

Media Press Kit

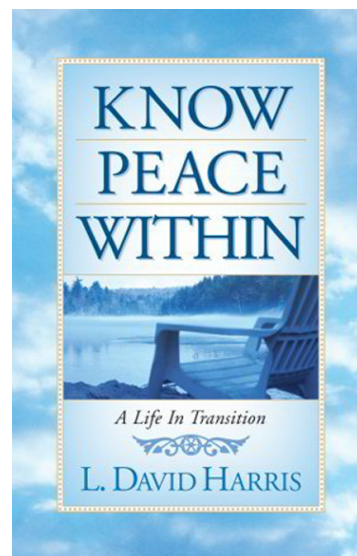
L. David Harris

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Award-Winning Author L. David Harris Releases Dynamic New Book, ‘Know Peace Within’

LOS ANGELES (March 13, 2006) --- For years Christian author L. David Harris has been helping people all over the world strengthen their relationship with God, and his new book, *Know Peace Within: A Life in Transition*, continues that winning strategy. Its simple message and gracious delivery is helping men and women reclaim the inner peace they thought they’d lost forever.

Harris’ latest work is an extension of his passion for helping individuals develop a meaningful relationship with God through faith in Jesus Christ. “In all my years of ministry both in the U.S. and abroad, I’ve found a common thread of need running through the lives of men, women, children, and families,” said Harris. “That is the desperate need to find God’s peace and assurance through every season of life -- a peace that transcends the peaks and valleys we all face in our walks. In *Know Peace Within*, I take the reader straight to the Scriptures to show them exactly what God has to say about His perfect peace and how to obtain it. This book contains treasures for a lifetime.”



Harris has been published in many journals and magazines, including *Message*, *Insight*, and the *New York Christian Times*. He is also the author of the two-volume devotional set *Alive at 5—Victory in Retrospect*.

“*Know Peace Within* is one of those rare books that comes along and changes the lives of literally everyone who picks it up,” said Susan Zahn, a Christian media expert and president of the Christian public relations firm WDC Media. “Believers and seekers alike will be challenged and encouraged to connect with God’s mercy – something we all need in these times of great stress and uncertainty.”

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“Some people witness because they are *supposed* to. Some people write because it’s *the in thing*. L. David Harris, on the other hand witnesses and writes because he believes that is what he’s on earth to do.” — *Message Magazine*

MASS APPEAL: L. David Harris’ story of *God-reliance* commands the attention of all; young and old, rich and poor, male and female, bond

and free. How is it possible to have a story that transcends age, gender, and life-status? The answer is simple. Every person born of a woman has the need to discover and experience God’s purpose for living. David’s fervent quest to continually grow into God’s eternal purpose for his life is an inspiration to all who are living during this desperate age of economic uncertainty, increasing natural disasters, unpredictable terrorist attacks, decreasing love for fellow human beings, and the erosion of family. It is only by living God’s purpose that we have hope and inner-peace.

PAST: L. David Harris grew up in Jamaica, New York. While David should have seen Christ as His only help, he resorted to *self-preservation* in order to cope with the stresses of family dysfunction and the cold, unfortunate realities of a fight or die mentality in the streets. The blessing is that God’s amazing grace shined through the darkness of his sordid past with an irresistible light of hope, to the point that he surrendered his life to Christ in 1995. His growth experience has been remarkable!

PRESENT: Today, L. David Harris is moving full-steam ahead with his God given mission to lead as many souls around the world to Jesus Christ as possible. His contagious zeal and love for the Lord, coupled with his steadfast determination is inspiring people through his interim pastoral leadership, internet ministry, articles, and books to refocus their attention on Jesus.

NEWEST RELEASE: *KNOW PEACE WITHIN—A LIFE IN TRANSITION* With his ability to paint clear portraits of God’s flawless plan of peace and salvation, David demonstrates from the scriptures and personal life experiences how God will stop at nothing to give people all of heaven in one gift: an abundant life in Jesus Christ. David’s other books include, *Alive at 5 — Victory in Retrospect, Volumes 1 & 2*.

