

October 3, 2011

Dear State Leaders,

Greetings from Birmingham, Alabama, and national WMU[®]. As Fall gets into full swing, I pray that God is continuing to bless your ministry in your state. These are exciting days as many state conventions are preparing for their annual meeting. Some of our national WMU staff members will be in your annual meeting. Please be sure to introduce yourself while we are there.

Over the past few months, I've tried to keep you updated about the RA[®]/Challengers[™] transition taking place between NAMB and WMU. Our missions partners at NAMB are working hard to ensure as smooth a transition as possible with WMU. Countless hours have been given by their staff to answer questions, provide data, and to give us the best information possible as we move forward! We are thankful for Joe Conway, Tobin Perry, Beverly Cooper, and Carmon Keith (among others) for their faithful work!

With change, comes questions! We know that. To help answer those questions, we have just updated our online RA/Challengers transition FAQ page. If you'd like to check it out, please visit <http://www.wmu.com/index.php?q=blog/namb-and-wmu-partner-ras-and-challengers-faqs>. We continually update this site, so be sure to check it often and to point people in your state to this site. If you see questions that need to be answered but aren't listed, just let me know.

I'm hoping you can give me some help! In the months ahead, WMU will begin the transition of material from NAMB's RA and Challengers Web sites to WMU's site (www.wmu.com). It will take some time to get the many pages moved. So, we'd like to be sure that we include the most important things first in that transfer. As you have a few minutes, would you visit http://www.challengerscentral.com/Bible_Studies/ and look at the downloadable Challengers Bible studies included there? Which of these Bible studies do you currently use? Which ones do you consider the most important in a Challengers' meeting? Or, do you find that you don't use those studies at all? Once you have looked over the studies, would you shoot me an email with your thoughts? You can email me at sheartsill@wmu.org, ra@wmu.org, or challengers@wmu.org.

I can also report to you that a decision has been made about the title for the annual Challengers product that WMU will produce. The title will be *Challengers Leader*. The new leader piece will be available on May 1, 2012. If you look back to my September 12, 2011, update you'll see how that material will be laid out. We have a tremendous team of four godly men who are writing for us! Their materials will be submitted in mid-November 2011. Please pray as they write!

I had the honor of being asked to write the cover story for NAMB's Fall 2011 issue of *On Mission* magazine. The article, titled "Raising On Mission Kids," offers parents and leaders ideas on how to help children hear the gospel, receive God's Word, and live missional lives. If you don't have a print copy of the magazine, you can read the article online at <http://www.onmission.com/onmissioncb.aspx?id=8590117600>. If you do have a print copy of the magazine, don't miss the advertisement on the inside front cover! NAMB and WMU are doing our very best to let everyone know about the upcoming transition!

We also appreciate all you are doing to help spread that word about the transition! If you would like to have a copy of the ad that ran in *On Mission* magazine, you can visit <http://wmu.com/index.php?q=children/resources/free-downloads>. Scroll to the bottom of the list and download a copy of the ad to use with your churches and leaders.

Have I missed telling you something you need to know? Have I overlooked some important detail that I really should pass along to you? If so, I'd love to hear from you. I'll do my best to get an answer quickly.

Feel free to share this email with your state, associational, and church leaders! Good communication is essential to the success of this transition.

I look forward to hearing from you soon.

In His Name,

Steve

M. Steve Heartsill, DMin.

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Find us on www.Facebook.com/RoyalAmbassador
or www.Facebook.com/ChallengersTheGreatAdventure.

Missions resources are available at www.wmystore.com.

All,

I am piggy-backing on Steve's update to let you know about an inventory matter related to the transition.

Many of the LifeWay Christian Stores currently carry RA products, allowing easy access to most-requested items. As we begin the process of transferring inventory to WMU, we have worked with both LifeWay and WMU to determine the best possible way to accomplish this. Unfortunately, the best possible way requires an interruption in RA inventory availability in LifeWay Stores, evident beginning this month and through the end of the year.

If anyone comes into a LifeWay Store between now and the end of December, they will not be able to find RA products; however, store personnel will assist them in placing a special order, and they will receive the items they need as quickly as possible.

Please know this is not ideal, but it is a necessary part of the inventory transfer. Please help us by letting RA leaders know that RA materials ARE still available through LifeWay Stores, but through the special order process.

As soon as WMU is able to re-code inventory and return it to LifeWay Stores stock, they will do so, with the hope that this will be accomplished by the end of the year or the first of January.

RA material can also be ordered by calling NAMB at 866-407-6262.

Thank you for understanding and helping us to communicate this news.

Carmon Keith