

Issue 26
Winter 2023

intouch

News of ministries
within the
Affinity Family



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The background is a blue-tinted photograph of a church service. In the foreground, a person is seen from the back, looking towards the front. In the background, several other people are seated, some looking forward and others looking down. Overlaid on the right side of the image is a large, complex graphic of a molecular network. It consists of numerous small circles in white, orange, red, and green, connected by thin lines. The circles vary in size, and the network is dense and irregular, resembling a complex molecule or a network diagram. The text is positioned on the left side of the image, below the main visual elements.

Affinity is a growing network
of 1,200 Bible-centred
churches and Christian
organisations throughout
Britain and Ireland. We
declare and demonstrate
the unity of Christ's Church
for the advancement of
Christ's kingdom.

Director's Desk

It is great to share with you our Winter edition of *In Touch* magazine. It's one of the few resources we physically print and we make a special effort to pack it full of useful articles and information to help you connect with the work Affinity members are doing for Christ and the gospel.

The last two editions of *In Touch* have been in the context of the war in Ukraine and as I write, our news bulletins are filled with stories about the war in Israel. In the midst of these acts of conflict, we pray for peace in the name of the prince of peace, Jesus Christ, whose birth we celebrate again this winter.

Within the public sphere, Affinity continues to be a Christian voice through numerous radio and TV interviews. Personally, I've been privileged to articulate an orthodox Christian stance on issues like the 'conversion therapy' ban and assisted dying. Please join us in prayer for further opportunities to share the gospel through secular media.

As a pastor, parent, and grandparent, I found the cover article immensely valuable. Dr Julie Maxwell from Lovewise shares six practical ways to guide our youth through the intricate landscape of gender identity – a topic of utmost importance in today's world.

With AI everywhere, we've included a condensed version of an enlightening article from our Social Issues Bulletin, delving into how AI impacts our Christian ministry. We also feature three articles by Affinity members, exploring how we can use our savings for kingdom work, how a campaign by Faith In Later Life is literally saving lives, and UFM help us realise the three things we need for global mission.

We trust you will find this edition of *In Touch* encouraging and informative. I eagerly await your comments and questions. Feel free to reach out to me directly at **director@affinity.org.uk**, or find our Editor's details on the back cover.

Wishing you God's richest blessing over the Winter season.

Graham
Nicholls



AI, humanity and Christian ministry



Jeremy Peckham is a technology entrepreneur and author of the book “Masters or Slaves? AI and the Future of Humanity” published by IVP in 2021. He spent much of his career in the field of Artificial Intelligence and has written extensively on AI including, more recently, in Affinity’s Social Issues Bulletin.



Hardly a day goes by without AI being in the news, either some new ‘ground breaking’ achievement that is benefiting society, robot interviews or gloomy dystopian forecasts of its existential threat to our existence. In January 2023, ChatGPT had taken the world by storm, achieving 100m users in just two months. Just a few months later, questions about Christianity and the Bible can now be answered by ChatGPT powered chatbots trained with Christian content, like biblemate.org and pastors.ai. How should we as Christians view this technology, is it just another tool in our digital armoury or are there other issues at play?

The answers to these questions lie in an understanding of what it means to be made in God’s image. Although marred by the fall, all humanity still reflects something of his image – especially believers, who are being restored to the likeness of Christ (2 Cor. 3:18) and who are the exact representation of God (Heb 1:3).

The creation account in Genesis and the New Testament reveals ontological (the essence or nature of being), functional and relational dimensions to what it means to be made in God’s likeness. Understanding these dimensions is crucial to evaluating

our view and use of many of the myriad applications of AI that seek to emulate human intelligence.¹

Becoming like us

Although AI can do quite a good job of simulating human capabilities, even sentient attributes, in reality it is no more than a pattern matching black box that has been trained on vast quantities of images or text. Yet, when a perfectly rendered computer generated video of a person produces a fluent human like, natural language answer to our question, even with emotion, we will tend to trust that response. In part, this is because the only framework that we have for dealing with such artefacts is human relationships. This can lead us to treat such artefacts as if they were human or human like, especially as the developers promote the narrative that these artefacts will become smarter than us. The existential threat of AI is overplayed and more important is the danger that we think it’s like us and that we become attached to it.

