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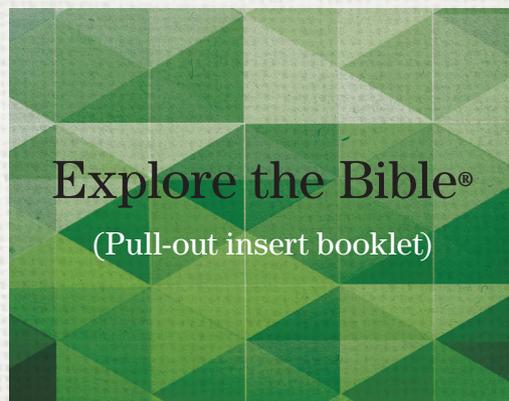
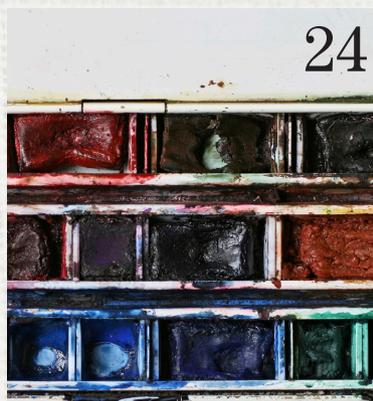
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**COLLEGIATE** PROVIDES BIBLICAL DEPTH AND PRACTICAL ADVICE FOR THE DAILY REALITIES OF COLLEGE STUDENTS, ENCOURAGING THEM TO STUDY GOD'S WORD, DEEPEN THEIR WALK WITH CHRIST, AND MAKE A DIFFERENCE IN THE WORLD.

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HUMANITY IS ALWAYS SEARCHING FOR PURPOSE. THE PROBLEM IS, MOST OF US FORGET WHERE IT LIES. As Christ-followers, our purpose is found in surrendering to God's greater plan for our lives. For each of us, the details of His plan and purpose can look quite different, but ultimately, His plan for us all is the same — to commit our lives to Him and share His gospel with others. As we embrace God's greater purpose, our desires and dreams will become beautifully aligned with His, which leads to fulfillment.

Within this issue, we address the topic of finding purpose within the realm of the college experience. From setting goals that make a difference (p. 8) to managing time wisely (p. 7) to being a missionary on your college campus (p. 29), you'll find some great practical wisdom for finding daily purpose. You'll be captivated by Andrew Greer and Cindy Morgan's mission to fight world hunger through using their musical talents (p. 14) and Matt Appling's discovery of how creating art doesn't end once art class is over (p. 24).

Ultimately, as you dig into John's Gospel in our new *Explore the Bible*® pull-out insert, you'll learn about genuine purpose from Jesus Himself as He modeled servanthood, experienced suffering, and conquered death. Above all, when it comes to finding purpose, search no further than Christ. You'll find more joy and fulfillment than you've ever known.

In Christ alone,

*Adam*

CONTRIBUTORS



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**Matt Appling** ("Create... and Do It On Purpose!," p. 24) is a teacher, pastor, and writer in Kansas City, Mo. He has taught, pastored, and mentored in a variety of church and school settings. Life After Art is his first book, released by Moody Publishers.

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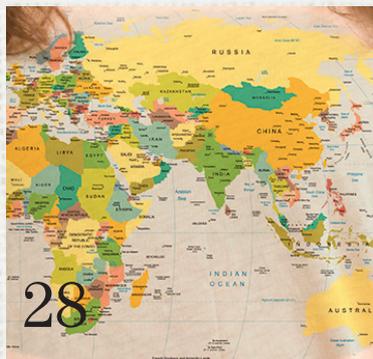
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# FOR HYMNS HUNGRY

HOW ANDREW GREER & CINDY MORGAN ARE MERGING MUSIC WITH MISSION

BY SCOTT LATTA

ANDREW GREER AND CINDY MORGAN'S LATEST TOUR IS ABOUT MORE THAN THE MUSIC — IT'S ABOUT LEAVING FANS HUNGRY TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE.

