



Dear Friend:

I have some exciting news to share with you! And it could not have come at a more perfect time—autumn has arrived here in the Rockies with its cool air and golden aspens. It's the perfect time to start thinking about the holiday season and make plans for Thanksgiving and Christmas. Before I share the fun news, let me give you a little background . . .

Those of you who have been familiar with Focus on the Family for a number of years may recall that, for nearly two-and-a-half decades, this was the time of year when we would unveil a painting that had been commissioned especially for our ministry by the artist known as G. Harvey. Gerald H. Jones was a beloved painter and sculptor renowned for his nostalgic depictions of Americana, and his commitment to our mission prompted him to make Focus an incredibly generous offer back in the mid-1980s: each year he would create a unique painting for us to offer exclusively to our friends and listeners.

We were excited and honored to accept his gracious offer, and we're moved to think of the many homes that now display Gerald's beautiful lithographs as a result of our partnership with him. Gerald's works highlighted the very best of American life – faith, family, and freedom – and he captured those ideals in every one of his masterpieces. Whether he was painting quiet scenes of snow-covered villages or rugged landscapes featuring cowboys astride their horses, Gerald's inimitable style proved the old adage that "a picture is worth a thousand words."

When Gerald died in November of 2017, our entire team grieved the loss of this kind, godly, and humble man. We know he was welcomed joyously to his eternal home, but he continues to be missed by all those who knew and loved him – and, most especially, by his wonderful wife, Patty, to whom he was married for over 63 years.

We're grateful, of course, for the incredible generosity Gerald showed our ministry for so many years. The donations given through his lithographs were, in turn, invested directly in our family-building endeavors. Thanks to his supportive involvement in our efforts, countless families around the globe found hope, encouragement, and healing through our resources.

Because so many folks eagerly anticipated the unveiling of our annual G. Harvey lithograph each fall, we wondered if it was possible to find an artist who would be willing to partner with us the way Gerald had. Gerald's paintings were one-of-a-kind, and we knew we'd never be able to replace him or his work – however, we also couldn't help but consider the possibility of joining hands with an artist who would bring his or her own unique style and talent to the canvas. Would God lead us to someone who resonated with our ministry's mission and reflected family values in his or her paintings?

I'm delighted to let you know that the answer to that question is a resounding, "Yes!" A renowned,

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respected, and award-winning painter from California, Morgan Weistling, has agreed to provide us with a special edition painting that we'll make available to our friends and listeners at Christmastime. Morgan has been drawing since the tender age of 2 and God did a mighty work in his life and heart when he was a young man.

As an art school student, Morgan met a fellow artist he hoped would allow him to take her out. There was a catch, though: she was a Christian, and she would only go out with him if he would attend church with her. Morgan agreed, and began going to the occasional church service. He listened to the sermons, but didn't feel any of the messages applied to him – until the day the pastor asked the congregation to consider which talents they'd been given by God.

That was when the proverbial light bulb turned on for Morgan.

He knew he was a gifted artist, but his career had always seemed an end unto itself. If he could make a name for himself illustrating movie posters (which he was doing at the time) and earn a decent living, he would be satisfied. And he would take full credit for his success.

That day in church, however, Morgan realized that his artistic ability was no accident of his birth. Rather, it was a gift bestowed directly from our wise and loving Creator, and he had been tasked with using his considerable talent for purposes far bigger than his own. At that moment, Morgan felt the Holy Spirit moving in his heart, and he responded to the pastor's altar call by receiving Christ.

Morgan felt that he'd experienced a very real transformation, and he asked God to show him how his talent might be used for a divine cause. The very next morning he received a call from Focus on the Family, asking if he'd be willing to create some cover art for a kids' video series. Talk about an immediate answer to prayer! Morgan was stunned that the Lord had responded to his prayer in such a clear way, and he accepted our proposal. He would go on to do a number of illustrations for our ministry following that initial project.

Morgan also married the gal who had, thankfully, insisted he accompany her to church. JoAnn and Morgan have been happily married for nearly 30 years, and they have two daughters, Brittany and Sienna. JoAnn and Morgan diligently instilled their faith in their daughters, speaking openly about spiritual matters and the way our biblical beliefs must inform our worldviews and guide all that we do. When their girls faced difficult experiences and voiced doubts, their parents were there to point them to God's Word and help them wrestle with life's big questions. Today, their daughters are walking faithfully with the Lord.

In fact, Morgan credits our ministry with playing a role in nurturing his family over the years. As a young husband and father, he relied on the practical wisdom and biblically based encouragement shared on our radio broadcast. To this day he still keeps a stash of several hundred cassette tapes of our programs!

Inviting Morgan to take on this new role with Focus is a natural fit – not only because he believes in our ministry objectives, but because he is an amazingly talented artist whose works illuminate the

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beauty of faith in Christ and the simple joys of family life. Not only that, but his family exemplifies the closeness and faith we are laboring to help foster in families far and wide.