POSSIBLE INTERVIEW TOPICS: Christian Living, Witnessing/Personal Evangelism, Last-Day Events, Health and Temperance, Godly Relationships.

DYNAMICS: L. David Harris, founder of *Each1 Reach Many Ministries*, is a local church elder, Bible teacher, columnist, author, lifestyle counselor, husband, and former interim youth pastor. At times people remind him of the time he first came to faith in Christ, and how incredible it has been to watch God transform his life in so many tangible ways. God’s ability to make a disciple maker of David, who was once an inner-city statistic destined for eternal destruction, is quite a testimony of God’s limitless power to save souls. One of his peers once said, “Only God could be doing the things I’m seeing happen in your life and ministry. I’m inspired to change.” This testimony lines up perfectly with David’s signature quote, “I breathe; therefore, I witness.”

AREAS OF KNOWLEDGE AND EXPERTISE:

L. David Harris has a wealth of knowledge on biblical topics related to Christian living, personal evangelism, health, and last-day events. He is passionate about sharing his expertise with others.

TELEVISION, RADIO, PRINT, AND SPEAKING ENGAGEMENTS:

L. David Harris has appeared on *Three Angels Broadcasting Network’s* flagship interview program, *3ABN Today*; *WGTS 91.9 FM’s* interview program, *Breakaway*; and *Daystar TV’s* live interview program, *Celebration*; written for the *New York Christian Times*, *Message*, and *Insight* magazines; has run print ads in *Charisma*, *Inspired Living*, and *Visitor* magazines; and has speaking engagements weekly.

An Ordinary Man, Helping Extraordinary People Everyday *Knowing peace within; coming by it the old-fashioned way*

by Jo Jordan
WDC Media

WASHINGTON, DC (February 21, 2006) -- It's no accident that author L. David Harris has become a man of the people. From his humble beginnings growing up in a troubled family environment in New York City, to implementing a collaborative worldwide ministry, the award-winning author of the recently published *Know Peace Within: A Life in Transition*, has been ministering to everyone in his life since the very beginning.



“I’ve never known the tender and compassionate love of a father,” explained Harris. “My dad seemed not to know how to be a family. There was neglect, related to basic care, like not having heat in the winter, or paying school fees on time. He did not show my mom and sister the kind of respect, love, and protection that men ought to give the women they are responsible for protecting.”

But Harris persevered. Today, in addition to being an author, he is a local church elder and Bible teacher at the Community Praise Center Church in Alexandria, VA. Though the majority of his experience is in adult ministries, in the absence of a full-time youth pastor Harris has worked as an interim youth ministries coordinator at the Praise Center since July 2005, and is extremely passionate about his role in worldwide faith-based teaching.

“One of the most valuable lessons I have learned is that no person is an island,” said Harris. “We all need others to move forward in life. By caring for people, we lose focus on our own problems. This does not make our problems disappear, but it gives us a more important focus: the welfare of other people.”

Harris was fortunate to have the love and support of his mother, his sister Lisa, and “Uncle Chester,” who he credits with teaching him many basic things about how to be an exemplary person.

“The basic courtesies he modeled for me have not fallen by the wayside,” said Harris. “My uncle told me about the importance of giving, and having a strong work ethic. I still

open doors for women, and let them get off elevators and public transportation before I try to get on. He taught me this.”

Harris, who is an assistant registrar at Columbia Union Christian College in Maryland writes an online devotional for the college’s website. He also contributes a regular column for the long-established magazine *Message*. His articles have been published in various other magazines, including *Insight* and the *New York Christian Times*. He is also the author of the two-volume devotional set *Alive at 5—Victory in Retrospect*. Recently, Xulon Press selected his work for an upcoming inspirational collection it is publishing.

“We cannot allow our so-called disadvantages to hold us back,” stressed Harris. “I had many of the risk factors for failure; I am a product of the inner city, a college dropout from a dysfunctional family, and I have been told negative things all my life. But I have survived. A power outside of myself has been leading all of the way.”

In December 2004 Harris, who has been happily married for five years to Simone C. Arboine, had a conversation with his mother-in-law, Ivy, that helped inspire him to write *Know Peace Within*.