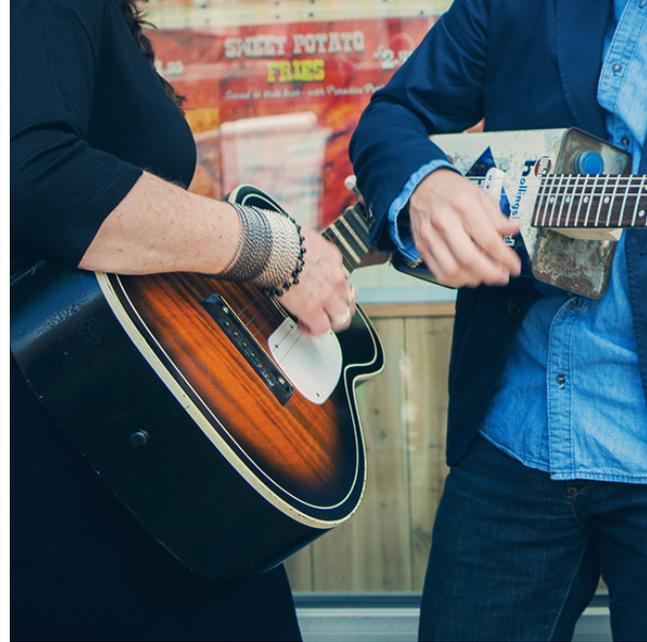
It may have been during a PTA meeting in a Nicaraguan village that shared a name with a hymn itself — Sweet Name of Jesus — when Andrew Greer and Cindy Morgan learned that most Nicaraguan children aren't registered with the government and therefore don't even technically exist.

It may have been the day before, when they met the impoverished Nicaraguan woman, so poor by Western standards, who was proud to show them her garden — not because it kept her family alive, but because she wanted them to see how she gave 20 percent of it away in charity.

Or it may have been the bee suit. That afternoon in the Nicaraguan bush, 3,000 miles from Nashville, Tenn., when they learned how the African killer bee is literally restoring Nicaraguan communities, and what it meant for a Latin American man to grab an insect in his fingers, hold it to his eyes, and say, "This little bee provides so much."

The truth is, it was all of them, which is why of everything they've learned through their partnership with Food for the Hungry, there's one truth Andrew Greer and Cindy Morgan have seen manifest at home and abroad: Hunger, whether across the street or around the world, matters.





## AN UNCONVENTIONAL TOUR

It's not uncommon for touring musicians — especially musicians who have put out hymn albums — to partner with an organization to raise awareness for a global cause. But when Greer and Morgan decided last year to do a nationwide tour focusing on hunger, they knew from the start they would do it differently.

And so they did, first taking their banjo and ukulele to the Food for the Hungry offices outside Nashville and playing a few hymns together, then launching a tour markedly different than the large-market, arena tours usually sought after to promote a cause like international hunger. Rather than concert halls and civic centers, the pair took Hymns for Hunger to the intimate pews and hymnals of churches around the country — a “boutique” tour, in Morgan’s words — using hundred-year-old hymns to solve a thousand-year-old problem by raising awareness for global and local hunger at shows from Boise, Idaho, to Berea, Ky.

“This tour was never something to appease the music industry, which isn’t our heart anyway in music,” Greer says. “But in being driven by us it’s remained personal, and in remaining personal it’s had more opportunity to actually help on the ground. When we begin to open our eyes to the bigger perspective as Christians, understanding our role is where real adventure begins.”

Though the pair’s April trip to Nicaragua gave them a look at how Food for the Hungry is helping internationally, Hymns for Hunger’s local emphasis brings the issue of hunger home at each show. At each concert, where admission is free with the donation of a canned good, a local representative from a food kitchen or other

organization in that city is brought on stage for a Q&A about their work and the local need.

Awareness, they’ve found, is often the biggest issue with local hunger.

