called “The Uprising Extreme Sports Tour”. [Right, awesome] so we’re real excited about that.

MCKINLEY: Let me see, I think we’ve got a graphic here that has your website on it if I’m not mistaken. Is the website on there? Give it to us just a moment, Stephen, maybe it’s not there, but give us the ah...

BALDWIN: Oh, my website is ah... it’s extremely difficult... stephenbaldwin.com. [

MCKINLEY: That’s with a p-h! Stephen with a p-h! That’s the only thing you have to do!

BALDWIN: That’s it! [laughter] [clap] Stephen with a p-h! stephenbaldwin.com [We’ll make it PhD if you want us to] Ha, ha... that might get you in trouble! [laughter] But ah... But all the books are on there. Ah... the mission statement for the new ministry’s on there. And we’re really excited. We... Listen... I... I’ll give you... I’m not gonna try to take any credit here. The Lord is doing this, first and foremost... Number 1, He gets all the credit. Number 2, I went to... Two years ago I went to... Tony Hawk has this big state

tour that he does every year called the *Boom! Boom! Up Jam!* Any of you kids know the *Boom! Boom! Up Jam?* Put your hand up if you know the Boom... All the kids are going yeah... *Boom Boom!* I went and saw Tony Hawk's tour 2 years ago. Now Tony Hawk is the most famous skateboarder in the world. When I went to Portland, Oregon, I went to an arena there, 40,000 kids packed out in this arena. And then I did some research after that and I found out this guys making \$80 million a year with his skate tour. And at the end of the exercise, it's just for money. So I have a vision... I believe we can create a skate tour that's an extreme sports tour that's just as entertaining, just as hep, just as edgy, just as cool, but every year I believe we can bring 80 million souls into the kingdom! [Wow! Amen! Amen!] [applause] I'm serious! [Amen, I'm with you] I'm absolutely serious! [I believe you can! I believe it, I do!]

MCKINLEY: I want to let Chris... Chris is our Student Pastor here at Prestonwood. Helps to lead the whole team that we have. We were introducing the team as you came in the door a moment ago. But ah... Chris has got a couple of things maybe to ask you tonight.

BALDWIN: Sure.

LOVELL: I saw your interview, I guess, about a month ago now on the Today Show and I've seen you've been going on TV regularly just proclaiming the message of Christ, very boldly, by the way. I appreciate it a lot. But if you had a... if you had one thing you could say to the students in this room... we have many here tonight... what... what's the message that you're trying to get out to them about Christ and about what it means to walk with Him.

BALDWIN: [Sigh] Well, there's a lot of technical things I could say but I'll just say that ah... you know, we can have all kinds of ideas about what's the right thing to do in our walk and, you know, what's the right way to behave in our walk and all that good stuff, and I... I have people ask me all the time, are you preaching to your brothers? [laughter] We go to get... [I have a great question on that. Hang on just a minute...] [McKinley laughs] And you know what I tell people? I tell people the way I became intrigued was when my wife... I watched her wake up every morning, get down on her knees and stay in prayer for one hour, get up and read the Gospel for half an hour, and she did that every morning and every night for one whole year. That's reading and praying three hours a day. And she still does it to this day for the most part. And I tell people you know when it comes to preaching to my brothers, listen, there's been a famous expression you've heard before that say "Preach the Gospel daily, and when absolutely necessary use words." [I like that! That's very good!] You know. And what that... what that means you know obviously is just walk your walk, stay true to the Lord. You know my wife never pointed a finger at me. She never said you better do this; you better... She just prayed.

So my suggestion, Dave, to the young people out there is simply this: Billy Graham was interviewed a couple years ago and asked if there was one thing you could do about your life differently what would it be? And Billy

Graham's answer was if I could do one thing differently it would be I wish I would have spent more time reading the Bible." Billy Graham said that! [yeah, I know, laughter] I think the guy read the Bible an awful lot! [laughter] So my thing is you know, you know, the truth is... the truth is that this experience we're suppose to be having is suppose to be led by the Spirit. And in my experience the only way I know the Spirit's leading me or the only way I know I'm hearing from the Spirit truly is when I'm in the Word and I'm on my knees every single day. And that's the one thing that... that I really suggest to people. [applause...]

