



# Marketplace Moments

## Bibliophoria

### Cain's Redemption

*A Story of Hope and Transformation in America's Bloodiest Prison*

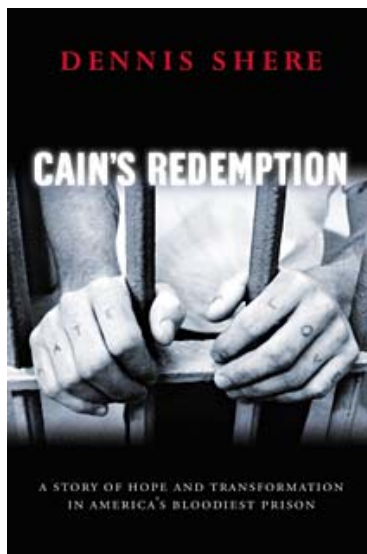
by Dennis Shere

We need more stories like these. Testimonies of how a man or woman, through their faith in Jesus Christ, seek the good of our neighbors, without being explicitly Christian. But being an authentic Christian, others cannot help but be drawn by the love of Christ and thereby transforming and redeeming a community. This lies in the under-stated power of sacrificial love, because God first loved us.

Below is the introduction from Moody Publishers' web-site; [www.moodypublishers.com](http://www.moodypublishers.com)

Formerly known as America's bloodiest prison, the 18,000 acres that comprise Louisiana's Angola State Penitentiary are now home to 5,000 inmates, a full range of seasonal crops, a 9-hole golf course, yearly rodeos, a Bible seminary, a museum, and much more. All of this came into being at the behest of Warden Burl Cain, who is now the longest-standing warden in the history of Angola prison.

Under his leadership, the inmate population of 5,000 has gone from regular knife fights to Bible studies. Cain is a strong believer in the ability of the gospel to turn the most incorrigible of sinners



into productive, moral citizens. Because eight out of ten prisoners are serving life sentences without parole at Angola, Cain has taken upon himself the task of making the lives of these prisoners productive and educational. Through a partnership with New Orleans Baptist Seminary, prisoners have the opportunity to get a bible degree and even be transferred to other prisons as a missionary.

The Angola phenomenon has been covered by such media outlets as: *Time Magazine*, *Christianity Today*, and in award-winning film documentary *The Farm: Angola, USA*. Author Dennis Shere combines his background in journalism and law to bring readers this account of redemption and life change in the most unlikely of places: a maximum security prison.

By Timothy Liu

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## Google Plus

### Breakpoint

[www.breakpoint.org](http://www.breakpoint.org)

As the global issues grow more complex and issues of the public square continues to challenge Christians, we need a uniquely Singaporean perspective which is well acquainted to our own cultural distinctive. We need also to be aware of the global issues that movers and shakers of cultures are mulling and thinking about.

Breakpoint is a uniquely North American ministry in providing their own perspective and issues regarding their public square. Although their view point and methodologies may not necessary work in the Singapore environment, it is intriguing from the various viewpoint.

- 1) It gives us an example of how Christians in other cultures are attempting to address the issues they face.
- 2) Start learning to be sensitive to policies and what some of the implications are.
- 3) Start us thinking about how some of those principles are incongruence or against the teachings of the bible.

- 4) It also helps us to begin thinking about how biblical teachings can be contextualized in our own backyard.

(From their web-site)

'BreakPoint is a program of The Wilberforce Forum, a division of Prison Fellowship. Our mission is to develop and communicate Christian worldview messages that offer a critique of contemporary culture and encourage and equip the church to think and live Christianly. BreakPoint provides a Christian perspective on today's news and trends via radio, interactive media, and print.'

There is a daily commentary that is available, free to subscribe.



You received it via e-mails and audio streaming is also available.

Founder of Prison Fellowship in the US; Charles Colson is also a very intriguing person and have his story documented in the book by the title of 'Born Again'. Their web-site writes :

'Colson was known as the White House "hatchet man," a man feared by even the most powerful politicians during his four years of service to President Nixon. When news of Colson's conversion to Christianity leaked to the press in 1973, the Boston Globe reported, "If Mr. Colson can repent of his sins, there just has to be hope for everybody. In 1974, Colson entered a plea of guilty to Watergate-related charges; although not implicated in the Watergate burglary, he voluntarily pleaded guilty to obstruction of justice in the Daniel Ellsberg Case. He entered Alabama's Maxwell Prison in 1974 as a new Christian and as the first member of the Nixon administration to be incarcerated for Watergate-related charges. He served seven months of a one-to-three year sentence.'