Reflecting God’s essence

As technologies simulate more and more human capabilities, we come to rely on them and in so allow them to dumb down our true humanity. When we use such tools to create letters, emails or even a sermon outline, the convenience of such tools will, over time, diminish our creativity, reasoning and critical thinking skills which are key aspects of what it means to be human, made in God’s likeness. Were we to use such tools to write a sermon or prayer we might also well ask, where is the Holy

1. For an in depth discussion see: Jeremy Peckham, Masters or slaves, AI and the Future of Humanity, IVP, 2021. See also mastersorslaves.com for an online bible based course that can be used in small group or individual study.



Spirit in all of this? Seeking help from a statistical machine, however clever or cool it seems, is not the same as seeking input from another human being or reflecting on God's word in the Bible itself!

Truth in question

The emulation of the human characteristics represented by the various facets of AI technology, especially Generative AI, poses one of the biggest threats to truth and reality in our times. How will we know what is true or what is real?

Unlike a book or article, the outputs from Generative AI are not the actual thoughts of a single identifiable person, but a synthesis of words from the training corpus that matches the input request with the highest probability. On occasions, they are prone to produce plausible but incorrect output, referred to as confabulations or hallucinations that developers don't understand. Given that language was the unique way in which God communicated

truth to the world, we ought to be careful with Chatbots that output a synthesised natural language response. That is not how God's truth is conveyed in scripture nor can they be attributable to individuals in the training corpus. The untrustworthiness of such applications of AI runs counter to the Biblical view of truth that affirms its correspondence with reality.

This challenge to truth and reality is accentuated when people access this technology and use it to generate conspiracy theories, or fake news around election time or to intimidate women with fake images of themselves. We know that the devil is the father of lies so we can expect Generative AI to be a tool that he will use against humanity.

A relational commission

In fulfilling the Great Commission, it is tempting in the digital age and now with Generative AI such as ChatGPT and its like, to envision spreading our reach to many more people of different languages

across the globe. Yet Christ himself showed us through the gospels that his mission was personal and embodied. He spent time with the woman at the well, and he personally taught his small group of disciples, sometimes choosing to move on rather than deal with the crowd seeking him out. Are we best modelling Christ's relational nature when we delegate evangelism and disciple making to an anonymous chatbot?

The world has now been alerted to the addictiveness of social media and how authentic relationships can be diminished as we lose the capacity to empathise. Manipulative AI algorithms lie behind this problem and it will be accentuated by digital assistants that are even more human like and immersive.

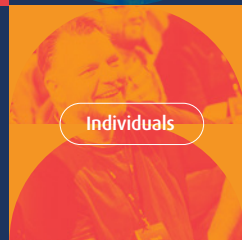
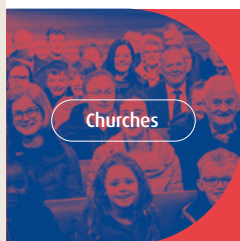
An exclusive role

Already AI is becoming all pervasive, both behind the scenes in decision support systems in business and government institutions as well as in interactive tools or personal assistants. Ultimately, as with self-drive vehicles, we are delegating moral agency to an artefact but the doctrine of *Imago Dei* makes it clear that God has given to humans alone moral agency. We must therefore engage this technology carefully to avoid sacrificing, for the sake of convenience and efficiency, our true humanity, thereby dumbing down our ability to image Christ authentically.

God has made us his 'mirrors' and that is why he forbade our making images of him. When we create artefacts in our image and put our trust in them, they become modern day idols. We were created to be his representatives, not an artefact. This requires us to be wise in how we use AI, will it be a tool in our hands that we are in control of, or a human creation that we become enslaved by?

Become a member

Join with over 1,200 evangelical churches and organisations expressing the unity all God's people enjoy because they belong to Jesus Christ.



Connect to a large network of like-minded churches and organisations for mutual support, prayer and fellowship while gaining representation on a national platform as we speak up on behalf of evangelical Christians and churches.

Choose your membership and find out more:
www.affinity.org.uk/memberships

Christian parenting in a confusing world of gender identity



Dr Julie Maxwell is a community paediatrician and a member of General Synod. She works part time for Affinity Agency member Lovewise and is a trustee of Family Education Trust. She has 20 years experience of youth work and is co-author of the Greater Love Declaration.

Once upon a time (not so long ago) after asking for your name and date of birth, medical and other forms asked for sex/ gender with the option to choose either male or female. The terms sex and gender were mostly synonymous and the reply expected was that of biological sex.