“Ivy just has a passion for people who are seeking peace in their lives,” he said. “As I thought about the way she is, and our conversation, somehow it immediately resonated, and I recalled my own journey. My mind was suddenly flooded with ideas about writing a book that would guide other people toward spiritual calm. *Know Peace Within* reflects the trials and tribulations I have experienced.”

Harris was born in Rochester, NY and moved to New York City when he was three years of age. He spent some time as a youth in Jamaica, NY, but then moved to Washington, DC in July of 1991 to study psychology at Columbia Union College. Later, he trained and served extensively at CSAAC – a nonprofit agency dedicated to helping persons disabled by autism. Eventually Harris worked in the field of behavioral psychology in direct care at Rockville, MD’s Community Services for Autistic Adults and Children, and later in middle management.

“One of the most important things I learned working with people who have autism was patience,” he said. “It might take six months for minute advances to take place. It became vital to appreciate every small, desirable behavioral change. This helped me to value all people, and notice the good things in them, no matter how seemingly insignificant.”

As a high school senior, Harris met John Stoddart, who was at the time a much sought after college-aged musician. Stoddart, currently signed to Reprise Records, is now an accomplished producer, writer, composer, and instrumentalist who has graced the albums of numerous Grammy/Dove and Soul Train nominees and winners. At Columbia he was accompanist to the choir Harris belonged to; today they attend the same church. One day Stoddard approached Harris, and asked to contribute a song to his next book project.

“I was amazed that John would approach me because to many people he is considered an icon,” explained Harris. “But because John is a genuinely humble guy, you would never know he is so much in demand. We brainstormed over the next few months, and decided we could do better at spreading the message we share if we did it together.”

They came up with a downloadable companion song for Harris’ book. Like the ministries Harris has established, *Know Peace Within* is truly a collaboration born of the knowledge he has gleaned during a life time of challenges, valuable input from those who know him best – and who have inspired and encouraged him to bring the Word to others – and the gifts of talented people who believe as strongly as he does that living a spiritual life is a natural part of humankind's purpose on this earth.

Harris manifests his passion for God all over the world, through his collaborative and Internet ministries, broadcast testimonial interviews, speaking engagements, published articles, and his books. He believes strongly in reaching out in all ways, including all people into the fold.

“Its ‘collaborativeness’ is the most beautiful aspect of my ministry,” explained Harris. “I have a vision of people working together for a common purpose. Today I have a nucleus of folks who I work closely with to get the message out to our dying planet.”

Three people Harris works most closely with are recording artists Angela Bryant-Brown, Denise Barclay, and Gylchris Sprauve. Together Harris and Bryant-Brown produced 15,000 spiritual brochures, and – along with their families, friends, and other members of various communities – they took to the street, giving them out to people nationwide.

“We wanted to give these folks hope where none seemed to exist, so we did it ourselves,” he said. “This is an integral part of our vision toward having a worldwide platform from which to mobilize people and encourage everyone to share what they have with those in need. As our ministry grows, we will use our influence to inspire humanitarian efforts that will have an eternal effect.”

Harris is a passionate writer, and believes that spiritual writing is a natural extension of his life's work. In order to protect creative identity, so readers all over the world have access to his words, he has retained full distribution rights for his books. Likewise, to maintain theological control, Harris’ ministry is entirely independent, which means it does not receive funding from a church or institution.

“My goal is to become more interdependent and interactive with those who share our vision and goals, in order to make the largest impact on peoples’ lives,” he said.

For more on L. David Harris, his ministry, and his writings, visit <http://thewritingsofdavidharris.com>.

