

Getting to No: How to Break a Stubborn Habit

A Book Review

“Sinful habits begin innocently enough, but if we don’t master them, they will surely master us.” What Christian has not been on the wrong side of that equation? It should not surprise us. Even Paul anguishes, “Wretched man that I am! Who will deliver me from this body of death? (Romans 7:24)” While we will fight the fight against sin until we go home or Christ returns, Erwin Lutzer, senior pastor of Moody Church since 1980, provides a useful tool to assist in the struggle.

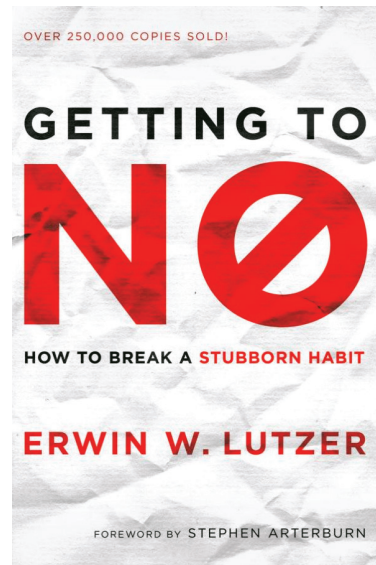
Getting to No: How to Break a Stubborn Habit has been through several titles since its publication in 1979, but the material remains exceptionally useful. Dr. Lutzer lays out powerful principles in an extremely readable format directing us to overcome sin. He starts with the principles that God is good and we are responsible for our actions. Lutzer deals with the subjects of temptation, renewing your mind, feelings, will, and Satan’s attacks. The book does not focus on overcoming particular sins, but is a flexible overview of the whole change process useful in any Christian’s life.

This is a valuable asset to any counseling situation. I have used it frequently in both a Sunday School setting and Bible studies. The book has 13 chapters, making it easily adaptable for these study times. Our college group frequently used this book as the basis for developing and learning to lead accountability groups and relationships. Each chapter ends with excellent application questions that can be used for a discussion or small-group time, making it easily usable for even the newest of teachers.

John T. Murray serves as pastor of First Baptist, Hawthorne, Nev.

CARBC 2016 Events Calendar:

April 14–16 CARBC Bible Conference, Victory Ranch Baptist Camp



Retreat continued

Overall, my husband and I left thankful for the privilege to hear the wisdom and reflections of those who have gone before us and who are still faithfully shepherding, excited for the Lord’s work in the new year.

The 2016 Christian Workers’ Retreat was a time of refreshing fellowship, hearty encouragement, and firm exhortation for workers, missionaries, and their spouses. Many attendees appreciated another occasion to share updates and joys of the ministry with fellow workers. Those who had previously been to the retreat further developed friendships, while newcomers were warmly welcomed



Christian Worker’s Retreat

Pastors, missionaries, Christian workers and spouses of our Association value the Annual Retreat. As costs for such events skyrocket it limits those on a tight budget. We ask that God may direct those who have the means to underwrite the Retreat for our workers. The CARBC Council has established a special gifting fund enabling workers to attend. If God leads you, consider giving to help underwrite the fees for Pastors and Missionaries of the CARBC. Please send monies to CARBC, P. O. Box 2697, Santa Maria, CA 93457-2697 and designate the gift to the Retreat Fund for Pastors and Missionaries. Thank you for your kind consideration of this important ministry.

The CARBC Messenger | Edition 1 of 2016 | Volume 66, Number 1

The CARBC Messenger is published by the California Association of Regular Baptist Churches. Cost is 30 cents per copy per issue. Mail checks to CARBC, PO Box 2697 Santa Maria, CA 93457-2697. Send any submissions to the editor, Chips Ross: chippyhappy@gmail.com or 3333 N. Cornelia Ave, Fresno, CA 93722.

15 Minutes with the Master
JUANITA PURCELL

RBP

This NEW 365-day devotional journal by Juanita Purcell is a great devotional tool for active women!

RBPstore.org/15minutes • 800.727.4440

CARBC messenger

Serving churches in California, Nevada, and Southern Oregon

Edition 1 of 2016

Retreat Testimonies Encourage, Inspire

By Danielle Munoz

It was eye opening to me as a first-time attendee of the Christian Workers’ Retreat, Jan. 18–20, in Monterey, to see the unity of the CARBC workers and the common desire to trust God’s Word in an ever-darkening world. Since my husband, Isaias, and I are also a young couple new to ministry, the testimonies given by other pastors were particularly inspiring. In the midst of opportunities for relaxation and fellowship, these messages reminded us to serve the flocks with the highest integrity and sincerity.

The speakers expressed how their faith shaped different facets of life, each opening up about his moment of belief and how he was uniquely called by the Lord to proclaim the gospel. Pastor Ken Doan (Orchard Avenue Baptist, Vacaville) guided us through various viewpoints of nonbelievers until true salvation, recounting his own path. In a similar fashion CARBC Representative Bruce McLain relayed his story of how the church can impact every life stage. Mr. James Rickard of Stewardship Services Foundation earnestly offered insights about how Christian workers should handle their resources and be provided for by the church body. Pastor Ray Smith (Clear Lake Baptist, Lakeport) expounded upon how faith centered his worldview on the Great Commandment and Commission, and Pastor Chris Pagniello (Highland Baptist, Hayward) discussed the need to treasure our marriage relationship while ministering. To close, evangelist Pete Mothershead taught about effectively sharing one’s faith without fear.

See **Retreat** continued



Volume 67 Number 1 • 30 Cents • Edition 1 of 2016