Sometimes I think it's difficult for us to comprehend just how much has changed in just the last 10 years as 'transgender' seems to have taken such a prominent place in our society. We find ourselves in a world where feelings trump physical reality and where expressing anything other than



complete acceptance and celebration of someone's identity can result in us being labelled bigots or transphobic. Our children (and grandchildren) are growing up in a very different world to the one we did and we must understand what they are being surrounded with and think carefully about how we as Christians can hold firm to the truth of the Bible and its goodness and pass that on to the next generation.

Teaching in schools

Two recent reports have exposed the extent to which children are being exposed to inappropriate and ideological content both in RSE/PSHE and throughout the curriculum. In addition, a survey conducted by the Association of Christian Teachers reveals the concerns and difficulties faced by Christian teachers being expected to teach material on sex, relationships and gender identity that is inaccurate or inappropriate.

Children are often not being taught the biological reality that sex (male or female) is determined at conception and that every cell in their bodies (with a few incredibly rare exceptions) carries either XX or XY chromosomes. It is not possible to change sex – medical and surgical interventions may change a person's appearance so that they look more like the opposite sex but they will never actually change sex.

However, the situation in schools and health provision is such that so often as soon as a child or young person expresses any kind of wish to be the opposite sex or to be unhappy with the way they are this is immediately jumped on and the preferred gender identity is affirmed.

When a child identifies as trans this doesn't just affect them and their family it affects all those around them as well, in particular the other children in their class and school who may be expected to use new names or pronouns that don't match biological sex and may get into trouble if they are unable to or even if they forget.

Social media

Young people spend large amounts of their time on social media and algorithms mean that they will see more and more of the same type of material. There is a plethora of content that encourages children and young people to think they are trans and gives overwhelmingly positive stories of young people undergoing medical and surgical transition. Young people are often coached into how to 'come out' to their parents, what to say to get medical intervention and that anyone who doesn't immediately agree with them and celebrate their new identity doesn't understand them or hates them.

Christian perspective

As Christians, we believe that we have been created by God and that our bodies are important. We are created in God's image and being male or female is part of what that means. Our identity is given to us by God our creator and is not something we either have to decide or discover.

So how can we as Christians try to ensure that our children are not deceived by the culture of ideology and expressive individualism and what do we do if our children declare a trans identity?

What can we do?



1 Be well informed

There are many books on the subject of transgender and it is helpful to read a variety of secular and Christian books which together help us to have a better understanding of what we are facing.

2 Teach our children biblical and biological facts at ages appropriate to them

We need to make sure that our children are well taught and that they have a good understanding of the importance of bodies. Children should be taught about body parts and their proper names – as well as differences between boys and girls but without endorsing unnecessary gender stereotypes – by their parents and this is done in a natural way from a young age. Lovewise has resources that can support parents to talk about this with their children. These conversations lay the foundations for children and ground them in reality and the goodness of God's creation and also allow for ongoing conversations as they are exposed to other perspectives.

3 Find out what children are being taught at school and challenge if needed

There is widespread concern (not just among Christians) about some of the content that children are being taught and about the approaches often taken to children who question their gender. As parents, you have the right to information about what they will be learning in PSHE/RSE and across the curriculum (including asking about books in the school library) and about what approaches the school takes/ might take to a child declaring a gender identity.

4 Limit screen time and monitor what they are accessing

One of the aspects of gender identity is the disconnect between bodily reality and how someone feels – feelings trump reality. It is important therefore to ground our children in physical reality as much as possible. Spend time with them, get out and about and do fun things together as much as you can. Encourage them to meet up with friends, and to join clubs and youth groups rather than just spending time online. And be interested in what they are doing online rather than just being dismissive of the latest TikTok or meme.

5 Listen to them

As your child gets older it becomes increasingly important to really listen to them even (or perhaps especially) when they seem to be saying things that you don't understand or you know not to be true. As you listen you can reflect back to them and ask questions that show you are genuinely interested in how they feel and what they think. As you ask questions they may naturally begin to question themselves and you can also take natural opportunities to give your thoughts (in a non-confrontational way) and to state biological and biblical truth (which you have taught to them when they were younger – point two above).

6 Pray

Hopefully you are already praying for your children and grandchildren every day so keep going, they need it!

CHILD AND ADOLESCENT TRANS IDENTITY

The tip of the iceberg?

SOCIAL TRANSITION

Requesting a name and pronoun change, clothing and hairstyles, and requesting to use facilities designated for the opposite sex

TRANS IDENTITY

When a child or adolescent declares a trans identity, many see this as the end point - a simple declaration of an internal state. However, immediate affirmation of the new identity often overshadows the background circumstances that led to this conclusion.