By Timothy Liu

## Of the Heart and Mind

### Dwell Deep

We fragment ourselves to cope with time. The sheer seeming necessity to multi-task pervades our age. We are able to oversee great projects, many of them all at once, and yet try to maintain a great work life balance. Our family is well taken care of, and our ministry is maintained. The talk of

balance and proportion has all but won. Spread a little here, leave a little there. Take some more from here, allocate somewhere. We are stretching and fragmenting ourselves to our dissolution. Seldom is found the gathering of ourselves in one place, fully. We are left strewn all over the floor, as though there were no one to gather us up. We

are broken. Every moment of reflection gathers us. And every moment of focus on Him brings us together. While we keep our eyes on the many, we were created for the One. May we be gathered, and dwell deep in the One we were created for.

By Gabriel Koh

## Eyes in a Darkened Room

### *The Chronicles of Narnia,*

2001, HarperAudio, (<http://www.harpercollins.com/>); and 2000, A Focus on the Family Radio Theatre Production released by Tyndale House Publishers Inc. (for more information log on to: <http://www.radiotheatre.org/>)

Have you seen the movie based on C.S. Lewis's first book in the series, 'The Chronicles of Narnia'? In today's advertising blitz, how can anyone not be aware?

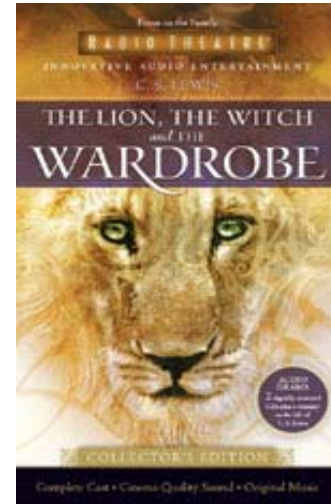
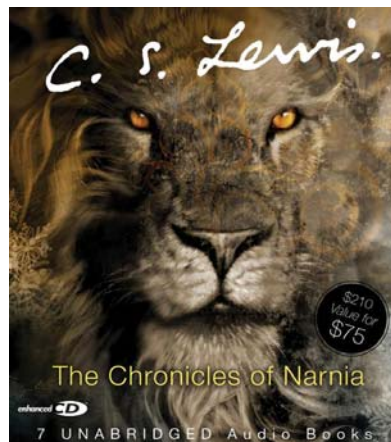
But I bet that some, if not most of you might not know that there is also another medium to which the books have been adapted, namely the audio book! There are in fact no less than two versions readily available. The first is by *Harper Audio* and the second, courtesy of *Focus on the Family Radio Theatre*. As the names of their "publishers" imply, the first is quite properly an audio book whereas the second is a "dramatization", that is to say actors reading the character parts with accompanying narrator, music, etc. in dramatic format. The dramatization attempts to actualize the story verbally. Here, it is so masterfully done that it's almost like listening to a movie - in listening you can almost 'see' the action except that there none except what's in your imagination. In short, this is radio theatre!

If you have the opportunity to be exposed to both, I'd recommend that you do try them both out. You may in fact prefer a straightforward reading. If so, the Harper edition is handsomely presented by no less than the likes of Jeremy Northam, Kenneth Branagh, and others, one (actor) for each book. For myself, despite the impeccable

efforts by such fine actors, I find them a trifle dull especially when compared side-by-side with the dramatization by *Focus on The Family Radio* (<http://www.radiotheatre.org/internarnia/indexHome.html>).

Here, the books have been magnificently transformed into the quite different medium of radio theatre and it has been superbly produced. The books have truly been brought to life fairly bustling with verve and high adventure. With the exception of Aslan in whom I was a little disappointed (surely the most difficult role to cast) all the other characters have been masterly cast complete with the proper English accents. The music and the sound design are absolutely first rate conjuring up the essence of Lewis's imaginary worlds.

