



Josh McDowell once considered himself an agnostic believing Christianity was worthless. While a student at Kellogg College in Michigan, he accepted a challenge by a group of Christian students and professors to intellectually examine the claims of Christianity. During his journey to discredit the resurrection of Christ, Josh discovered compelling historical evidence for the reliability of the Christian faith. Then one night when he was unable to sleep or to get Jesus off his mind, Josh prayed to ask Jesus to come into his life and forgive his sins. In the months that followed, Josh's life changed dramatically as he experienced the power of God's love. Most noticeable was his renewed relationship with his father -- the town drunk -- whom he never thought he could love again.

Since his conversion, Josh has devoted his life to telling a doubting world about Christ. He transferred to Wheaton College where he completed his college degree. Later he attended Talbot Theological Seminary where he graduated Magna Cum Laude with a master of divinity degree. In 1964, he became a traveling representative of Campus Crusade for Christ International. To this day, his close affiliation with the organization and its founder and former president Bill Bright continues. In 1983, the Josh McDowell Ministry headquarters moved to its current location in Richardson, TX. The ministry employs a staff of 75 people with affiliate offices located throughout the country.

After almost four decades, cutting-edge ministry has become Josh's mantra for reaching skeptical-minded youth and adults like he once was. Through live events, such as "Why Wait?" "Right from Wrong" and "Project 911," he has touched the lives of more than seven million young people in 84 countries. Building on his audience and reputation for innovation, in 1990 Josh packaged his unique message and delivery into a popular weekly broadcast, called Josh McDowell Radio, that is heard on about 400 stations throughout the United States.

To date, Josh has written or co-written 77 books on topics ranging from Christian apologetics to common problems facing youth. Several are bestsellers and are recognized as leading books on the Christian faith. Among his most popular contributions on apologetics are "Evidence That Demands A Verdict" (which he published in 1972 and was recognized by World Magazine as one of the century's top 40 books) and "More Than a Carpenter" (his seminary thesis that was written in 12 hours and later published in 1977, and has been translated into more than 50 languages). During the 80s, 90s and into the new millennium, Josh released a string of important books that have become fundamental resources in the areas of youth culture and morality, including "Why Wait?" "Right From Wrong" and "The Disconnected Generation: Saving Our Youth From Self-Destruction."

On the international scene, Josh has led close to 7,000 volunteers on bi-annual mission trips to the former Soviet Union, called Operation Carelift. Since 1992, more than 700,000 needy children's lives have been touched through the ministry's physical and spiritual support. Mission participants have distributed Christian books and literature and more than 3,036 tons of goods -- totaling more than \$36 million -- to orphanages, hospitals, youth prisons and underprivileged communities throughout Russia, Belarus and Ukraine. As a result, the Josh McDowell Ministry is considered one of the world's largest evangelistic organizations providing humanitarian aid to the region. This year Josh extended his ministry outreach to Warsaw, Poland, where he lectured 1,600 school teachers on the topic of sex education, only days before the country's Communist party returned to power.

For 30 years, Josh and his wife, Dottie, have partnered in what he considers his first ministry: family. They have four children and live near the ministry in Dallas.

Josh.org



Biography

JOSH MCDOWELL

International lecturer and bestselling author

BORN: August 17, 1939

PARENTS: Wilmot and Edith McDowell (deceased)

MARRIED: Dorothy Ann Youd, 1971

EDUCATION: Graduated, Union City High School, MI, 1957
Received liberal arts degree, Kellogg College, MI, 1960
Received business and economics degree, Wheaton College, IL, 1962
Received divinity masters degree and graduated Magna Cum Laude, Talbot Theological Seminary, CA, 1966

MILITARY Enlisted in the U.S. Air Force at age 17

VOCATION: Once co-owned and operated a painting company

MINISTRY HISTORY

1959 Trusted Jesus Christ as Savior at Kellogg College, December 15 at 8:30 p.m.

1964 Joined staff of Campus Crusade for Christ

Launched first Campus Crusade for Christ office in Canada

1967 Ministered for two years in Latin America

1968 Launched the Campus Lecture Series

1976 Moved family and office from San Bernardino, CA, to Richardson, TX

1977 Wrote bestseller "More Than A Carpenter" in about 12 hours. Millions are in print today with translations in several languages

1980 Held "Six Hours with Josh" in Long Beach, CA, the largest apologetics conference in history with 5,700 people in attendance

1981 Debated Amheed Dedat, head of the Islamic Propagation Center in Durbin, South Africa, and wrote about it in the book, "The Islam Debate."