“We forget [about local hunger],” Andrew says. “It’s not as exotic as third-world hunger in the sense of the imagery, but we forget that there are people who are part of the local fold doing a really sacrificial job in their own lives to put food on tables.”

There’s something about the timelessness of hymns, even re-imagined hymns like Greer and Morgan’s, that speaks to the hope that can grow in small communities around a cause like hunger. It’s that hope, Greer says, that takes the notion of hunger from an insurmountable challenge to a common calling among believers.

“We talk about social justice a lot, and it’s very trendy. But what we’re finding is that this is going beyond charity,” he says. “What helps go past charity is to say what justice really is: not me giving out of my excess — that’s charity — but saying what I have, you deserve.”

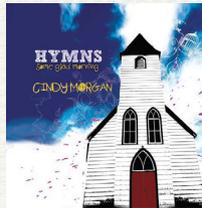
“The idea that poverty will always be with us is a defeatist idea in some modern churches, [but] we’re on the other side of that. It can be helped in pockets and in moments everywhere. The situation can be changed. That’s our duty and that’s our opportunity.”

*SCOTT LATTA is a writer and editor in Nashville, Tenn. He has written for magazines including Collegiate and NATIVE and is currently writing a book about what it’s like to be horrible at golf. Get in touch with him on Twitter: @swlatta.*

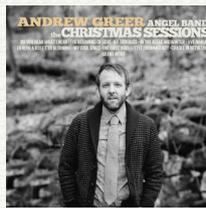


“WHEN WE BEGIN TO  
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 TO THE BIGGER PERSPECTIVE  
**AS CHRISTIANS,**  
 UNDERSTANDING OUR ROLE IS WHERE  
**REAL ADVENTURE BEGINS.”**

— ANDREW GREER



Cindy Morgan is a longtime CCM singer and songwriter, debuting in 1992, when her first album, *Real Life*, garnered six Dove Award nominations. Since then, she has released 10 more albums, including 2010's *Hymns: Some Glad Morning*, and has written for artists such as Michael W. Smith, Mark Schultz, Jaci Velasquez, and Natalie Grant. As part of the duo St. Lola in the Fields, with songwriter and musician Jeremy Bose, her music has been featured on shows including “One Tree Hill” and “Pretty Little Liars.” To listen, visit [cindymorganmusic.com](http://cindymorganmusic.com).



Andrew Greer debuted as a singer-songwriter in 2009 with the release of *Open Book*, a critical success that led to his 2012 hymn project, *Angel Band: The Hymn Sessions*, which he recorded alongside folk musicians including Ginny Owens, Sandra McCracken, and Ron Block of Alison Krauss and Union Station. Recently, *All Things Bright & Beautiful: Hymns for the Seasons*, an instrumental collection produced, arranged and performed by Greer, held the #1 spot on Nielsen Christian SoundScan's Instrumental chart for over a dozen consecutive weeks. Greer's first Christmas record, *Angel Band: The Christmas Sessions*, releases this fall. To listen, visit [andrew-greer.com](http://andrew-greer.com).

For more information on Hymns for Hunger, visit [hymnsforhunger.com](http://hymnsforhunger.com).

# EXPLORE THE BIBLE®

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ONE WORD, ONE LIFE, ONE WAY  
(JOHN 12-21)

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WINTER 2013-14

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### MEET THE WRITERS

**BETH MASTERS (DECEMBER)** just graduated with her Ph.D. this past May and teaches at New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary. While following God's leading to a new place in which to serve college students, Beth spends her spare time baking and sharing cupcakes.

**RYAN COATNEY (JANUARY)** (a.k.a. "Coat") is the lead pastor of Church, a new congregation in Nashville, Tenn. Coat loves bacon, Kentucky basketball, and his wife, Emily. Follow him on Twitter (@\_coat) or check out Church online at *church.is*.

