

the Hostetler

HOLIDAY *newsletter*

FEATURING EXCITING NEWS OF ROBIN AND BOB HOSTETLER AND FAMILY



A CHRISTMAS PRAYER

From our family to yours

God make your home a Bethlehem,
With angels all around,
And make your heart a manger,
Where Jesus can be found.

May Christmas morning find you
With those you love the best,
And Christmas evening bless you
With happiness and rest.

Ways to Keep Up with Bob & Robin
(or, as is more likely, Robin via Bob)

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✧ A Surprise Number Five! ✧

Early in 2014, Bob and Robin Hostetler received the unexpected and exciting news that, contrary to their children's sworn testimony, they would soon become grandparents for the fifth time.

Sure enough, on Friday, September 12, Kevin and Aubrey proved they weren't kidding when they welcomed red-haired, blue-eyed Avery Gail McCane into the world. They also knew at the time of her birth that, unlike her older siblings, Calleigh and Ryder, Avery would *not* have to contend with the challenges of



cystic fibrosis. She will, however, have to contend with doting grandparents, uncles, aunts, cousins, siblings, and many others who adore her. So far, however, she doesn't seem to mind.

A WOMAN OF SUBSTANCE

2014 was another whirlwind year for Bob and Robin Hostetler--especially for Robin, who has a real (and quite demanding) job. She loves her position at Access Counseling Services in nearby Middletown, Ohio (www.acscounseling.com), where she works with dear and longtime friends. This year she added to her many qualifications as a supervising therapist with a new certification as a play therapist from the Association for Play Therapy (so now Bob has to address her as "the lovely Robin Hostetler, MA, LPCC-S, CTS, RPT-S"). She devotes most Mondays to caring for her three youngest grandchildren, and in all her spare time does her best to keep Bob reasonably well-groomed and well-behaved. It's a dirty job, but someone has to do it.





PLANES, TRAINS, & AUTOMOBILES

This year was one of frequent travel for Bob and Robin. They vacationed with half of their family in Myrtle Beach, SC, in late June and early July (top left) and the other half in San Jose and Monterey, CA (second from left). They enjoyed a spectacular “Broadway weekend” with their brother Rick and brother-in-law Glenn. Bob’s speaking ministry took him to conferences, churches, and retreats in Puerto Rico (center photo), Ohio, Colorado, Indiana, Florida, North Carolina, Alaska (where they walked on a real, live glacier, shown in the

photo at second from right, above), Pennsylvania, and New York, after which they visited the Baseball Hall of Fame in Cooperstown with their brother Don and sister-in-law Arvilla (far right photo above). The couple celebrated their thirty-seventh anniversary in June and also attended their nephew Philip’s August wedding in Lancaster, PA. Bob took his annual prayer retreat at the Abbey of Gethsemani in Kentucky in May, and he and Robin took another silent retreat at St. Meinrad Archabbey in Indiana in September.

BEST OF 2014

BOOKS

- Year of Wonders* (Brooks)
- A Place on Earth* (Berry)
- One Summer: America 1927* (Bryson)
- The Memory of Old Jack* (Berry)
- Unbroken* (Hillenbrand)

MOVIES

- Monuments Men*
- Two Gentlemen of Verona*
- Fury*

THEATER

- Twelfth Night*
- Cinderella*
- Pippin*
- A Midsummer Night’s Dream*
- Macbeth*

TELEVISION

- Mike & Molly*
- Parenthood*
- Modern Family*
- Downton Abbey*

DESTINATIONS

- New York, New York*
- San Juan and Humacao, Puerto Rico*
- Myrtle Beach, South Carolina*
- Monterey, California*
- Anchorage, Alaska*
- Cooperstown, New York*

BRINGING UP BABY SILICON VALLEY

As mentioned on page 1, Kevin, Aubrey, Calleigh, and Ryder McCane welcomed a new family member in September. While nothing in 2014 was as dramatic as that, they still kept busy. Kevin, continuing studies in communications at Miami University, started the year with an elite three-week class in Hollywood and has also worked as a production assistant on commercials (Bob Evans, LaRosa’s), a TV show (*Rowhouse Showdown*), and a movie (*The Blunderer*).



