

from the magnitude of what God wants for you to do."

"We have a core of 4-5 people that is the planning and strategizing core. Hollywood would have a staff of 30-50 people to do what we're trying to do," chuckles Gallagher. "We rely on God doing infinitely more through fewer vessels. It takes ten guys about six hours just to setup the stage. Then there are two and a half more days checking the nightmare of lighting, setting up all the audio and getting the studio ready for taping a show. The biggest challenge in the first year was to get the set built. Bids came in for \$55,000 to \$60,000 just to build the set—just the background on the stage for the show. Needless to say, we didn't have that kind of money. During the first half of 1993, God brought together an incredible pool of volunteers who built the set with donated materials. When all was said and done, we had spent \$5,200."

God can do a lot with what seems like a little!

Besides the strategic core, and the faithful laborers, LightSide has a Board of Directors and a Board of Advisors which includes well-known Christian leaders such as Luis Palau, Ron Mehl, and Kristan Dunn. Since LightSide is penetrating the arts and media, Gallagher is determined to have a solid accountability structure. The television industry, even Christian television, often has undertones of financial irresponsibility that LightSide plans to avoid.

LightSide Productions is a non-profit organization and as such depends completely on donations, primarily from within the Portland area. But the long term design includes commercial funding from national sponsors, even though many people believe that any programming with religious undertones will fail to attract the corporate pocket-books. "We are determined not to ask for money on the air," insists Gallagher. "That's where people who know broadcasting—and especially religious broadcasting—say 'Good luck,' and basically send it to the grave. There's enough of a fighting spirit in me to say 'Why not? From what I know you haven't tried it, so don't tell me it can't be done.' Maybe I'm just living in a fantasy here, but so far, we're two and a half years down the road and I'm still in the fantasy. God has provided everything we need."

"When I see giant corporations funding violent or illicit programming," says Gallagher, "I think, 'Wow! They're taking a gutsy risk to fund that show.' 'Night Light,' with its strong entertainment value and Christian principles, is much less of a risk."

The banal details of the working world have not dampened Gallagher's passion



David Gallagher

about bringing God's light to shine without using the limited cable-access stations. He has never been trained in broadcasting or producing, although he is a highly decorated veteran of Christian colleges throughout the U.S. and had served five years as youth pastor at Beaverton Foursquare Church before venturing out on this quest. But nothing in his background prepared him for this particular challenge, except God alone.

Gallagher has purposefully, carefully

God can do a lot with what seems like a little!

and prayerfully followed His Savior's lead into this unknown territory. "I talked to several people in Christian broadcasting," says Gallagher. "They told me that if God wants me there, he'll put me there. That wasn't what I wanted to hear. I wanted to hear how to break into the business. But, instead, I put it on the shelf." He was willing to wait for God's timing.

Though Gallagher was willing to return to school to learn the art of television production from qualified and experienced professors, he found no peace on that road. "I really gave prayerful thought to going to Regent's University for its media and broadcasting degree," says Gallagher. "It was pretty clear to me that that was not what God had in mind for me to do. In fact, I believe that what God was saying to me was 'You are not to go on to school and learn production because at the point in time when this becomes successful and becomes something that people know about, I would never want

them to be able to look at you and say 'Oh, this happened because Gallagher got his education and training in television production.'" God wanted to put me in a place of total and utter dependency on Him, so that when He did give life to it and bring success, I would be the first one to give Him the glory and the credit and the honor for having have been the One to raise this up."

It wasn't long before friends producing a Christian show on cable access television asked Gallagher to help. "That was the open door," says Gallagher, "but I didn't charge through it blindly. I've always made it a point to go to people I regard as leaders over me spiritually—people I respect, such as my pastor and others. I submit decisions like that to them ask them to pray with me about it before I ever step out and just do it on my own."

Leaning forward and placing his hand firmly on the table, Gallagher continues earnestly, "I really believe that God speaks to people who have a position of accountability in your life; people who are willing to speak the hard things to you. So, I went to a group of those people before I ever made the decision to actually pursue that open door and they all felt good about it. They believed that it was an open door from the Lord. That was a reassurance to me that this desire wasn't just me and my own flesh."

Relaxing, Gallagher breathes easily, "There's a spiritual covering that takes place when you submit your life to people that you have become accountable to. There's a reassurance that you're not going out on a limb by yourself and cutting yourself off. I definitely submitted this vision to them because I just know the importance of that kind of covering. I can pursue this with more freedom."

So began Gallagher's quest to liberate morally upright entertainment.