Mental Health

Depression, anxiety
Emerging personality disorder
Self-harm and suicidal behaviour
Eating disorders
Trauma

Sexuality

Lesbian/Gay/Bisexual
Internalised homophobia
Homophobic peers or family
Homophobic bullying

Neurodevelopment

Autism
ADHD

Social Factors

Bullying
Social isolation
Adoption/foster care
Bereavement
Non-conformity to sex stereotypes

Safeguarding Issues

Sexual abuse/exploitation
Inappropriate online activity
Grooming/coercion
Radicalisation
Online sexualisation
Illegal hormones
Binders & tucking

Puberty

Social influence
Body discomfort
Sex and relationship education
Identity formation
Periods
Peer pressure

Bayswater

In a survey of our members:



Bullied



LGBT



Autism/ADHD

www.bayswatersupport.org.uk

Useful resources

If your child is already struggling with gender identity then here are a few resources you might find helpful:

A new secular book called **When Kids Say They're Trans** by Stella O'Malley, Sasha Ayad and Lisa Marchiano.

Bayswater Support Group is a secular organisation that provides valuable support for parents of trans-identified children

True Freedom Trust is a Christian organisation (and Affinity member) that can provide support.

Useful books:

The Gender Revolution by Patricia Weerakoon

Growing Up God's Way by Dr Chris Richards and Dr Liz Jones

Challenges to Living God's Way by Dr Chris Richards and Dr Liz Jones

Trans by Helen Joyce

Irreversible Damage by Abigail Shrier

Embodied by Preston Sprinkle

The Genesis of Gender by Abigail Favale



What three things does global mission need?

The trouble with an article like this is that there will always be a 'but what about ...' kind of response. However, let's see how Acts 15:36-16:14 helps us consider this important question.

for this new juncture it's worth considering whether our churches have lost our focus on global mission. Did the pandemic, for example, cause world mission to fall off our church's agenda? If so, let me encourage you to get going again and start that 'second missionary journey' enterprise.

New helpers (Acts 15:40, 16:1,10)

Paul started on his own but soon after, the team had quadrupled – Silas, Timothy and Luke all joined. These four were different in nature, background and gifts which reminds me of Jim Elliot's famous quote: 'Missionaries are ... simply a bunch of nobodies trying to exalt somebody.' Global mission needs all kinds of people. UK church leaders need to identify, train and send people into the cross-cultural harvest field.

The background is that Paul and Barnabas had been set apart for missionary work by the early church (a reminder that local churches have the task of making disciples – not missionary agencies). They eventually returned to Antioch to report on all that God had done.

There is a break in missionary endeavour

with the discussion and resolution of a tricky issue, after which Paul and Barnabas agree to embark on another journey. A dispute arose over whether they should take Mark. Consequently, Barnabas went to Cyprus leaving Paul at the start of an exciting new venture – his second missionary journey.

Before we look at the three things that Paul needed

We are delighted to support and learn from churches in the Global South in this task but the UK church can't afford to 'drop the ball.' It is easy to bamboozle with stats but the stark reality is that nearly 82% of people in the world do not know a Christian. The world still needs to hear the gospel and the church still needs to send people to share the good news.

New horizons (Acts 16:6-9)

Paul and company were 'forced' to go into Europe, this was not in their thinking but other doors closed. They were sensitive to the Holy Spirit's leading. God gave Paul a vision of a man of Macedonia asking for help so they discussed and concluded this was the way forward. They saw the need and the opportunity and that created the vision. They stepped out in faith even though it meant a boat journey into a totally unknown region.

It's easy for UK churches to lose global focus. World mission has changed significantly in the last 20 or so years but the great commission to 'go and make disciples' is still in our Bible. Being informed of the need and the opportunity will help reignite that vision

in our churches. Here is one example from many, there are about 8,000 communities in Italy, and nearly 7,000 of them have no gospel witness.

New hearts (Acts 16:14)

Three remarkable conversions are recorded in Acts 16. In them we see all strands of society reached. We have lower class, working class and upper class; rich and poor; religious and non-religious; singles and marrieds; slave and free; and different nationalities. The Lord opened their hearts. He was at work from the first conversion to establishing a young church. It's a thrill to see how God continues to work in different parts of the world. Don't miss out – be informed!

We want to see men, women and whole families saved. We need to look for those opportunities to share the gospel. Let's go to the river; let's testify in the marketplace; let's not be bound by prison circumstances. Let's go into all the world and point people to the hope there is in Jesus. He will save.