For his inaugural Focus on the Family painting, aptly named “Sharing the Light,” Morgan has chosen to portray a theme that goes straight to the heart of all our outreach endeavors: passing along the love and truth of Christ to others. His inspiring painting powerfully depicts the Church’s calling, and I know many families will be delighted to display a special edition giclée print of this work prominently in their homes as a reminder of the mandate we’ve been given as ambassadors of the Great Commission.

I’m especially moved as I reflect on the way Morgan’s inspiring testimony embodies the message of his first painting for Focus. His life and vocation have truly come full circle. From the young man who simply wanted to be an artist and who gained fame as a heralded movie poster illustrator (*Last Action Hero*, *True Lies*, *Police Academy*), to the new Christian who invited God to work through his artwork, to the father who prepared his own children to represent Jesus faithfully, to the seasoned and celebrated painter whose works have been heralded time and again for their profound spiritual meaning and impact, Morgan’s life is proof positive that God “is able to do far more abundantly than all that we ask or think” (Ephesians 3:20) – especially when we submit each aspect of our life to His leading.

And, indeed, this is what we’re striving to accomplish here at Focus. As I’ve expressed many times before, our mission doesn’t end with strong families. Yes, we want to help bring about households in which married couples live in joyful, fulfilling, Christ-centered union with one another; parents are empowered to raise godly, caring children who embrace biblical faith; and siblings treat one another with kindness and respect. But it should never stop there!

Our hope is that, as we cultivate thriving families—through our daily broadcasts, print and online articles, counseling resources, events like Bring Your Bible to School Day and more—these families will be even better equipped to bless others.

In a world where flourishing families are increasingly uncommon, the Church has a rare opportunity to light the darkness around them. As jaded people see loving, harmonious marriages and children who are being raised to show kindness and consideration to others, think of the impact! Just as one candle can illuminate an entire room, one mission-minded family that loves Jesus can bring hope to numerous people.

That’s why our team at Focus is so humbled and grateful that the Lord has chosen to work so dramatically through our efforts for more than four decades. Marriages have been restored, families have been fortified, babies have been saved, and hearts have been turned to Christ. As a result, countless candles are flickering across the globe, drawing others to the love, mercy, and truth extended by our Savior.

Would you help us continue to “share the light”? As a non-profit ministry, we depend on the support

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of friends like you to help individuals and families through our daily broadcast, online and print articles, counseling resources, podcasts and more.

I hope you'll also consider requesting this year's beautiful special edition giclée print. The gift you share will be applied to our work of strengthening marriages, equipping parents, advocating for the sanctity of human life, and promoting biblical citizenship.

So, please give now and receive your special edition "Sharing the Light" giclée print hand signed by the artist with your gift of \$150 or more to support Focus on the Family. Any generous gift you can share today will help save marriages, rescue babies from abortion, equip parents, empower families to impact culture, help find waiting children in foster care homes and more.

Thank you for allowing me this opportunity to introduce Morgan Weistling to you – and thank you for your supportive interest in our ministry! Friends like you are instrumental in the success of our efforts. If there's some way we can serve you and your loved ones, please don't hesitate to contact us at 1-800-A-FAMILY (232-6459).

May God grant you a wonderful fall season, and may His rich blessings and incomparable peace be upon your entire household.



Jim Daly
President

P.S. Will you consider sharing a gift now to help us finish the year strong and be ready to reach even more families in the coming year? Please consider securing a copy of Morgan's "Sharing the Light" special edition giclée print hand signed by the artist for your home—and maybe even getting one or two extra for use as Christmas gifts—your support will go a long way toward helping us launch into 2020 on a strong footing. Thank you for your partnership!



Sharing the Light

Get Your Special Edition
MORGAN WEISTLING PRINT!



[OPEN >](#)

**Receive Morgan Weistling's
“Sharing the Light” special edition
giclée print hand signed by the artist
with your gift of \$150 or more to
support Focus on the Family.**

“Sharing the Light” depicts a winter scene that centers around the light of Christ. Turn of the century children reveal the power of sharing a single flame in the darkness.

You'll want this unique timeless print for your home this holiday season and all year as a reminder of a more simple time. Hang it in your family room or dining area as a reminder of God's Great Commission to Share the Light. Use it as a conversation starter with your children and grandchildren. And it's the perfect gift for those you love!

Use the enclosed response card to share your gift and request your copy of this special edition giclée print hand signed by the artist.

**ORDER BY December 11, 2019 and receive your print by
Christmas! FocusOnTheFamily.com/Art19**

About the artist

Morgan Weistling was born with a gift for art. Drawing from the time he was 2 years old, he began his professional art career at age 19 and became a much-sought-after movie poster illustrator.



After years of commercial and financial success, Weistling realized that his ability was a gift from God. He accepted Jesus Christ and asked God to use his talents. The very next day someone from Focus on the Family called him about illustrating for the *McGee and Me* video series! From that moment, Weistling used his art to share the light of Christ.

Today as a husband and father, Weistling loves how God uses Focus on the Family to impact families like his own. That is why Weistling created this special edition print for supporters like you.