Chapter Excerpts

Know Peace Within: A Life in Transition

by L. David Harris

PROLOGUE

Know Peace Within: A Life in Transition is a volume dedicated to those who know what it is to travel the dark road of inner-struggle; to those having no peace within, to the apparently distant place of tranquility, becoming reacquainted with the peace of God. Although it is not intended to offer all of the answers, it should propel any sincere person in the right direction. There are many who have once experienced the beautiful innocence of a relationship with God and His people, yet have fallen prey to the evil predators of doubt, emotional lack of fulfillment, feelings of intense guilt and isolation, along with other debilitating hindrances to inner peace. It is a blessing to know that none of these intimidate God. He is the ultimate *Peace-Giver*. He has not forgotten us even though His tender touch seems distant and His voice has become indistinguishable above the din of life's stressful circumstances. With open arms, Jesus awaits. He longs to enfold us with His tender love that He has held out from the time we lost our way. Do not allow anything or anyone get between you and the blessings of renewed life with Christ. He loves you and simply cannot wait to restore you. He wants to lead you in the wonderful transition from having no peace within, to knowing the peace that is far greater than our imaginations can grasp—the peace of God.

CHAPTER ONE

CREATIVE INTENT

(PRIMARILY BASED ON GENESIS 1-3)

The creation of this earth was a well-devised plan by God to crown the works of His hands from time immemorial. He created worlds that our telescopes have never even come close to seeing. Beings clothed in all of the glory of heaven were formed and worshipped God both day and night. For some reason, God still wanted more—more companionship, more love, and more resemblance to Himself. This was a motive for the creation of this earth.

Who knows? It may well be that God was trying to repopulate heaven because of the fall of Lucifer and his followers. It may be that He wanted to make something unique and different from anything He had done until that point. Whatever the case, God began to create in the void of nothingness, the planet we now know as earth.

God looked out into the void of space and began to speak words pregnant with power. He spoke the light and it was so. He unfurled His radiant heat upon the void and it

illuminated with the brightness of His glory. Days before He spoke the sun, moon, and stars into the sky, the true light of His majesty appeared, and it was good.

The sky and heavenly expanse were spread out far beyond sight. The beauty of God's ability to paint a portrait of vibrant blue with hues not yet imagined was clearly revealed and it was good.

The Lord began to manage His assets in ways that would prove to be a stroke of genius. He separated the waters and caused dry land to appear. Countless miles of godly real estate stretched out, both land and sea. God looked at what He had done, knowing of the great things to come and said, "It's all good."

The land God originated would not be complete except that He brings forth all manner of vegetation, profuse with colors and aromas. They were brought forth after their own kind and appeared in such rich contrasts that only the best decorator of the universe could produce them. And of course, it was good.

Now, the seasons, days, years, as well as the governing heavenly bodies were summoned. God called the sun and moon by name, and these incredible bodies in the sky would determine light and darkness, day and night. The stars and every other heavenly spectacle were good.

Even though the land already had some vegetation and the sky began to show forms of life, God was not finished yet. He made birds and all kinds of fish and water creatures, creeping things, mammals, and all of the other creatures to populate air, land, and sea. Yes, you guessed it; God saw that these too were good.

The crowning act of His creative work was about to commence. He made all types of creatures, heavenly bodies, land and sea formations, but His work was not yet complete. God carried His plan further and began an even more personal approach to creation. He began to form a man with His own hands from the dust of the earth. He perfectly molded him with the pride and satisfaction of heaven. His work was already perfect, yet He continued. He breathed—yes, God breathed life into His new man, the life he needed to exist—and poof, he was alive! God created a man in His own image. Every way that humankind could be like God began in God's man, Adam....

CHAPTER TWO
ALL POINTS BULLETIN
(PRIMARILY BASED ON LUKE 15)

On the television, I can hear the sirens and sounds of revving engines as the constricted voice of a police dispatcher finishes his announcement, "Be on the lookout for a six-foot male in dark-colored clothing and a baseball cap. He was last seen traveling east on Murdock Avenue. He should be considered armed and dangerous." Then the music plays

and a commercial break begins. In the '70s, television show scenarios like this played all the time. I can still see the police officers' classic uniforms and the cars made of metal, looking like the Bat mobile. Unlike the so-called APBs depicted on television shows in which officers of the law searched for criminals to punish, the Bible records *God* as being on the lookout. He is in hot pursuit of those He loves.

Then drew near unto him all the publicans and sinners for to hear him. And the Pharisees and scribes murmured, saying, This man receiveth sinners, and eateth with them. (Luke 15:1-2)

Jesus was usually misunderstood and misrepresented by the religious elite of His day. They attributed His miracles and benevolent acts of mercy to the power of Satan. They regularly commented that He had a devil. Only those who do not welcome the Spirit of God could accuse the faultless Son of God of having a devil. But this was the charge against Him.

