



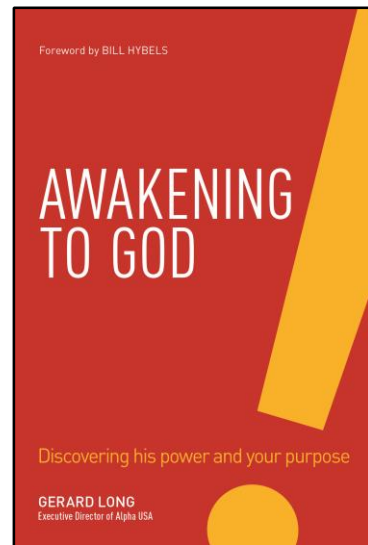
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How Personal Tragedy Reveals God's Power and Life's Purpose Alpha USA Executive Director Pens Book on *Awakening to God*

[Carol Stream, Ill.]— In May 2014, while still grieving the suicide of a teenage son eight years ago, Gerard Long faced the unthinkable: the accidental death of his precious daughter. Reflecting on his daughter's tragic drowning, Long encountered a sobering parallel that shifted into high gear the urgent mission to which he has dedicated his life—a “rescue mission,” as he calls it, for today's church to reach out and save all who are spiritually sinking. Although the Long family must now endure the unbearable agony of parting with two beloved children, Gerard Long still sees hope in this life, and he is still on a mission this side of heaven.

In his compelling new book, *Awakening to God: Discovering His Power and Your Purpose* (Tyndale Momentum, September 2014), Gerard Long reveals his heart and vision for widespread spiritual renewal, sharing the authentic story of his own journey of life-altering awakenings. He invites readers to wake up to God's call on their own lives. Recounting that he's had “times when God has either roused me from a spiritual slumber or has otherwise redirected my steps to be more in line with his purpose for my life,” Long illustrates how he discovered that these awakenings are essential to God's work in the lives of every person, as well as in the movements of this world.



As the executive director of Alpha USA, a global nonprofit outreach organization that serves and supports local churches to engage people in their exploration of faith, Long leads the successful and growing ministry in America through seven kingdom principles. The Alpha course is a series of interactive sessions that freely explore the basics of the Christian faith in a friendly, honest environment. Currently, Alpha is actively running in all 50 United States, in over 7,500 churches in more than 125 denominations. Additionally, Alpha has reached more than 24 million people in 169 countries worldwide. Under Long's leadership as a fearless adventurer who doesn't shy away from the challenge of his mission, Alpha USA steadfastly extends its reach by harnessing a fearless and loving approach to spiritual discipleship. Ministering to this global vision of mobilizing the Kingdom of God, Long delivers a universally relevant message to people in all walks of life.

A significant resource for equipping and developing believers in their call to action as Christ-followers, *Awakening to God* explains how to embrace Alpha's tried-and-true approach to evangelism and what it means to better love people into the Kingdom of God. In *Awakening*, Long offers a compelling vision for a “Jesus way” of widespread transformation within individuals, communities, and the world. Readers will be empowered to fulfill God's abundant calling and deeper purpose for their lives.

Gerard Long is available for national interviews to promote the September 2014 release of *Awakening to God*. Contact Alyssa Aftab at alyssaaftab@tyndale.com or (630) 784-5152 to schedule an interview, obtain an excerpt of the book, or to learn more.

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Awakening to God
Gerard Long
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About the Author



Gerard Long is a minister, evangelist, author, motivational speaker, and former banking executive, who is head over heels in love with Jesus Christ. In 2006, Gerard retired from a highly paid banking career and joined Alpha USA full-time to help more people explore the meaning of life. As the executive director of Alpha USA, he now leads the organization whose mission is to serve local churches in presenting the gospel to their communities through the Alpha course. A widely used introduction to Christianity, Alpha is supported by multidenominational churches and now operates in more than 169 countries. More than 3 million people have taken an Alpha course in the USA, and over 24 million worldwide.

Though Gerard has experienced the wonderful joy of knowing and serving the Lord Jesus, he has also known the deepest grief and suffering through the deaths of two of his three children (Alex in 2005 and Rebecca in 2014). These losses have served to heighten his desire to complete the work that God has for him, and in particular to see as many people as possible come to a personal relationship with Jesus Christ.

Through his book, *Awakening to God*, Gerard seeks to envision and equip Christ followers to become better fishers of men. He continues to live with one burning ambition: to please the Lord Jesus and obey His will.

To find out more about Gerard Long, visit him at www.GerardLong.com.