I really suggest to people. And it's tough! It's tough! People say to me... I hear a wond... I heard a wonderful acronym for the word *busy* recently. Anybody out there... you ever get too busy? [inaudible] But the truth is you know, when our life and our busyness becomes... gets in the way of our... our prayer time and our study time and making the priority the Lord, if we've gotten too busy then the acronym is "Being Under Satan's Yoke". [wow! Very, very good] That's a powerful acronym. You know... if... if my life ever gets to a point... Even my ministry life... even my ministry... even when I think I'm doing stuff for the Lord and for the kingdom... if I'm not personally connected, it's defeating the purpose!

MCKINLEY: That's right. And I think that issue of connectness is the hardest thing. I mean, even after all these many years of being involved in ministry, which is what I've done for a long time. I still find that the greatest battle is to maintain a reality and the authenticity of that connectedness. It's not just to be a professional at what I do, [Amen!] but to be real at what I do. So...

LOVELL: Just one last thing. Just that ...how... how is your decision to walk with Christ, to follow after Him and your life is totally different than it was before, like you said on your interview on the Today Show. How has that been received among your peers?

BALDWIN: Welllllll..... [laughter] Well, you know, I have some films in my filmography where I played some pretty crazy guys. So most of the Hollywood folks were pretty scared of me already. [laughter] Now I got Jesus, now they're reeeally scared of me. [laughter] [applause] No, but that's... that's the joke I make here, but ah... you know, I... I have to answer it honestly. The Lord is doing something and at this point I don't know what it is. People say to me all the time, are you done making movies? I don't know. You know, if I get a phone call tomorrow to do a movie with Tom Cruise and I could sit next to him every day and tell him the truth...! [Amen! Woo!] [extended applause] That would be... that would be an awesome opportunity. [Amen! That is awesome!] But ah... but for me ah... I... I haven't really come up against too much of a conflict yet. I have had some encounters with some folks that ah... been a little bit abrasive, but ah... you know, I don't back down. I don't back down.

LOVELL: And that has been evident if you guys have seen any of the interviews he's had, I mean. When they come back at you and questioned you,

I... That's one thing for me that's been so impressive is that you haven't backed down. You have stated the truth over and over again. That hey, you may feel a certain way but what God has done in me is greater."

BALDWIN: I'm about to take this whole ah... what I consider to be ah... ah... a necessary aggressive perception or... or... or attitude to have toward the culture of the Gospel... We're about to take it to a new level cause I'm shooting the pilot episode of a new reality show in a couple of weeks that's going to appear on this ah... music channel called VH1. I don't know if you all have heard of that program... VH1. But ah... I'm going to be doing a... a new reality show where myself and some of my comrades in arms, here so to speak, are going to go into the Hollywood community and preach the Gospel. And the first episode that we're going to do, ah... the first episode they're going to do, myself and a couple of my friends... we're going to show up at the casting session of a pornographic film and we're going to walk in there and we're going to meet some of those young people who are obviously making a very stupid decision. We're going to tell them about the life transforming Gospel of Jesus Christ and we're going to see what happens. [applause]

MCKINLEY: Amen, that is awesome.

BALDWIN: Isn't that cool? [That is cool] Yeah, I'm very excited about that! I'm very excited about that.

MCKINLEY: I'm excited that God has given you focus and that a... that conviction to do that. And I think that's what it is... and that's what I hear and see in you, is conviction. [Amen!] and it's something that's incredible. [It's a... it's a privilege.] It's a God-born thing.

Well, you're here tonight ah... because you're a part of a movie that's being opened here in town tonight [sure, sure] and released. It's called *The Genius Club*. There's information inside your worship guide tonight about it. You can go to the website. I think the ah... premier's at 9:00 tonight. And then it's going to be around here the next few days. Jacob Bonnema who's right here on the front row. Jacob is also in that movie, and ah... Jacob and his family Arch... his dad have been a part of our church ah... through the years. We love the Bonnema family. Tell us a little bit though about *The Genius Club*. Just give us a quick snip on that.

BALDWIN: Well *The Genius Club* is the story of ah... a terrorist who plants a nuclear weapon in the heart of Washington DC and requests that the... and obviously this is a movie... requests that the highest 10 IQ's in America...

MCKINLEY: When you walked in the door in that movie I thought that's it... there he is. I was all over that, man. I was believing. [Well...] You gonna disappoint me tonight?