During one occasion when Jesus was doing what He loved most — socializing with sinners — the Pharisees and scribes obviously needed a lesson in God's mission. He began to tell stories about the lost sheep, the lost coin, and the lost son. Each of them symbolically demonstrated in different ways the purpose for which Christ lived among sinners: "For the Son of man is come to seek and to save that which was lost" (Luke 19:10).

The story I like the most among the three is about the lost son, sometimes referred to as the prodigal. It was probably an ordinary day. A fairly wealthy man with at least two children is depicted. Perhaps the sun was shining and the birds were singing as usual. Many of the details are left out of the Bible record, but just maybe the distinguished gentleman was planning his day and having a meeting with his foreman about how to accomplish various tasks by the close of business, and then his son comes in. I can imagine the boss, let's call him Joshua, excusing his foreman, Gabriel, and his son sits down. Joshua probably asked his youngest son, Ruel, what was on his mind. He was obviously in deep thought. It was at this point when Ruel blew up. He went on a tirade about how Joshua's house was too restrictive. It was too difficult even to breathe, let alone have fun and enjoy life. Before the Joshua could even respond, Ruel almost demanded that he be given his inheritance even though his dad was still alive. Eventually, as the conversation ended, Joshua gave Ruel and his elder brother their inheritance.

This was the best day of Ruel's life, or so he thought. Finally, he would be able to live as he pleased and nobody would have anything to say. We do not know how long it...

CHAPTER FIVE PASTOR STEVE KING

Not long after I got the idea of the subject matter for this book project, the Lord inspired me to get insights from pastors. Oftentimes they are on the frontlines when people become shaky in their faith. So, I visited the website of a well-known Christian radio station and looked through the list of some of the local pastors' names, and chose a few to call. For most of the ones I contacted, it was like trying to reach a celebrity. It was amazing to me that I had such difficulty just getting them on the telephone. Many of them had almost prohibitive frontline support, to the point that the odds of actually speaking to them were pretty much nil.

On the other hand, one pastor in particular was surprisingly accessible. His secretary was cordial, as were the others, but she did not stand in the way of our meeting. In fact, she helped me in every way to get an appointment as soon as possible. His name is Steve King, senior pastor of the Cherrydale church in Arlington, VA.

I arrived at the church on time for our appointment one morning and I was immediately impressed by the way I was received at the office. More than one person made certain that I was comfortable and that my brief wait was pleasurable. When the pastor finally welcomed me into his office, the first thing I noticed was that he removed the sometimes intimidating barrier or the pastoral desk. He did this by having us to sit almost facing one another in two chairs he had for that purpose. He sat and listened as I introduced myself and reminded him about why I was there. It was a blessing to see that he was willing to meet with me, even though, the details of my reason for wanting to meet with him were not perfectly clear in his mind. I praise the Lord for his willing spirit. This is how pastors should be: accessible.

In response to my question about why people sometimes lose spiritual focus, he immediately began to share his own experience. I secretly had hoped that one of the pastors would do just that. He told me that it is always slow leaks, never blowouts, which lead to a loss of spiritual focus. I was struck by his analysis because I knew what he meant even before he explained himself. He continued by saying that we sometimes find ourselves catering to the world, the flesh, and the devil. In those cases, people neglect spiritual disciplines such as, prayer and Bible study, and they begin listening to the flesh and the world. Apparently, a pastor by the name of John Piper, who authored about thirty books, has had a great influence on Pastor King. He said that Piper said that God is most glorified when we are most satisfied. According to him, we are designed to gorge ourselves on God. The way we do that is by finding our ultimate delight in Him. King continued by sharing Jeremiah 2:13, which says, "For my people have committed two evils; they have forsaken me the fountain of living waters, and hewed them out cisterns, broken cisterns, that can hold no water." He asked me a rhetorical question: "How do you glorify a fountain?" He answered, "By coming and drinking and telling people, 'This is wonderful!'" Sometimes we treat God like a watering trough. He said, "How do you glorify a watering trough? You get a bucket brigade and then brag about how you have

filled the well.” All we have to offer God is our thirst. The motivating factor to drive us to God is recognizing our thirst and simply drinking from God who is the Living Fountain....