1983 Josh McDowell Ministry moved to its current location in Richardson, Texas

1984 Led first Holy Land trip

1985 Launch of the “Why Wait?” campaign

1989 Launched his first humanitarian trip to Russia, which resulted in Mission to Russia in 1991 and Operation Carelift in 1992

1990 Launched Josh McDowell Radio, which is currently broadcast in 47 states and in several international locations

1993 Linked 50,000 youth groups the U.S. and Canada during first satellite event, “See You At the Party “Powerlink”

1994 Launched the nationwide “Right from Wrong” Campaign and the “Counter the Culture” tour

Hosted former Dallas Cowboys football coach Tom Landry on a two-week humanitarian aid trip to Russia with Operation Carelift

1998 First humanitarian aid trip to Cuba

1999 Counseled students and family members following the murder of 13 Columbine High School students, in Littleton, CO

2000 Reported 10 million books sold domestically

Celebrated Operations Carelift’s 10th anniversary

Celebrated 10th Anniversary broadcast of “Josh McDowell Radio” show

Delivered keynote address during a Republican caucus event in Des Moines, titled “Family, Faith and Freedom”

Launched “Project 911” to reconnect parents with their children

Became a feature speaker at Promise Keepers men’s conferences across the country

2001 LECTURED 1,600 school teachers about sex education in Warsaw, Poland before the country’s return to Communist rule

Delivered keynote address at the 50th Anniversary of the National Day of Prayer in Dallas, TX (May)

Traveled to Egypt to encourage new Arab converts in the Christian faith, Sept. 15-20—four days after Middle Eastern terrorists hijacked American planes and flew them into the World Trade Center and the Pentagon

Invited to be the only foreign representative on the St. Petersburg 300th Anniversary National Organizing Committee by Dr. Vladimir Mironov, on behalf of Russian President Vladimir Putin

2002 Led first-ever Operation Carelift mission to Siberia during the brutal winter season

HUMANITARIAN SERVICE

Visited more than 55 cities in the following republics in the former Soviet Union, including Russia, Belarus, Lithuania, Latvia, Estonia, Ukraine, Kazakhstan, and Kyrgyzstan between 1992-2002

Provided \$39 million in goods—including 19.9 million Christian books and Bibles—aid to the impoverished region that weighed 3,300 tons during the same period.

Partnered with more than 7,500 volunteers to present gifts to more than 813,000 needy children and their families living in the Soviet republics

PUBLISHED:

Authored or co-authored 77 books, including:

Disconnected Generation: Saving Our Youth from Self-Destruction

The New Evidence That Demands a Verdict See Yourself as God Sees You

The New Tolerance

The Rock: Right From Wrong Youth Study Bible

Josh McDowell's One-Year Book of Family Devotions

Josh McDowell's One-Year Book of Youth Devotions

Vote of Intolerance

Right From Wrong: What You Need to Know to Help Kids Make Right Choices

The Truth Slayers

Love is Always Right

The Father Connection

The Topsy-Turvy Kingdom

Josh McDowell's Handbook on Counseling Youth

Evidence that Demands a Verdict

More Than a Carpenter

VIDEOS

“No’—The Positive Answer”

“See You At The Party! Video Series”

“Truth Matters“

“Setting Youth Free To Make Right Choices”

FILMS

“What’s Up, Josh”

“Secret of Loving”

AWARDS AND HONORS

1990 “Date Rape: It Happened to Me” film received the Silver Apple Award

Josh McDowell TV Program” received the Angel Award

“A Ready Defense: The Best of Josh McDowell” received the Gold Medallion Award

1991 “Josh McDowell TV Program” received a second Angel Award

1992 Josh McDowell TV Program” received a third Angel Award

1993 “Don't Check Your Brains at the Door” received the Gold Medallion Award

1995 Josh received the Chairman’s Award from the National Religious Broadcasters

Josh was named an honorary member of the Assoc. of Pediatricians of the Russian Federation

1996 The Children’s Hunger Fund named Josh “Man of the Year”

1997 “The Father Connection” received the Gold Medallion Award

Josh McDowell’s Handbook on Counseling Youth” received the Gold Medallion Award

Josh was given an honorary diploma from the Mayor of Moscow for his important contribution to the development of the Russian capital city

1999 World magazine named “Evidence That Demands A Verdict” one of the century’s top 40 books

2000 Josh received special award for his contribution to the President’s drug control strategy from the Executive Office of the National Drug Control Policy

FAMILY

Josh and his wife, Dottie, live in Plano, TX, and have four children.

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