



## Who Do You Know?

With more than 5,000 churches in the Los Angeles area and almost 500,000 churches across the United States; the problem Sheryl and I have as we try to introduce the truths of *Life Is Full Of Choices* to all these churches is overwhelming.

We don't know people in all the churches in Los Angeles, let alone the whole country.

*Life Is Full of Choices* is affecting lives in the areas where we have trained church leaders.

Youth leaders are providing direction for their kids, teachers are using consequences to teach responsibility, parents are finding ways to empower their kids and people of all ages are finding freedom from past hurts.

Last week I was talking with a Children's Minister we are working with who is having a problem with one of her kids. From a broken home with no supervision, not much affection and no understanding at all of how to interact with other kids are just a few of obstacles this Church is dealing with.

Whenever the Church is open, eight year old Sammy is there, because it is the only place in his life where he feels loved and cared for.

The Church is discovering just how difficult it is to reach at-risk kids.

But in all this, the Gospel is being shared with this kid who might never have heard it except for this one Church in his neighborhood who reached out and is caring about him.

I talked with a missionary in South Africa a couple years ago who wanted to use the Three Cornerstones and the Four Core Needs with her kids. She couldn't come here for training and at the time we had nothing to send her.

Now we do.

*Cornerstones and Core Needs of Growing Kids* is the first in the Life Is Full Of Choices Series. The series will help people who are working with kids.

- ◆ The first book is our story. It explains and illustrates the foundational truths we discovered in the cornerstones and core needs with examples of how we used them in kids lives.
- ◆ The second book, *Parenting from the Top of the Mountain*, takes these truths and applies them to parenting.
- ◆ The third book, *Seven Steps to the Top of the Mountain*, is a manual with step by step instructions showing how to implement the cornerstones and core needs into the readers life.

Do you know someone who could use these books?

Sheryl and I are excited about having these resources to use in places where we cannot go, as an instructional aid that can be followed up with training in places where we can go and used by you as an introduction to people who we do not know, and otherwise, may never meet.

In His grip,

John  
for John and Sheryl Emra

### Answered Prayer

For the training in August at a Say Yes! Center. There were 18 volunteers and staff who attended from that one Center.

### Prayer Requests

That the shoes and backpacks we gave to the SAY Yes! Centers for their kids will encourage them as they return to school.

For many trainings over the next few months as staff and volunteers of the SAY Yes! Centers get ready to affect kids lives for the Kingdom.

Pray for the ladies with whom Sheryl is working. That their ears would be open to hear the voice of Immanuel as He guides them into all truth.

**There is more information about the book *Cornerstones and Core Needs of Growing Kids* on the back of this letter.**

## Cornerstones and Core Needs of Growing Kids

This is the story of John and Sheryl Emra and their work at the Los Angeles Community Center. They started the center with a basketball and a bag of candy in 1986. They found themselves working in a gang infested neighborhood that society had abandoned.

Their stories relate how John and Sheryl learned about gangs, dealt with poverty, abuse, and neglect. They confronted a dropout rate of 50% in Junior High school and another 50% in High School.

Everyone makes choices everyday and everyone has core needs. John Emra shows us how meeting the core needs of kids helps them build their lives upon cornerstones of empowerment, responsibility, and freedom, and how love can turn former outcasts into Honor Roll students.

### What Other People Are Saying

Whether you're working with vulnerable inner city youth, well-to-do kids in the suburbs, or your own children these lessons will work wonders for you and the children you love. Life is indeed full of choices, and one of your best first choices, starting now, is to read this book.

—**Mark Moring**, Senior Associate Editor, *Christianity Today* magazine

John Emra's methods guide us, to firmly, sensibly, and lovingly shepherd kids. Use these bedrock truths to help kids grow into the people God made them to be. Follow John's advice. You'll be blessed—and so will the kids whose lives you are shaping!

—**Dan Wagner**, Senior Homicide Prosecutor, Orange County, California

*Powerful, Inspiring, Encouraging* best describe this practical book filled with personal scenarios. Teachers, youth workers, parents, guardians, and grandparents will gain helpful strategies to shape young lives based on the Emra's real world experiences.