CHAPTER TWELVE LIFE IN DEATH (PRIMARILY BASED ON JUDGES 16)

One day while I was getting ready to leave my office, a very good friend of mine started an instant messenger conversation with me. His grief and shame were apparent when he began to share that he was depressed. It is characteristic of him because he has a melancholy temperament. But today he seemed a bit more burdened than usual. He is a preacher who uses the gifts God has give him to lead people all over the world to a winning relationship with Him.

My friend has a real problem that has mastered over him for many years, and he was exhausted. It seemed he was depressed because he had promised God so many times that he would completely surrender to God’s power, but there he was again, battered and bruised by the thing that overwhelmed his spirituality and caused him to feel like giving up, like so many times before. He didn’t trust himself. His bouts with sexual sin had left him feeling like he could not make any more promises because he seldom kept them. When he was at his weakest, he chose to feel the warm and delicate embrace of a woman—his weak but temporal security. The woman and her caresses became all too familiar to him. When all was said and done, the satisfaction eluded him, he was left an emotional wreck, and most of all he was spiritually empty. His pursuit of passion did not pay off.

This scenario, regardless of a person’s darling sin, is quite familiar to many Christians. Some recover fully from being pushed around, inside their spiritual houses, by the devilish intruder, but others, unfortunately, never do. Frustration, depression, disappointment, and a feeling that victory just is not possible plagues the thoughts of many well-meaning people. The only consolation, if a person allows their faith to lay hold upon God, is that our *need* is actually our recommendation to God. It is one of the reasons we are so irresistible to Him.

I do not want to make light of the fact that so many of us are oppressed by weaknesses. I also do not want to make it seem as though the Lord is a pushover who does not care when we do not fully surrender to Him. What I *am* saying is that the Lord is clear about our condition. He knows that we are weak and in need of supernatural intervention. He is available to rejuvenate us if we accept His power to keep us from falling.

As I continued to read his messages, my heart broke. I was so distraught that he felt the way he did. He did not need a pep talk, so I did not offer one. Instead, after affirming my concern for him, I asked where he was and if we could meet later on. I looked into my

private stash of *Life Recovery Bibles*, by the people at *New Life Live*, and took out one. With high hopes, I finally met with him. He told me repeatedly that he wanted me to pray for him. It was a blessing to know that he had not sunken so low that he lost faith in the power of God through prayer.

Hours later, I began to study my Bible. In fact, I got out my personal copy of the *Life Recovery Bible*, because I really value the way the scriptures are used to lead recovering sin-addicts, like me, to the deep well of God's grace. I went all the way back to step one in the spiritual twelve-step program that talks about our powerlessness and...

CHAPTER TWENTY-FOUR **THE WALK OF A LIFETIME**

There is a story about a famous tightrope walker. It was a special day. People were drawn from miles around to the place where a man, let's call him Demetri, would walk on a rope one hundred feet high in the air and stretched seventy-five feet between two buildings. This was nothing that he had not done before. He came from a family of acrobats and tightrope walkers. On this particular day, however, he would add something special to this amazing feat. He decided to *wow* the onlookers by adding a wheel barrel to his act. As he ascended to the top floor of one of the buildings, one could almost feel the pace of each person's heartbeat quicken as the crowd cheered in anticipation. Amazingly, there was no safety net below. If, God forbid, Demetri should fall, it would certainly be to his death.

Demetri finally got to the top of the building. He wore his new skin-tight red suit to reduce wind drag. He seemed a little more zealous than usual today. Usually, he would simply smile at the crowd below, wave, and set his sights on his destination as he started to walk. He sprinkled his palms with talc to cut down on the potential for slippage when he pushed the cart along the narrow path to the other side. Once he had adequate talc on his hands, he clapped them together, causing a puff of smoke to come up from his....

To find out more about the writings of author L. David Harris, visit www.knowpeacewithin.com.