**HANNA EASLEY (FEBRUARY)** is the Coordinator of Student Enrichment at Belmont University in Nashville, Tenn. She completed her undergraduate work at James Madison University and received her Masters in Higher Education & Student Affairs from the University of South Carolina. Hanna has worked at multiple colleges in a variety of roles, including residence life, orientation, leadership, behavioral intervention, and student activities. She writes weekly about college girl problems at *dearhanna.com*.

### LEADING A GROUP?

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- Teaching plans for Bible studies
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# SELFISH VS. SELFLESS

Jesus set the ultimate example of selfless living. And as we dive into John 12, we get a very clear picture of how He put selfless living into action. Jesus was anointed with oil by Mary, spent time with Lazarus, and entered Jerusalem for Passover. Through each of the events, Jesus was preparing for His death while being selfless in His actions.

the Father to be glorified. He knew this act must be accomplished to provide salvation for all.

Many people throughout the world today will lose loved ones, be brutally beaten, or even die because of their faith in Jesus. For others, the consequences may be the loss of close friendships, an “A” in class, or a relationship that can’t be pursued because it doesn’t honor

introduce someone to Jesus and the salvation He died to give. We must value what Jesus does and selflessly follow Him with a sense of urgency about being His hands and feet in a dark world.

## THE MISSION OF JESUS

(READ JOHN 12:44-48.)

In these verses, Jesus appealed to His followers. He knew He was on His

## A GOD-FOCUSED LIFE INVOLVES SHARING JESUS’ LOVE AND BEING HIS HANDS AND FEET IN OTHERS’ LIVES.

### PRIORITIZING PRINCIPLES

(READ JOHN 12:24-26.)

As Jesus spoke to those gathered, He explained that following Him means giving up one’s life to serve selflessly. A God-focused life involves sharing Jesus’ love and being His hands and feet in others’ lives.

Just as grain is multiplied when it dies, Jesus’ love and priorities are multiplied as Christians live selflessly. To follow Jesus means living by His standards, therefore dying to self and living a God-honoring life.

### COUNTING THE COST

(READ JOHN 12:27-33.)

Jesus was about to die a horrible death and take on the sins of the world, yet He prayed and asked

God. Whichever the loss, there’s a cost to following Jesus.

Jesus found strength through prayer. You can also find strength as you live a God-focused life. In order to advance His kingdom and be His hands and feet, we should consider the cost and accept the challenge of following Jesus.

### VALUING YOUR TIME

(READ JOHN 12:35-36.)

Jesus told His listeners He wouldn’t be with them much longer. Though they didn’t understand His mission, they did sense the urgency He displayed. In the same way, we should be moved to action that’s coupled with urgency. Our actions won’t provide salvation for others, but we just might be the vessel to

way to the cross, and He didn’t have much longer to be the light among humanity. In His words, Jesus told the people He was providing a way for salvation — a way to God — the One who sent Him. When we decide to follow Jesus, we live selfless lives that display urgent actions to live as our Creator among His creation. When we choose to believe in Jesus and enter into a personal relationship with Him, our lives should resemble His.

### RECOMMENDED READ

Something powerful happens when you allow someone to spiritually lead and influence you — or when you do the same for others. *Mentor* by Chuck Lawless defines and explores the biblical concept of mentoring as true discipleship. (Available at [threadsmedia.com](http://threadsmedia.com).)



## A Sense of Urgency

According to *dictionary.com*, the word *urgent* is defined as “compelling or requiring immediate action or attention; imperative; pressing.” A Christian who’s living a life of urgency is about God’s business and pays attention to the pressing matters in our world.

In Daniel 8:27, Daniel was overcome by a vision and bedridden for a few days. But then he got up and went about the king’s business. In a similar way, we should be overcome by all God is doing and still be about His business with the same sense of urgency.

Getting good grades is important, but our greater focus as college students should be on the people around us who need to know God and grow in their understanding of Him. Let’s be like Daniel as we get up and go about the King’s business.

### THINK ABOUT IT

This week, how can you display a God-focused urgency?