

MOCKINGBIRD

December 2, 2013



Jealous! In a single panel Bill Watterson captures what Mockingbird spends the bulk of its time and energy trying to convey: Christmas as the occasion of hilariously good news—the giving of a Gift that seems too good to be true, the 100% forgiveness of sins. It’s shocking enough to turn misfits like Calvin (and wannabe Wattersons like us) into grateful and delighted children. Which is exactly how we feel about the many undeserved blessings that have come our way in the seven years since this little ‘bird’ began to fly.

2013 was a labor of love from start to finish. We hosted our largest and highest profile conference and published our most substantial resource yet, *The Mockingbird Devotional*. We launched *The Mockingpulpit Podcast* and had the chance to interview a number of our heroes. Our online audience grew by more than 30%, from roughly 380,000 unique visitors in 2012 to over 500,000 in 2013. And we’ve sold more books in the past twelve months than the entire six years previous. Calvin’s “ha ha” feels like an understatement!

On the immediate horizon, we cannot wait for you to read the pilot issue of our print magazine, *The Mockingbird*, which will be available in January. The headliners at our Spring Conference are a dream come true (see back). And our publishing schedule is too jam-packed with exciting new projects to attempt to list here. It’s humbling, to say the least.

Our budget for 2014 is \$195,000. Can you help us? Mockingbird could not operate without your gifts, all of which are tax-deductible. We have enclosed a pledge card and envelope. You can also give via credit card on the Support page of our website (www.mbird.com/support).

With gratitude for acquittal from on high—and for you,

David Zahl

P.S. To read a Q&A with additional information about the How's and Why's of giving to Mockingbird, please visit www.mbird.com/support/finances-qa. Also, sign up for any amount of monthly giving on [our Support page](#), and we'll send you the Mbird publication of your choice as a thank-you. You'd be surprised how far your \$25 or \$50/month goes.

P.P.S. Hot off the presses: last week Mockingbird published *PZ's Panopticon: An Off-the-Wall Guide to World Religion*, Paul Zahl's first book in seven years (not to mention his funniest and most personal to date!). Search for it on Amazon, or on our site (www.mbird.com/publications).

OUR 2014 SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

- 2/7-8 "What Would Jesus Tweet? The Gospel in the 21st Century" weekend in Louisville, KY.
- 2/20-23 Liberate Conference in Fort Lauderdale, FL on "One Way Love". While not an official Mbird event, several of our contributors will be giving presentations. For more details visit www.liberate2014.com.
- 4/3-5 Spring Conference in New York City! Earlybird pre-registration open now at conference.mbird.com. Confirmed speakers include Francis Spufford, Jonathan Haidt, Sally Lloyd-Jones, Tim Kreider, Ashley Null, and David Zahl.
- 10/17-18 Fall Conference in Houston, TX.

For more details as they develop, visit our Events page at www.mbird.com/events.