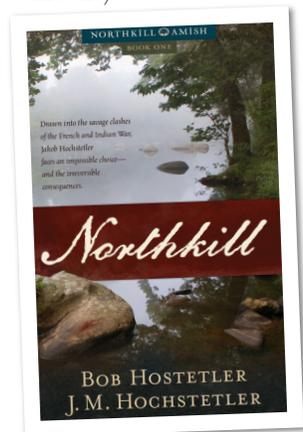
Aubrey was promoted this year to HRIS Manager at Vantiv in Cincinnati while also pursuing an MBA at Ohio University. Calleigh turned five in November and Ryder will turn three in late December--right after baby Avery experiences her first Christmas.

2014 was a year of breathtaking changes for Aaron, Nina, Miles, and Mia Hostetler. Early in the year, Aaron accepted a job offer from Apple, which started on March 1. From March through May, he worked at the new job in Cupertino, California, while Nina stayed in Ohio to sell and pack their home, and Miles finished his first-grade year of school. The family (including the family dog, Fiona) moved to San Jose, California, in June, where Miles started second grade and Mia started kindergarten at Los Paseos Elementary, just a few blocks from their beautiful new home. They are faring well, despite the traffic and drought and the demands of Aaron’s job--which are so top secret they cannot be divulged. The whole family managed to return to Ohio for a busy visit the week of Thanksgiving, which only made everyone miss them more.



STRANGER THAN FICTION

The past year saw the addition of three new books to Bob's *oeuvre* (a word Bob looked up, hoping to impress someone).



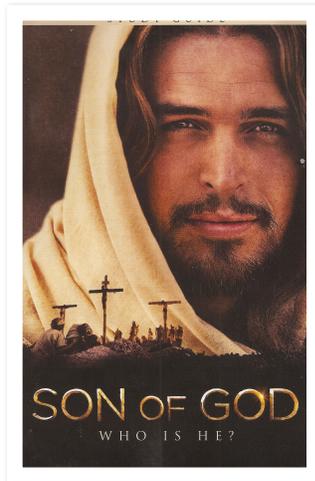
Northkill

The historical novel, *Northkill*, is closely based on an inspiring true story that is part of Bob and coauthor J.

M. Hochstetler's family history and is well-known among the Amish and Mennonites. Christy Award finalist and historical novelist Laura Frantz calls this historical novel "among the finest I have read." More info about the book and its background can be found at northkill.blogspot.com.

Son of God Study Guide

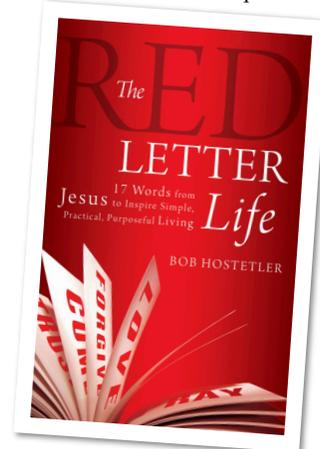
Bob was honored to be asked to plan and write the study guide based on the motion picture, *Son of God*. Ideal for use in individual study, small groups, family devotions, and Bible study classes, it incorporates Scripture, discussion questions, application exercises, and recommended daily readings. A leader's guide is also included.



The Red Letter Life

Bob's newest book, *The Red Letter Life: 17 Words from Jesus to Inspire Simple, Practical, Purposeful Living*, focuses on just seventeen words Jesus spoke (as recorded in the Gospels) and shows the life-

changing power of those words. Best-selling author Liz Curtis Higgs calls it "a heartfelt invitation to put into



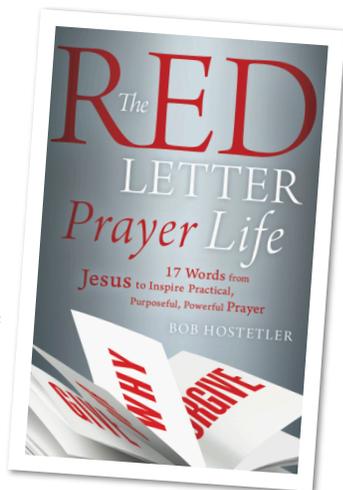
action what Jesus put into words."

Each of these books are available online or in the best Christian bookstores.

FRIENDLY PERSUASION

Bob worked on three demanding book contracts in 2014, one of which is scheduled to be released on April 1 (hold the jokes, please), 2015. *The Red Letter Prayer Life: 17 Words from Jesus to Inspire Practical, Purposeful, Powerful Prayer* is a followup to his 2014 book, *The Red Letter Life*. It invites readers to sit at the feet of Jesus himself and listen—and learn (and yearn)—as he prays. It hones in on seventeen aspects of prayer as Jesus spoke it, lived it, and shared it with His followers.

