LETTERS
—to a—
YOUNG
CONGREGATION

Nurturing the growth
of a faithful church

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NOTES

INTRODUCTION
2. Philippians 1:3, msg.

1: WHAT MY LIFE IS ABOUT
1. Psalm 24:1, kjv.
4. Psalm 40:3.
7. Genesis 32:28, meaning of Israel (see ampc).
8. Genesis 35:29, referring to Isaac.
9. Sam wrote this poem as a gift to me. He is now deceased, and I include the poem here in his memory.
11. From the Apostles’ Creed.

2: WHAT GOD IS ABOUT
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3. For an article that discusses the species of fish that actually inhabit the Sea of Galilee, see https://ferrelljenkins.blog/2014/12/01/fish-of-the-sea-of-galilee/.
4. This reference is to a generalized cultural anxiety in late 2012 that because December marked the end of an ancient Mayan calendar, it might thus usher in the end of the world.
5. Y2K is shorthand for a generalized cultural anxiety that a technological glitch in how dates are recorded in software would cause widespread societal collapse as the calendar shifted from 1999 to 2000.
6. Harold Camping died in December 2013 at age ninety-two, after repeatedly predicting the end of the world.
16. Romans 8:1.
17. 1 Corinthians 4:10.

3: WHAT THE CHURCH IS ABOUT
2. See Romans 10:17.
NOTES

10. See Revelation 5:9; 14:3.
16. Acts 15:39. The split between Paul and Barnabas had to do with whether Mark was fit to be included in their ministry.
17. 2 Timothy 4:11. Paul’s praise of Mark’s ministry is broadly understood to represent reconciliation between him and Paul (and Barnabas).
20. John 1:3.
26. Matthew 12:50; Mark 3:35.
28. Genesis 1:3; John 11:43.
29. John 1:14, msg.

4: WHAT FOLLOWING JESUS IS ABOUT
3. From the American folk song “Pick a Bale of Cotton.” This song has racist undertones. I grew up south of the Mason-Dixon Line in the 1960s.
4. Mark 16:15.
9. Thanks to singer Sara Groves for the phrase “add to the beauty,” from her album Add to the Beauty (Sony, 2005).
16. See, for example, Matthew 23:27-28; James 1:21-26; and 1 John 4:20 (hypocrisy); Proverbs 14:31; 1 Thessalonians 4:6; and 2 Peter 2:3 (exploitation); and Luke 13:3 (stubbornness).
18. Matthew 18:3.
20. 1 John 3:2, msg.
NOTES


EPILOGUE

1. My wife Elizabeth and I each brought three children to our marriage.