BALDWIN: I have two daughters 13 and 10 and when I told them I was doing this movie, playing a guy with one of the highest IQ's in America, they

went, "Oh, come on, Dad. [laughter] This will be one of your greatest acting performances ever!" [laughter]

But ah... it's... it's the story of how this terrorist assembles these 10 highest IQ's and then gives them a list of questions that from his mind he believes could possibly solve all of the problems of the world. So from cancer to poverty to this... He assembles the 10 greatest minds and says you have a certain amount of time to answer all these questions. If you can do it, and in that time frame, get a certain score that this guys totally... I mean, obviously he's nuts! But... but it's about how in all of that conversation a... a very powerful message of hope is revealed.

MCKINLEY: You had a lot of attitude in that movie. I don't mind saying that. [I don't know what you're talking about.] Oh you definitely had some attitude and what it is... [Baldwin laughs] that's all I can say, what it is, man, what it is! But, no it was great. So ah... anyway I really enjoyed it.

Okay, got to ask this question. What is it like at Christmas and the Holidays around the table with the Baldwin family? [Fun! Fun!] I do mean... okay, I'm going down the... going down the list [It's fun!] Okay, good, good. Because inquiring minds want to know.

BALDWIN: Well, I know. But I'll tell you this, you know ah... a lot of Christians think that because I've been so outspoken and because my brother is so outspoken, in a different way [yes] ah... that ah... there's this tremendous conflict. I... I literally had dinner with him last night at a Sushi place in Times Square with my 10 year old daughter and ah... you know the truth is we've been blessed enough in our friendship as family that no political point of view or religious point of view is ever gonna get in the way of the love that we have for one another. So that's... that's a tremendous blessing. But I will say ah... it is fun for me to... to really never have to go out of my way to make any kind of a specific point about my walk of faith, 'cause the Lord's doing it already. Can I tell you a good story? [Sure, absolutely]

So ah... my brother says to me about 2-1/2 years ago, and I had been already doing a bunch of interviews for *Livin' It* and stuff like that. He says to me, "So ah... (should I do it in his voice?) [lower] So ah... [extended laughter] I guess you've been very outspoken about your faith?" [laughter] I said, "Yes, I been really kinda out there, doing my thing." He goes, "Yeah, I can tell." I said, "Well, what do you mean?" He said, "I've been in New York City and probably 2 or 3 times a week a tourist will see me walking down the street and say, 'Aren't you Alec Baldwin?', and I say, 'Yes,'" and they'll usually follow that up with, 'Well, could I get my picture with you?' or 'Would you sign an autograph?' I say, 'Oh, okay.' And he said, "But what I've been getting the last couple of months is, 'Excuse me, aren't you Alec Baldwin?' And I'll say, 'Yes.'" And they'll start to fix his hair or be reaching for a pen or something like that and they'll say, 'Well, could you do me a favor?' And he'll say, 'Sure, what's that?' And

they'll say, 'Could you tell your brother Stephen God bless him for what he's doing for the kingdom?'" [McKinley leads laughter and applause] So...

MCKINLEY: That is awesome! And as it was in the book of Acts, I have many in this city. You know... that... that's really what it is. [Inaudible]

BALDWIN: The Lord's got a plan... the Lord's got a plan and He's totally in control and what He's going to do, He's going to do on His time, [sure] so just... I just pray for him and I pray for the Lord's will.

MCKINLEY: And I do think it's fabulous. Right on the top back of the book it simply says: "If you have a few hours to spend with one of the strangest and most interesting and yet most beautiful people I've ever known, this book is for you." That's from his brother Alec who endorsed the book for him. And ah... I think that's a great reflection of their love and their affection as brothers in the relationship.

Well, I could do this for a long time tonight, but... but we have also said tonight that we have... your books available; some people [sure] would like to have an opportunity [absolutely] to meet you and to [wonderful] to do that.

BALDWIN: And I could always come back, pastor. [cheers, applause]

MCKINLEY: Yeah, there you go. If you're going to go out and help win 80 million kids to Christ, we gotta have you back here! [Amen! I love that!] I'm telling ya. But you gotta help us; we've got one of the highest concentrations of students in this region of Texas anywhere in the nation and we need to make a difference for Christ here.

But ah... I'm going to ah... in just a moment close this down. We're going to go ahead and move you out and get you set up so people can come by. And I do want you to know... I'm just going to be fair to everyone tonight... we are going to have him here as long as we can, but he does have another appointment tonight and... ah... he's going to have to leave here promptly tonight. And so there is going to come a point where we have to say that's it. Okay? So that means tonight's not the night for all long term conversations. If you want to get an opportunity to say hi and to say bye and if he can sign fast enough, I'm sure he'll sign a book for you. [sure] And we'll be glad to do that.