All of these add up to terrific hours of listening pleasure most especially for young children. Our children are literally transfixed whenever we put the CD's on. You can verily see the magic that is cast upon them as they are swept away by the stories. As soon as the Narnia CD's come on, they sit content to let the drama wash over them as their imagination takes flight. It captures their imagination so much so that it has encouraged them to go



back and read the books for themselves. Now if that is not the best proof of the quality of these productions, I don't know what is!!

Despite the fanfare that accompanied the Disney film production of 'The Lion the With and the Wardrobe', I close with a quote from the FOTF Radio website which says 'the FOTF is proud to present The Chronicles of Narnia, now playing on the biggest screen of all, *your imagination*'.

### Questions to ponder:

1. What do you think it is about these stories that appeals to audiences today, both young and old? After all, they were written about fifty years ago!
2. As an introduction to the themes of God, man, goodness, evil, etc., would you share these stories by Lewis with your friends, your children and use it/them as the basis for conversations?
3. How might you compare these parables with the parables of Jesus?

By Yap Vong Hin

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### ▶ Kingdom Building at the Workplace



## Coming Events

### Reality Café.

01 Jul - Who is calling please?  
15 Jul - Working Towards Heaven

2pm-5pm at 03-05, Bible House,  
7 Armenian Street. Register with  
Elaine, info@marketplacechristian.net. Drinks and Snacks provided (RSVP)

04 Jul - Abortion in Singapore  
7 pm, St. Andrew's Cathedral

07 Jul - Rick Warren on  
*Stewardship of Affluence and  
Influence*. Trinity Christian  
Center. 7pm, 21 Adam Rd.

For more information check our  
web-site.

## Of the Heart and Mind (2)

### Relating Once Again

Many of us feel driven; driven by work and family; list of task to finish, projects to complete, research in progress, house to clean, meals to cook, children get sick. Sometimes, we even feel driven by church and related work. Preparing for Sunday school or bible study materials, home visitations, leaders meeting, missions team meeting, worship team or choir practice, prayer meetings, follow ups with new believers. Sometimes life gets into a ho-drum, status quo, grinding the mill, business as usual.

At the end of the day, you feel like sitting in front of the TV and vegitate, or play computer games, go to the driving range, hide in the toilet. Anything that will bring some sense of sanity back. I don't blame ya!

The thought of relating to people ALMOST seems like a wonderful idea. But not quite. People are so hard to deal with. They take energy, which frankly, I do not have. Then you need to invest in them. And people come and go. They have flaws and sometimes, they hurt and disappoint us. They are some-

times too full of themselves and can't really relate. Sometimes I wonder why we even bother. Plus, it is so exhausting. Come to think of it, it is much easier to just be BUSY. We are not faulted for being busy. It is culturally acceptable to be busy, even admired.

Perhaps we are avoiding what we are most needful of; community. Raw, unabridged, transparent, vulnerable communities of brothers and sisters, We live in a culture who have truly learned to avoid pain and inconveniences. I know because I am a product of my own culture. Walking to the market at 200 meters is inconvenient, especially under the hot sun. Worse on rainy days where there are no covered walkways. (Sigh) When is my HDB upgrading coming to my estate?

Plus, I need something that really excites me, an ever increasing dose of excitement. Sitting down and talk just don't cut it for me anymore. We keep hearing the same old complains. Snap out of it guys! What I 'REALLY' need is to be enter-

tained. Need to get something out of it.

And then..., in a strange moment, a moment where we are suddenly stopped, to find ourselves asking 'what AM I doing?' We feel a divine absence. Where is God? I almost hear His voice calling as to Adam, 'Where are you?'

'We are hiding, from You and each other, because we felt shame...'

Robert Greer, quoting Brent Curtis and John Eldredge writes 'We live so long with a 'propositional' approach to Christianity, we have nearly lost its true meaning...Modern Evangelicalism reads like an IRS 1040 form (or IR8A form). It's true, all the data is there, but it doesn't take your breath away.'

Jesus said 'I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full. (John 10:10). Come all who are weary and laden and fall at the feet of Jesus once again, relating to both the head and also the body of Christ. Be refreshed!!!

By Timothy Liu