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## Author Says Heaven Can Wait

Growing up in California, Todd Hunter's carefree, baseball-infused days were forever broken on hearing the news that his older brother had been killed in the Vietnam War. From that day forward his innocence was lost, and a posture of emotional distance, especially from God, was adopted. Struggling to understand how a loving God could allow something so horrible to happen to his brother and family caused Todd to avoid Christians and church completely. Years later as a college student, a fellow baseball team member repeatedly invited Todd to church. Within two weeks of attending, Todd had given his life to Christ, which started him on a journey of complete transformation and a life devoted to serving others.

Todd's extensive experience as a church planter and a teacher led him to the realization that people's understanding of what it means to be a Christian—to be "saved"—needed to change. No longer could believers tout heaven as the reward and goal of life in Christ; seekers were looking for a more compelling reason to become followers of Jesus. His new book, *Christianity Beyond Belief*, explains the overarching story of God and how everyone can participate in it, beginning today. In the book he explains the four phrases that encapsulate the Christian life, as well as his model for "Three Is Enough" groups: three people who meet regularly in order to pray, grow and serve together.

In addition to his church-planting work, Todd is a consultant for his ministry, Society for Kingdom Living, which helps pastors and lay leaders reach a generation that has been disenfranchised from the church. Formerly national director at Vineyard Churches USA and then at Alpha USA, Todd continues to serve as consultant to Alpha and as part of the Alpha Board of Directors and Executive Committee. He also serves on a number of other ministry boards, including RENOVARÉ and Soul Survivor.

Todd has written for, given interviews to or otherwise appeared in *Christianity Today*, *Charisma*, *Outreach*, *Ministry Today*, *YouthWorker Journal*, *Rev! Magazine* and various Vineyard publications. His online experience includes Next-Wave, Allelon, TheOOZE and Off The Map. He has contributed to various books, including *John Wimber* (Eagle) by David Pytches, *Stories of Emergence* (Zondervan) by Mike Yaconelli and the *Spirit-Filled Life Bible* (Nelson). *Christianity Beyond Belief* is his first book.