—**Arland G. Reinhard**, High School Teacher in Fort Wayne, Indiana for 40 years, Indiana Teacher-of-the-Year Finalist (Top Ten) 2006, Father of four and Grandfather of nine

These simple principles are life changing. I have quoted them in sermons and used them in my own family. I am ecstatic the principles and uplifting stories of their application in Emra's inner city ministry are now available in print!

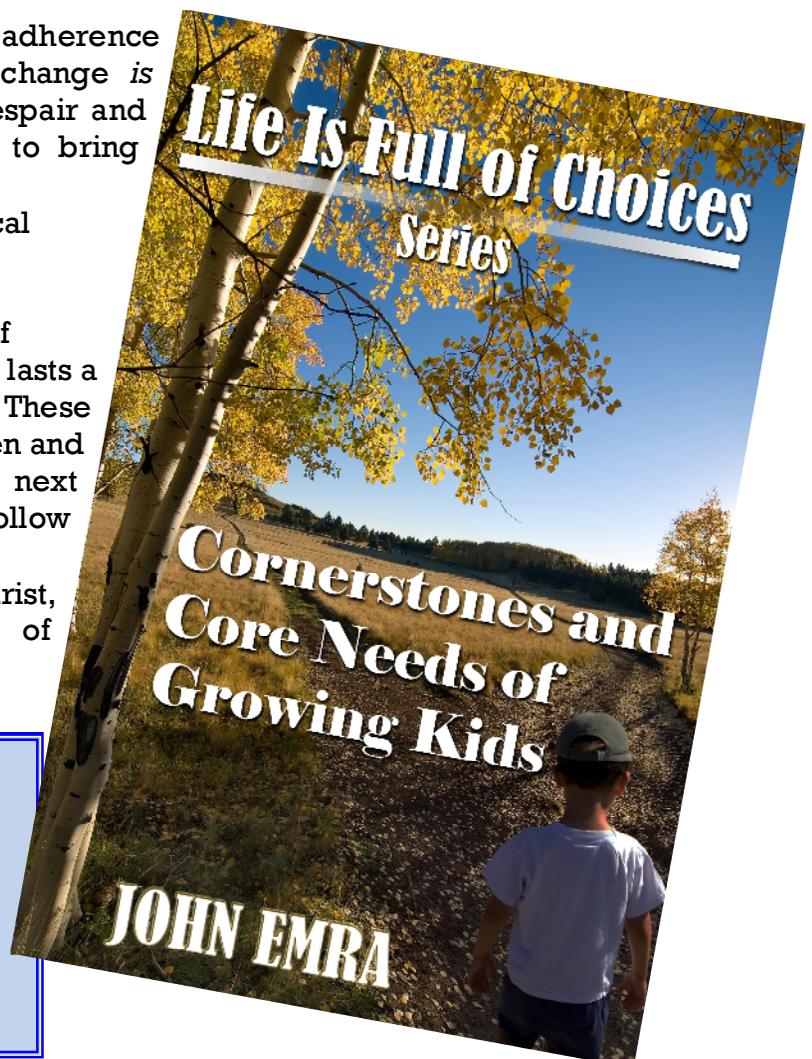
—**Rev. Tom Letchworth**, Pastor, First United Methodist Church, Paragould, Arkansas

No simple solutions here—but through strict adherence to principles, John Emra shows us that change *is* possible. The reader will see stories of despair and hope and will know God has the power to bring newness to the hardest of cases.

—**Mark Weinert**, Pastor, Harmony Evangelical Church, Milwaukie, Oregon

Loving children goes beyond the emotions of immediate urgencies. Truly loving children lasts a lifetime and, with God's power, an eternity. These concepts are simple but run deep for children and their leaders. All who invest in the next generation should choose to consistently follow these core concepts.

—**Donna Perkins**, Campus Crusade for Christ, National Here's Life Inner City, Director of Youth Development



For information about ordering  
*Cornerstones and Core Needs of Growing Kids*  
or any of the books in the  
Life Is Full of Choices Series go to:  
[www.LifeIsFullOfChoices.com](http://www.LifeIsFullOfChoices.com)  
or call (855) AT LIFOC  
or (855) 285-4362