BALDWIN: But...! [Yes?] From the bottom of my heart, I'm not trying to sell you something, I gotta tell you on stephenbaldwin.com I have been getting some of the most powerful responses about the book, mostly from Christians who are sending me emails telling me "You really pumped me up, you got me fired up, you made me look at myself and what I'm... how I'm living for Jesus and you got me really excited." So I want to really recommend... even if it's a gift for somebody else, check out the book because it's a lot of fun.

MCKINLEY: That's good. We've got plenty of copies, I believe, tonight. We've tried to have those on hand for you so you'll be able to do that.

Let me say this though before we... before we break... before we go tonight, and that is that you don't have to be at the bottom of life to understand that you need Christ. You can be at the top of the world; you can be living life large, living full... full throttle. But you can realize that there is something that is greater than anything you will find under the sun and that is God's Son Jesus Christ who does change life and put it together. The Bible simply says [2 Corinthians 5:17]:

17) If any person is in Christ, they're a new creature. Old things are passed away and all things have become new.

It doesn't say all the old bad things passed away. It just says all things pass away. Not everything in his life was a bad thing. But everything now in your life is a new thing!

And tonight if you've never received that Christ in your life... if you've never experienced the new life that Jesus gives, I can't imagine us coming here, gathering here, talking in front of this many people and just saying, "Okay, goodnight, God bless you." Because the passion of Stephen's heart, everywhere he goes and what he does, the passion of our hearts is that people... men and women, students, young adults would know Jesus Christ in a real and personal way.

So I'm going to ask you to bow your heads, close your eyes with me. We're going to pray tonight. But before we pray I simply want to pray a prayer for some of you who join me. And tonight it may be that you're here and the prayer that you need to pray... the prayer that is in your heart is simply this prayer:

Dear Jesus, I believe that You are the Son of God, that You're the one who came from heaven, who came to earth and that there's no greater reality than You and knowing You. And Lord, tonight I don't want to just live life as I see it or as I can do it. I want to give my life to You. Jesus, I open my heart. Come into my heart, Lord Jesus. [music begins] Forgive me of sin, give me a new heart, give me a new start. And Lord, help me to begin to live my life wide open for you.

That's a scary thing to pray but it's the greatest thing in all the world. I'm not asking you tonight to adopt religion. I'm not asking you to just give a little bit of yourself over to Jesus. I'm asking you to give Him your heart. And maybe... just maybe tonight is that point for you. Others have been talking to you. God has been working in you. Friends have been telling you and you just know this is it and I'm ready to start living.

Others of you tonight have begun the journey. You've received Christ but you need to really live it. You need to take the next step. For some of you that next step would be to step forward and to follow Christ, going public,

following Him in baptism as you see us practice in this church time and time again. Not because baptism changes you; it doesn't; Jesus changes you. But baptism marks you as a follower of Christ. And if we know Him and love Him, we don't want to be ashamed of Him. We want people to know we believe in His death, His burial, His resurrection.

Maybe you want this church to be your church home tonight. Maybe you say I want to get in this family. I want to be a part of it. I want to live out my faith in this place.

Well before we walk away tonight we're going to give you an opportunity to do that; to come into the family, to take the next step or take the first step by opening your heart and receiving Christ. I pray that many of you have prayed that prayer with me tonight.

And Father, right now I pray that You will move and work in hearts and lives, and that this moment... this hour... this place would be the time, the place, the moment where people begin a new journey with You. I pray that tonight will begin a course of livin' it for many, and Lord, that we will not just hear an interview or meet a celebrity, though we're thankful for all these things. I pray that tonight there would be a Christ encounter. And Lord, that there would be lives that would be lived differently, walks that would be changed because of tonight. So Lord, we give ourselves to You. In Jesus' name. AMEN

I want to ask you to stand up... stand up right now wherever you are. Don't walk away, just stand up and as you stand up we're going to begin sing in just a moment. Several of our ministers are here with me tonight and they're here to receive you, to speak with you, to encourage you, to help you, to take whatever step you need to take with Christ. I know there are a lot of people in this room and our goal tonight... not to intimidate you, our goal tonight is to encourage you. And what I want to ask right now is that if you are willing, that you will come and say tonight, I want to take the next step with Christ, I want to follow Him, I want to... I want to live my life for Christ. So we're here, we're ready, we're singing, we're waiting. I want to ask you to come right now. As we sing, as we wait. Come to Jesus. [singing begins]