Lastly, never forget that all this was bathed in prayer. The home church prayed, the Macedonian man prayed and there was prayer connected with each of the three conversion stories. Prayer is a vital part of what we need to do.

It's time for the UK church to rejuvenate its focus on global mission, therefore pray for new helpers, pray for new horizons and pray for new hearts.



If UFM can support you in the task of making disciples of all nations, please contact **tim@ufm.org.uk** or visit **www.ufm.org.uk** to find out more.



Tim Howlett is the Head of Partnerships at Affinity Agency member UFM Worldwide, which exists to support churches in making disciples of all nations.



A campaign to save lives this winter



Alex Drew leads the ongoing work and development of Affinity Agency member, Faith in Later Life. She is passionate and experienced in inspiring and equipping people for the opportunities and challenges of later life, and in helping them know Jesus more deeply or for the first time. Alex has three grown up sons, and she lives in the West Country.



When I was told 'This Love My Neighbour Campaign could save lives this winter', I thought I was in the presence of someone prone to overdramatisation. After all, how can something as simple as visiting and getting to know our older neighbours possibly save their lives?

I figured he must have been coming at this from a spiritual angle – building relationships is at the heart of evangelism which leads to salvation – and I was all in.

The beginning of Jean's story is a great example. She comes to church sometimes because her neighbour – who's always been kind and a listening ear for her, even giving her several lifts to medical appointments – eventually invited her to come along to a Carol Service. Jean now asks for prayer when life gets challenging with her adult son, whom she cares for at home, and the two ladies are really getting to know each other.

We pray that one day she'll commit her life to Jesus, be born again, and yes, then Jean's life will have been saved, for the glory of God.

But that wasn't what he meant...





Every winter there are tens of thousands of excess deaths reported in the UK. Most of them are among older people, and for many of these, loneliness is an attributing factor. It's a factor because lonely people and those who are isolated don't always get the help they need when things go wrong, they have nobody to share the stress of their burdens with, and they often don't take part in life-boosting activities. If we could reduce the loneliness people experience, we could reduce the excess deaths, and literally save lives.

But loneliness is a hard nut to crack. Not everyone who lives alone is lonely, and not everyone who lives in community knows contentment and joy. It's subjective, but that doesn't mean it doesn't matter. It's a matter of life and death for some.

Churches are huge families where there's always room for a newcomer, and many older people are already less lonely because they're part of one. Praise God!

But how do we reach the most lonely and isolated people, those who aren't already in the loving embrace of the church? We believe responding to God's call to love our neighbours is one potentially life giving response.

'Love My Neighbour' is a simple campaign to remind and encourage us all to go beyond the threshold of the church and connect with our older neighbours this winter.

We were so good at this during the

pandemic, but since then many of us have reignited our busy lives, and that's wonderful, but for many older people nothing much has changed – they're still increasingly lonely.

What we all crave is human relationships, God designed us to be relational and 'Love My Neighbour' is about simple intentional acts of love which build connections. It starts with praying for our neighbours, finding out their names, then perhaps popping by for a chat and sharing our stories with them and asking them for theirs, or inviting them out to the garden centre, the church coffee morning, or a Carol service.

For anyone needing a bit more inspiration, we share some more ideas on our website at **www.faithinlaterlife.org**.

I had thought that the beauty of 'Love My Neighbour' is its simplicity, but now I see that for those who find friendship and hope through it this winter, it has life-saving and life-giving potential.

Whether you're one person, a couple, a homegroup, a church, or a whole denomination, we hope you'll join in with 'Love My Neighbour' and help save lives this winter, for now and for eternity.





We help churches grow



Kingdom Bank

Does your bank share your heart for the gospel?

Does your bank share your heart for the gospel? New Affinity Agency member, Kingdom Bank, does. They are passionate about helping Christian ministries to plant, build and grow, so any money invested with them is being used to support gospel projects across the UK.

In this article, Kingdom Bank's CEO, Paul Houghton, shares more about how they can help give your money a mission.

What is Kingdom Bank?

Kingdom Bank is a Christian bank, providing an innovative way for Christians across the UK to align their finances with their gospel values. Our vision is to see the UK filled and thriving with healthy, growing, gospel-hearted churches.

We exist to serve Christian ministries by providing responsible mortgages for churches, Christian organisations and

ministry workers. This means that they can continue to grow, reaching more people with the gospel. This work is made possible by a 21st century take on biblical gospel partnership – Christians and organisations saving their money with us so it can be put to work for the kingdom.