Phyllis Tickle, author of *The Divine Hours*, says: "I am not sure that a book about prayer—a very serious and substantial and instructive book about prayer—has ever been called seductive before; but I am going to do so now. Bob Hostetler has created one of the most genuinely satisfying and cordial books about prayer for Christians that I have ever seen. It is engaging, humble, and totally appealing, while at the same time being deeply scriptural. I rejoice in this book and can only hope many others will too." Josh McDowell says, "This is a book to be read and reread." And Rick Hamlin, executive editor of Guideposts, says, "This book will expand your prayer life. It did mine." *The Red Letter Prayer Life* can be preordered now on Amazon or CBD.com, in paperback or ebook format.

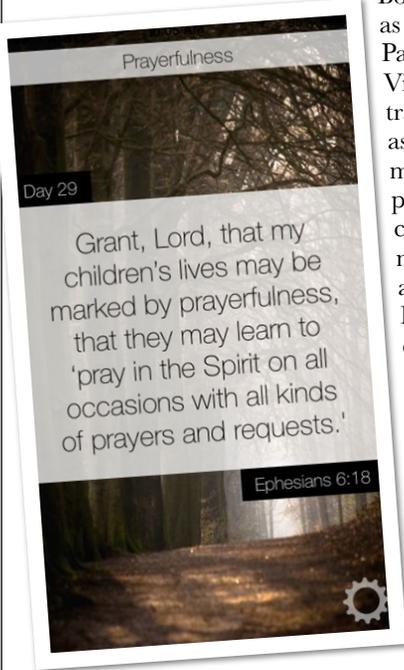


SOUND AND FURY

Bob Hostetler's 2015 speaking schedule is already filling up (find out more at bobhostetler.com). Below are some of the opportunities to avoid him--er, see and hear him:

- Jan. 17 BOOKFEST, Hamilton OH
- Jan. 28-30 Salvation Army TEC Meetings
Camp Lake, WI
- Feb. 20-22 WRITERS ADVANCE BOOT CAMP
Asheville, NC
- Mar. 22 Salvation Army KROC Center
Omaha, NE
- May 4-7 EQUIP Youth Workers Conference
Orlando, FL
- June 24-28 ST. DAVIDS WRITERS
CONFERENCE, Grove City, PA
- Aug. 21-23 FAMILY RETREAT
Camp Lake, WI
- Oct. 17 CHRISTIAN WRITERS SEMINAR
Toledo, OH

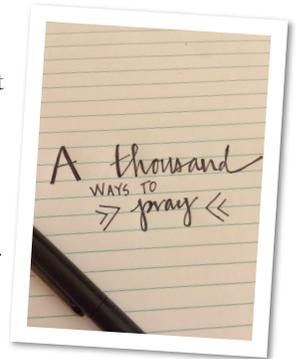
SAY A LITTLE PRAYER



Bob's prayer resource, published many times as "31 Ways to Pray for Your Kids," "A Parent's Prayer Program," and "31 Biblical Virtues to Pray for Your Children" (and translated into Korean, Spanish, and Swahili as well as adapted into a prayer card that many people have kept in their Bibles or purses and worn out in praying for their children, grandchildren, students, nephews, nieces--and even themselves), is now available as "31 Ways to Pray for Your Kids," an iPhone/iPad app that makes it easy to pray purposefully and Biblically for those you love. It provides a short Bible-based prayer every day. It allows you to set a daily reminder for your iPhone or iPad. Go to the app store on iTunes and download it now. Tell your friends about it. Let your MOPS group know. Share the news with the parents at church or school. Help us spread the word. Get praying and watch God do great things in the kids you care about.

1000 WAYS TO PRAY

This past October marked the launch of Bob Hostetler's newest blog--this one on Guideposts.org! It's called "A Thousand Ways to Pray," and its purpose is--get this--to explore a thousand (or more) ways to pray, to share Bob's--and others'--adventures in prayer, to encourage more prayer, and to enthuse and equip people to pray.



Bob currently posts a new "way to pray" every Tuesday and Friday. Please visit, comment, tweet, post, pin, and email the posts. And if you would add the blog to your blog reader and/or bookmark it in your web browser, that would be great, too! And please tell everyone you know about it.

You'll find it at guideposts.org/blogs/a-thousand-ways-to-pray.

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TO: