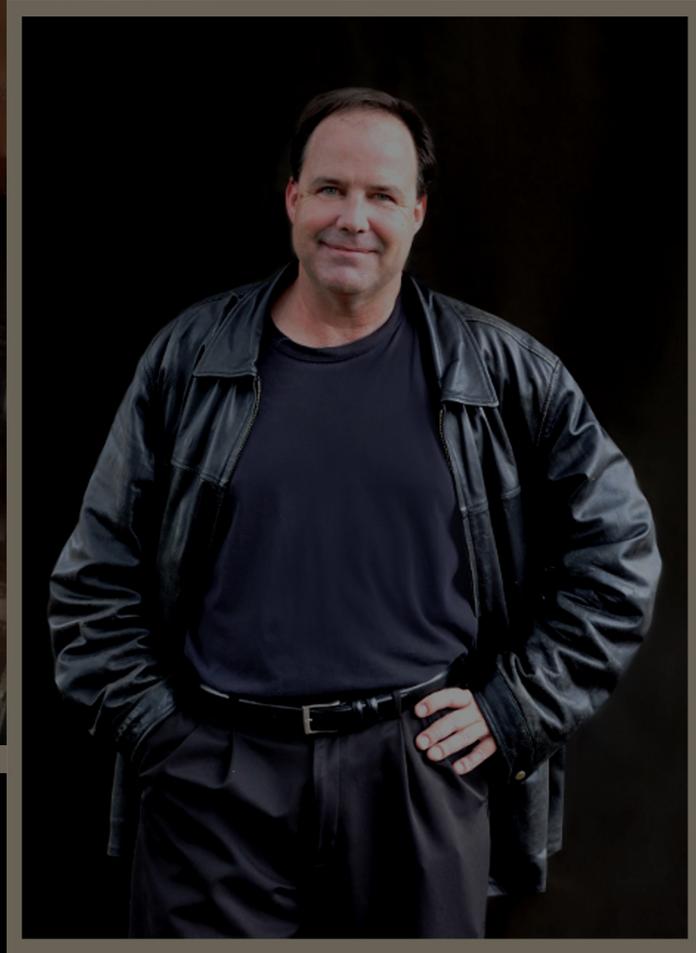


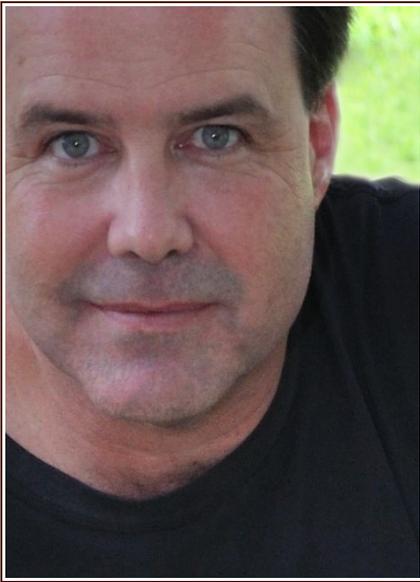
speaker and author

marc schooley

keeping a crazy world figured



media kit



meet marc schooley

MARC'S TOPICS HELP PEOPLE:

- ◆ Navigate culture and religion, morality and ethics
- ◆ Reason and respond on tough issues
- ◆ Translate essential topics into clear, entertaining and memorable terms
- ◆ Take the lead in turning conflict into respectful dialogue
- ◆ Tackle difficult areas of personal and interpersonal growth with confidence

MARC'S TOPICS INCLUDE:

A ROGUE AGENT'S RELIGION AND CULTURE

The Problem of Evil: When Your World Turns Over
Mission Impolitical: Church, State and Society
Cultural Markers: How We Sign our Times
Cleaning the Cultural Dirt off the Gospel's Face

THE EVERYMAN'S PHILOSOPHY AND THEOLOGY

Real Life, the Afterlife, and How We (Don't) Live For Them
The Problem of Evil: Modern Philosophy and You
Evil Exists, Therefore God Exists: The Divine Nature
Philosophy, Theology, and Other Pies in the Sky
God's Little Robots vs. the Unbridled Anarchists: Examining Divine Sovereignty and Free Will

LOW-CONFLICT LEADERSHIP

Being Heard Without Raising Your Voice in a Shouting World
Why You Should Be What You Say and Say What You Are
Success Without Cheating, Honesty Without Failure
The Low-Conflict Leadership Lifestyle

MARC OFFERS:

Speaking
 Debate participation
 Guest presentations for churches
 Teaching presentations

MARC'S AUDIENCES:

Theological conferences/seminars
 Christian study groups
 Church services
 Men's groups
 Business/professional groups
 Leadership training
 College and undergraduate groups
 Young adult education
 Debate presentations

All content is tailored to your audience. Custom presentations within Marc's key specialties may also be requested.

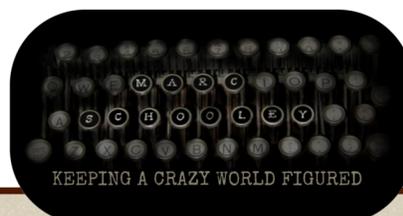
Typical keynote presentation length is 45-60 minutes. Teaching presentation lengths and their included content are customized to fit your group.

CONTACT INFO

✉ marcschooley@marcschooley.com

☎ 281-461-5243

Info about Marc's books is available at:
MarcSchooley.com/books.php



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 The Premier Publisher of Christian Speculative Fiction
MarcherLordPress.com

the world's not scary (just a little crazy)

"As a student at the University of Texas, I walked every day beneath huge letters cut into the rock façade at the base of the tower at the center of campus. They read:

"Ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.

"I thought the words were Plato's, or someone's..."

WHEN THE WORLD TURNS OVER

A child of the 1960s and 1970s, Marc Schooley grew up in a time when everything once thought true and good was questioned . . . challenged . . . overturned.

In his undergraduate years, Marc latched on to philosophy, logic and critical thinking as tools for determining what could and couldn't be true in a world where "God says so" was neither comfort nor help.

WHERE BIG IDEAS MEET THE PAVEMENT

From there, Marc became an experienced hand in both the public and private business sectors. His career encompasses the responsibilities and gritty realities of business ownership and the aerospace industry.

Nominated for top awards in Christian fiction, Marc's supernatural thrillers plunge the lofty ideals of religion, society and history into the dog-eat-dog struggles of relatable men and women. And in story as in life, figuring out how to live with those ideals often adds to the chaos.

Has that ever happened to you?

WELL-CONSIDERED HONESTY WINS

Versed in the language of philosophers and theologians, used-car salesmen and down-home folks, Marc provides people with widely useful tools for clear thinking and better living in relation to the world's toughest issues.

Marc presents on interrelated topics in three umbrella categories:

- ◆ A Rogue Agent's Map of American Religion and Culture
- ◆ The Everyman's Guide to Saving Yourself from Big Ideas with Bad Endings
- ◆ Low-Conflict Leadership: Real-People Solutions for Effective Relations

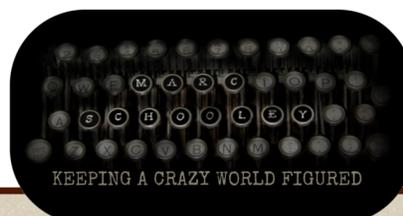
Read on for details about Marc's presentations and how he works to build your thinking, actions and interactions into a unified set of life skills.

Why would a good God allow evil?

Why does it matter if what we believe matches what we do?

How can we be sure of real, solid truth when everyone sees the world a different way?

Why do the big ideas that are meant to save society so often go wrong, and how can we do better?



a rogue agent's map of american religion and culture

WHEN YOUR WORLD TURNS OVER

Why would a good God allow evil?

One of every two Christian couples is predicted to divorce. Four out of five Christian young people may lose their faith in the college years. And, as if to reinforce these broken dreams and lost ideals, the public sphere is swamped with conflict over America's future. Is this where religion gets us?

Whether on a large scale of devastation and atrocity, or in response to the minor nuisances which invade lives sheltered by comfort, people wrestle with the existence of evil all the time. Humanity's most-asked question may be: *God, why?* And alongside it, *if so, then what good is God as an answer?*

With medicinal doses of compassion, common sense and honesty, Marc tackles the problem of evil and presents a compelling case for the value of belief in God.

Adaptable for: general audiences, church programs, academic/teaching presentations, formal debate

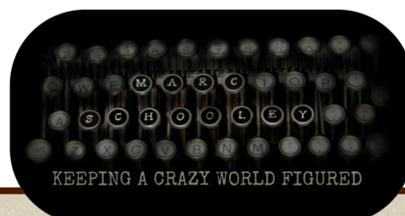
CULTURAL MARKERS: HOW WE SIGN OUR TIMES

How did America go from Patsy Cline to Lady Gaga? From Lucille Ball to Roseanne?

Often, this question is answered in political terms more suited to a cultural war over moral and ethical codes. But the problem of societal decay transcends contemporary assumptions. Whether the Greeks, the Romans, or modern America, cultures throughout time and worldwide have encountered it: there's a worm in the apple and a virus in the host.

In this refreshingly non-political presentation, Marc applies his experience as a son of two worlds—the secular and religious. You'll learn how to avoid being tossed about the passing winds of today's zeitgeist, and look at current events and cultural engagement from a broader perspective.

Adaptable for: general audiences, Christian outreach, academic/teaching presentations, leadership



a rogue agent's map of american religion and culture

MISSION IMPOLITICAL: CHURCH, STATE AND SOCIETY

Reclaim the real role of faith in a perpendicular world

In America today, secular politics and evangelical Christianity are entangled in a mutual chokehold. Both are suffocating each other, and whoever doesn't pass out first, wins. This dead-end dynamic is driving a cultural revolution.

With big ideas meeting the pavement all over the place, is moral war the highest aim of Christianity? If the church releases its stranglehold on politics, will the oft-prophesied doomsday of America be at her door—or is it another false prediction?

In this thought-provoking presentation, Marc examines the historical biblical mandate and applies it to contemporary engagement with a society in cultural decay. You'll learn why both sides of the political aisle are the wrong place for the church to take a seat...and the practical benefits of focusing on the unaccessorized truths of the Great Commission.

Adaptable for: general audiences, church programs, teaching/academic presentations, leadership, formal debate

CLEANING THE CULTURAL DIRT OFF THE GOSPEL'S FACE

Feeling weary of religion? Try grace.

We all harbor an island of self-righteousness within ourselves, and getting stuck on that island results in a natural resentment of the ocean depths of grace. One storm from those waters could wash away all the fragile makeshifts we build for ourselves.

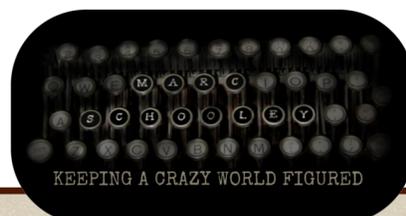
Why is authentic grace so hard to lay hold of? In this presentation, Marc gives some straight talk about why people get uncomfortable around the gospel . . . and why they *should* feel that way. After all, the truth scours away at the dirt and mess of human relations, right down to the bedrock on which our real beliefs are founded. And it can be discomfiting to face the cold, hard truth about life, faith and self.

When authentic grace ebbs from the picture, religion is reduced to a cultural phenomenon. Standards slowly shift. Your faith can become based on externals like how you talk, your politics, how you participate in church or engage the surrounding culture.

Learn how to recognize and reach for the true traits of grace—that divine essence that removes our self-righteousness from the balance of personal goodness. In the process, you'll encounter real belonging with God: the kind that goes above all culture and religion.

Get off the island and into the clear, refreshing depths of grace.

Adaptable for: church programs, teaching presentations, leadership



the everyman's guide to
saving yourself from **big ideas** with **bad** endings

PHILOSOPHY, THEOLOGY, AND OTHER PIES IN THE SKY

How ideas shape the culture that shapes you

Philosophy enters culture and belief in many forms: some good, some bad. Either way, they affect you. How do you save yourself from big ideas with bad endings?

In everyday language, Marc gives an overview of the main areas of philosophy, how non-philosophers acquire those ideas, and their relation to Christianity. You'll learn often-unrecognized factors in our responses to culture, and how to build thoughtful responses into thinking leadership as you engage your world.

Adaptable for: general audiences, church/Christian outreach programs, teaching/academic presentations, leadership

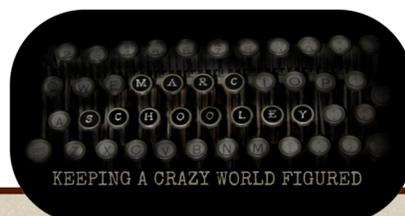
REAL LIFE, THE AFTERLIFE, AND HOW WE (DON'T) LIVE FOR THEM

An honest look at atheism, naturalism and Christian theism

What you see is not what you get. Well, some of it. As we navigate everyday life, there's a crucial difference between our grounding in the here-and-now, and a greater reality that transcends this immediate moment. Our view of reality can mean the difference between hope and despair, anguish and peace.

In easy-to-understand terms, Marc presents a philosopher's view of the world and the two major western ways to understand it, those being naturalism and Christian theism. You'll learn about the relationship between naturalism and atheism ("why it matters what we think about matter"), the nature of naturalism, and logical reasoning surrounding questions of the afterlife.

Adaptable for: general audiences, debate, teaching/academic presentations, church/Christian outreach programs



THE PROBLEM OF EVIL: MODERN PHILOSOPHY AND YOU

When ideas about good and evil affect your life

Have you ever been told, “That happened to you because...”? Did the wisdom offered help, or hurt?

Whether on a large scale of devastation and atrocity, or in response to the minor nuisances which invade lives sheltered by comfort, people wrestle with the existence of evil all the time. Humanity's most-asked question may be: God, why? And alongside it, if so, then what good is God as an answer?

These are core questions of philosophy, involving thinking that greets us on the street in its final forms. Over time, plenty of ideas have filtered into our society to explain why bad things happen—but do those explanations make life more sensible and meaningful, or more confusing? In this presentation, Marc summarizes current trends in philosophy of religion, and what they mean for non-philosophers.

Adaptable for: general audiences, debate, teaching/academic presentations

EVIL EXISTS, THEREFORE GOD EXISTS: THE DIVINE NATURE

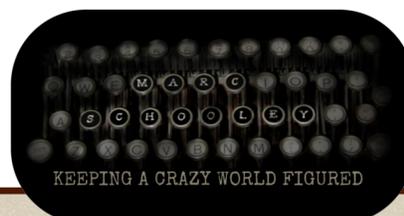
When ideas about God affect your life

Have you ever been told, “God allowed that to happen because...”? Did the wisdom offered help, or hurt?

People struggle to connect ideas of God to daily life. In the process, wild pronouncements are sometimes made about God's will for the world, a nation's future, or your personal life—regardless of whether you believe in God. If there is a higher, better world in eternity, can we perceive God accurately in this broken world? Or do our limited perceptions render our ideas of God and eternity so flawed as to be completely unreliable? Is objective truth a thing that anyone can grasp?

Marc takes a critical look into common ideas about God's interaction in the affairs of men, and explains how we can reason from the world around us to the greater realities of eternity—including a personal, involved God who loves and intervenes in the midst of evil. You'll learn how to sift common conceptions and misconceptions about God, good and evil, and how to answer the advice and opinions we all encounter in daily life.

Adaptable for: general audiences, debate, teaching/academic presentations, church/Christian outreach programs, leadership



GOD'S LITTLE ROBOTS VERSUS THE UNBRIDLED ANARCHISTS

Examining determinism, divine sovereignty and free will

The question of whether there's a God in charge of things, and to what degree, is a great source of hate and disagreement. It has many angles which offend people's sense of good and evil. It affects how Christians relate to each other, and it affects how the rest of the world relates to Christians. But much can be cured by a balanced view of the issues involved.

Fatalism (the idea that we are powerless to do anything except follow a blind and inexorable progression of events) isn't actually a flaw arising from Christian theology. Yet it can find its way into the mix. Whether we appeal to the combined forces of biology and sociology, or to divine oversight, it's possible to deny the full nature of our own humanity.

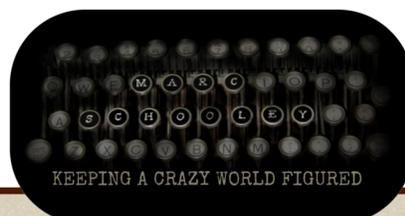
At the same time, an excessive reliance on free will can deny the grounding of daily life in reality. Do our choices arise from nothing but choice itself? Do we each bear the full weight of our entire destiny without hope of appeal to life's limitations and events? Are we self-made and self-destroyed, or is there more to the picture?

In this key presentation, Marc cuts through common misunderstandings that harm our spiritual and psychological health and damage our relationships with others. Learn to navigate this very important question without falling into a distorted view of God, life and your own humanity.

In this highly flexible topic area, Marc offers several possible emphases, including:

- An overview of and response to common misconceptions about Christian views on this issue
- Daily life applications of choice, faith and reason
- A general guide to determinism and personal responsibility
- Calvinism and Arminianism: a balanced survey from both sides of the aisle

Adaptable for: general audiences, debate, teaching/academic presentations, church/Christian outreach programs, leadership



low-conflict leadership

real-people solutions for effective relations

THE LOW-CONFLICT LEADERSHIP LIFESTYLE

All relationships in life are trying at times. Sometimes people don't know what to do except to keep doing the same thing over and over, with worse and worse effects. Especially when it's their natural inclination.

Personality conflicts can establish roots like a weed, growing into further conflict. But it doesn't have to be that way. In this presentation, Marc shares principles for proactive engagement, and teaches you to relate effectively to any personality type in simple, concise steps. You can take the initiative to create healthy dialogue and partnerships with others.

