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Rhode Island Pastor Asks Community Can These Bones Live?

Westerly, RI, April 25, 2008-- Is time running out for churches today? Does the alarming and depressing knell of church doors closing foreshadow the inevitable demise of the contemporary church? In his new books, *Can These Bones Live? and Almost Persuaded, Now to believe* (Tate Publishing), author, motivational speaker, and pastor Joshua A. McClure addresses the serious problem of the thousands of stagnant and declining churches in America.

An extensive new survey and published report by the *Pew Forum on Religion & Public Life* provides detailed statistics on religion in America and explores the shift taking place in the U.S. religious landscape. According to the report religious affiliation in the U.S. are changing significantly. "Seventy-five to 95 percent of churches are now dying, stagnant, or in decline," says Joshua A. McClure, who offers an insider's view into why these dramatic transformations are taking place.

McClure, discussing how to resuscitate a church in *Can These Bones Live?*, says, "It only works when God places the vision in people's hearts. God's vision can change churches to vital, living organisms." "People may say they believe in Christianity, but if you question them even slightly it becomes clear that many do not understand or accept the core tenets of its faith. They don't believe in its supernatural explanations, so the common cry is even though I don't understand, I accept it by faith, states McClure." This demands a need for plain, simple, clear teaching of the Scriptures, which McClure provides in his two new books. He helps the younger and older generations come to know the God they believe in. Hence they will be able encounter the power that draws people to Christ.

"In contemporary society, religious belief is falling faster than church attendance. The big problem facing the Church today is not translation of the faith into a form that the world will be able to understand. It is to enact the faith in a way that people can see it," states McClure." *Can These Bones Live? and Almost Persuaded, Now to believe* unveils what spiritual life really looks like. McClure shares the gospel message in every day language that help all come to understanding. His treatment of the basic tenets of the Christian faith is clear, cogent, moving, and will set a fire burning in readers hearts, so that all may experience the wonderful things God has freely given us.

Joshua McClure is the active pastor of Pleasant Street Baptist Church in Westerly, Rhode Island. McClure lives with his wife Ida in Bradford, RI on the outskirts of Westerly. He is widely known in the Rhode Island community and is actively involved in many community and civic activities. He is co-founder of the North End Crime Watch and Community Development, a community based organization which develops housing for low income citizens. He is frequently referenced in the Westerly Sun for his participation in community revitalization.

For additional information on review copies of the *Can These Bones Live? (ISBN-10: 1598864726) and Almost Persuaded, Now to believe (available as an ebook download, audio book, and workbook; ISBN: 978-1604625134)* interviews, book-signings, or to request Joshua McClure as a keynote speaker, contact Joshua via phone at: 401-741-2440 or visit www.joshuaamclure.com.

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