



News Release

For Immediate Release



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Group Publishing To Host Bill Hybels

Feb. 22, 2005

LOVELAND, Colo.— Group Publishing will host author and pastor Bill Hybels March 16-18, 2005 as part of a speaking series focused on creating a dynamic church volunteer culture. Hybels, senior pastor at Willow Creek Community Church in South Barrington, Illinois and author of *The Volunteer Revolution: Unleashing the Power of Everybody*, will focus on helping church leaders discover ways to recruit, retain, and equip church volunteers.

With more than 18,000 people attending weekend services at Willow Creek, Hybels has become an expert on recruiting, retaining, and equipping church volunteers. “Church leaders will gain fresh ideas on how to empower and ignite volunteers.” Thom Schultz, CEO of Group Publishing said. “This is a great opportunity to learn from a well-known expert how to address volunteer challenges people face in ministry.”

Hybels said oftentimes the barrier to recruiting volunteers is simply a state of mind. “Some people think of God as hanging around beyond the edges of the universe somewhere listening to really good worship music.” Hybels said. According to Hybels, the Bible describes God much differently. Hybels said that God is always at work and that every Christian can be apart of the amazing things God is doing whether it be in their church, community or elsewhere around the world.

Hybels said many church leaders feel guilty about recruiting volunteers and that church leaders need to reexamine what mission they are calling people to. “What would it feel like to lay your head on your pillow at night and say, ‘You know what I did today? I teamed up with God to change the world.’” Hybels said. That’s the kind of attitude Hybels infuses into volunteers at his church, and it’s the kind of drive he wants all pastors to infuse into their volunteers.

“We’re excited to have Bill come to Loveland and share his thoughts and his heart with us,” Schultz said, “Pastors, youth ministers, and children’s ministers will all benefit from his seasoned experience and valuable insights.”

For more information on Group’s Summit Experience titled *Creating a Dynamic Volunteer Culture: Discover Ways to Recruit, Equip, and Ignite Your Volunteers* call (800) 888-5991 or visit www.group.com/summits

A Quick Look

Who:

Group Publishing’s Summit Experiences hosted by Bill Hybels

What:

Creating a Dynamic Volunteer Culture:
Discover Ways to Recruit, Equip, and Ignite Your Volunteers

When: March 16-18, 2005

Price:

\$299 per person
\$225 per person for Church Volunteer Central Members

Where:

Group Publishing
1515 Cascade Ave.
Loveland, CO 80539

Register:

Phone: (800) 888-5991
Web: www.group.com/summits

Registration is limited



Fact Sheet

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Really, really neat facts about Group Publishing:

- Group was founded in 1974 by Thom Schultz
- Group employs 300 people in Loveland, Colorado
- Group was voted “Best Place to Work” by the Fort Collins Coloradoan in 2004
- Group was selected “Best Christian Workplace” by Christianity Today in 2003
- Group offers life-changing ideas for churches including:
 - ministry books
 - children’s church
 - midweek programs
 - adult small groups
 - websites
 - devotionals
 - youth Workcamps
 - leadership training
 - Bibles
 - ministry magazines
 - Sunday school curriculum
 - vacation Bible school
 - HomeBuilders Couples Series®
 - Bible studies
 - worship, music, and dramas
 - CDs, videos, & DVDs
 - ministry training
 - volunteer management services

Group Gives:

- Group has gathered and trained more than 185,000 students who have worked on more than 31,000 low-income homes in the past 28 years at no charge to the residents through Group Workcamps Foundation.
- Group gives a portion of its profits back to the community and churches every year. Since 1997, Group has donated \$465,000 to non-profit organizations in Northern Colorado through Group’s Community Service Awards.
- Group gave 50,000 *After the Fall* videos free to churches in 2004 through Group’s “Give Back” program.
- Group’s Operation Kid-to-Kid™ has become one of the largest forces mobilizing children in serving other children around the world. Millions of kids have been impacted with gifts of school supplies, Bibles, hygiene kits, Christmas gifts, and Bible coloring books.