



# Point of View

Dear Marketplace Friend,

Through these days of Summer '08, my weekly **Point of View** has had a particular emphasis: I have been introducing you to a broad spectrum of books that might capture your attention enough to warrant an Amazon order... and inclusion in your vacation bag when you head-off for some escape, and have some time to "catch up on your reading" (*about as likely as "catching up" on your sleep...*).

My confession: the vast majority of my reading tends to be nonfiction, theme-oriented, information-heavy stuff. Time is a precious commodity for me (*as it is, I know, for you*) and I don't have much for "fun reading," with the serious stuff still in the pile...

Stories, for me, are "fun reading." We - all of us - are more wired for narratives than outlines. Not surprising: Jesus avoided "four point sermons" as if they were poison, opting to get his points across with stories that captured hearts on the way to the head. I've been careful this summer to include a few stories in the mix, to keep the menu of options broad enough to capture your attention.

So, this week it is a "story" book, but still nonfiction; it's the autobiography **Lost Boy**, written by my friend and frequent colleague Greg Laurie, pastor of Harvest Christian Fellowship and featured speaker in the Harvest Crusades.



Greg's life has been on display for decades, but **Lost Boy: My Story** has only been on the shelves for a few months (*Regal Books/Gospel Light*). He's written 30 books, but this is his first attempt to tell his story, in the first person. *If you had 196 pages to capture your own 55-year journey - for a life that is still ramping-up, not slowing-down, what would you have to say for yourself?*

I met Greg and Franklin Graham during the same season of my life, while pastoring a large church in Orange County. They were already buddies when they entered my relational pool. By that time, they had much in common. Run the clock back, and you would have never placed them alongside one another.

Franklin's story is pretty well known; when you were first son/middle child of Billy and Ruth Graham, your position of "privilege" - at least, in Christian terms - is undeniable. Greg's story will break your heart at tough moments; his mom's seven marriages and

alcohol-affected dysfunction created the recurrent storms that characterized his upbringing. Here's the intriguing fact: *God's grace actually captured Greg at 17, while Franklin - the kid marinated in the message - didn't get reeled-in until age 22.*

**Lost Boy** tells Greg's story, from *lost to found...* to his life today as a megachurch pastor and unusually gifted evangelist and Christian leader. It isn't a "puff piece;" it's an honest album of snapshots in a life that demonstrates the plot-twists and adventures that find their way into the life stories that are folded into God's Story through alignment with the saving grace of Jesus Christ.

On Friday this week, Greg will take the stage in Anaheim Stadium for the 19th presentation of the Orange County Harvest Crusade (*details: [www.harvest.org](http://www.harvest.org)*). Local papers are predicting a three-night full-house. What will happen there? Lost Boys - and Girls - of all ages will hear the same Gospel that Greg embraced as a teenager, and they will respond to his invitation. **Lost** who become **Saved** have a story to tell. Do you? And, *are you telling your story to anyone?*

Bob Shank

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