Under new evangelical leadership since 2020, we have been delighted to work alongside many life-changing ministries. It is a joy to see Christians partnering with us, helping us to equip and serve gospel workers, all for the glory of God.

Savings:

As Christians, how we spend our money is driven by faith, so shouldn't our savings be as well? Kingdom Bank is a fully regulated bank, so you can be confident that your money is in safe hands and it is covered by the standard UK banking (FSCS) protections. But more than that,



you can know that it's being used in a way which is aligned with your gospel values. With our range of short or longer-term accounts for individuals and organisations, we provide a way to save for your future whilst investing in building up God's kingdom in the UK.

Mortgages:

We understand that High Street banks can be reluctant to lend to ministry workers and missionaries due to the unusual nature of their income. At Kingdom Bank, we're experienced in partnering with Christian workers through mortgages to help them purchase a home. We also specialise in lending to churches and Christian charities that want to purchase a property or develop one they already own. With an in-depth understanding of the nature of church and charity income and activities, we're committed to working with you to help your organisation reach more people with the gospel.

Insurance:

At our insurance brokerage, we have a specialist team of Christians who work with churches, charities, and organisations to make sure they have the right insurance coverage. With a deep understanding of the specific needs of churches and charities, we're able to support you with expert advice on the cover you need to protect your organisation and those you serve. 97% of our insurance customers renewed with us in 2022, and we prioritise understanding each customer's needs, giving them the best service we can.



Give your money a mission

To find out more about how Kingdom Bank is helping UK gospel ministries thrive, and see how you and your church can get involved, visit their website

www.kingdom.bank
or call their team on
0115 921 7250

Affinity has a directory of evangelical Christian organisations that can provide support in a number of areas such as fostering, safeguarding advice, elderly care, training and more. Visit **www.affinity.org.uk/organisations** to find an organisation you can trust.

Mortgages subject to application. Your property may be repossessed if you do not keep up repayments on your mortgage.



Book Review

The Wolf in Their Pockets 13 Ways the Social Internet Threatens the People You Lead

Review by Stephen Allison

Moody Publishers, 2023, 224 pages,
£12.99 (Evangelical Book Shop)

Our phones have come to dominate our existence and most of us are all too aware of the negative impact they can have on us. We are easily distracted by the endless scrolling on social media – we don't want to admit it but in many ways, our phones are the drug we just cannot stop using.

Given how much our lives are dominated by social media and the entertainment world that we hold in the palm of our hand it is vital that all of us involved in teaching others are well informed about the impact social media is having on ourselves and especially those we minister to. And we have to recognise this is no longer a problem that only impacts teenagers and students (if it ever was) – the vast majority of people we share our lives with are being shaped and modelled by the social internet.

Chris Martin's book serves as an important wake up call to the issues in engaging with people being shaped by the social internet, and also a reminder that we ourselves are being shaped by it. Although thankfully the book is not just doom and gloom; instead Martin offers insightful commentary on aspects of our discipleship today and challenges us to think through how we contextualise today as we engage the hearts and minds of those under our care.

Martin strikes the right balance between two extremes of how we can react to the social internet. One extreme is the uncritical consumption of all the information placed in front of you. The other extreme is the thought that if you do not have or use social media yourself then

it will not affect you. The reality is, even if you do not use these platforms, or can manage to stay away from the negative effects, there will be many around you who are actively engaged and living with the effects of social media. And so, we must intentionally engage if we are to be able to support those we minister to.

Martin brings his own experience to bear on this as he works as a content marketing editor for a Christian publisher. He understands this world and has spoken to many pastors in the preparation of the book. Each chapter serves as a helpful discussion starter in which he raises an issue of discipleship or one of the ways the social internet negatively affects us and then gives an overview of the issues and some suggestions of what we can do as leaders or parents to engage in the area.

A wide variety of issues are covered including our purpose in life, the nature of friendships, cultivating humility and discernment, grappling with anxiety, the nature of sex, and recovering truth in an age of conspiratorial thinking.

The Wolf in Their Pockets is full of practical and stimulating wisdom to help us begin to have conversations in our congregations, families and among those we minister to about the role that our phones and social media play in our lives. It helps address within discipleship the many ways we are being shaped by the social internet and challenges us to turn instead to God's word to shape us. Social media is not going anywhere and each one of us needs to be equipped to engage in these kinds of conversations.

SAVE
THE
DATES

Affinity Theological Study Conference

GREAT GOD of WONDERS

The God who is, and the God who acts

5 - 7 MARCH 2025

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over the upcoming months.

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@AffinityTalks

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