Adaptable for: general audiences, leadership, church/Christian outreach programs

BEING HEARD WITHOUT RAISING YOUR VOICE IN A SHOUTING WORLD

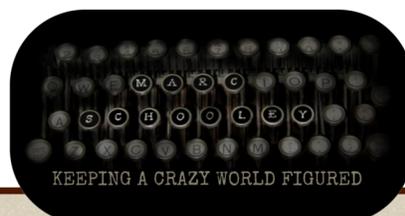
The last time I checked, you weren't Jesus!

When differences arise, taking the lead for constructive resolution can be tricky. But somebody has to do it. Handling tough situations in a calm, knowledgeable manner is a way of showing grace to those around us. Drawing from his extensive experience within the aerospace industry, as an entrepreneur, and as a church leader, Marc shares principles for the art of successful and productive dialogue. You'll learn:

- How to operate from reason rather than emotion
- How to account for the "other side of the story" without getting pushed around
- How to show and earn respect while maintaining your personal boundaries

Join Marc as he walks you through key skills in graciously standing up for yourself and those for whom you're responsible. A valuable presentation for everyone from parents to volunteer leaders to ministry teams and business professionals.

Adaptable for: general audiences, leadership, church/Christian outreach programs



WHY YOU SHOULD BE WHAT YOU SAY, AND SAY WHAT YOU ARE

Is there a foundation for the way I am and what I do?

If life is random, why should kindness matter? If there is no ultimate truth or beauty, why doesn't all music sound the same? Nobody wants to walk around being a fool. Yet the world seems to revolve around a kind of internal incoherence where beliefs, critical thinking, and actions never quite connect.

How do we get off that merry-go-round? In this presentation, Marc shows how to walk a straight line between the three touchpoints of critical thought, belief, and action. You'll learn:

- How to know you've lived out what you've committed to believe
- How to avoid the extremes of "I have to do everything right" and "nothing I do matters"
- The best point of contact for winning the ear of a person with different views
- How to effectively answer the question, "Should what I do match what I believe, and what does it matter if it doesn't?"

Adaptable for: general audiences, debate, teaching/academic presentations, church/Christian outreach programs, leadership

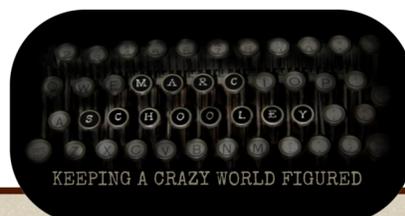
SUCCESS WITHOUT CHEATING, HONESTY WITHOUT FAILURE

Living ethically and successfully

Dishonest scales make for more weight than you can bear. But does a clear conscience mean failure in a world where ends justify all kinds of means? Sometimes honesty gets you rejected. Sometimes the truth gets used against you. Sometimes it looks better to take the easy way out...but is it success if your ethics get reshaped by your circumstances?

Drawing from his experiences with ethical success in such challenging fields as automotive sales management and aerospace contracting, Marc shares practical advice on how to get ahead in a cutthroat world. Honestly.

Adaptable for: general audiences, leadership, church/Christian outreach programs, teaching presentations



integrated presentations for conferences and seminars

Marc's presentations can be grouped to provide a multifaceted perspective, and tailored to emphasize the focus that's best suited to your event. Following are suggested topical clusters for when you need multiple presentations. Alternately, please feel free to request any grouping of topics for customization to your event.

CULTURE FOCUS

Ethics/morality/culture topic: *Cultural Markers: How we Sign our Times*
Theology/philosophy topic: *Philosophy, Theology and Other Pies in the Sky*
Leadership topic: *The Low-Conflict Leadership Lifestyle*

ETHICS FOCUS

Ethics/morality/culture topic: *Cultural Markers: How we Sign our Times*
Theology/philosophy topic: *The Problem of Evil: When the World Turns Over*
Leadership topic: *Success Without Cheating, Honesty Without Failure*

POLITICAL PHILOSOPHY FOCUS

Ethics/morality/culture topic: *Mission Impolitical: Church, State and Society*
Theology/philosophy topic: *Real Life, the Afterlife, and How We (Don't) Live For Them*
Leadership topic: *Being Heard Without Raising Your Voice in a Shouting World*

PHILOSOPHY OF RELIGION FOCUS

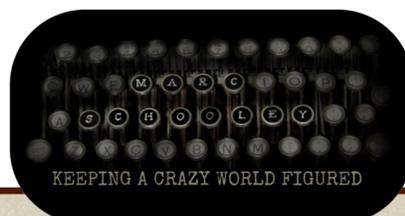
Ethics/morality/culture topic: *The Problem of Evil: When the World Turns Over*
Theology/philosophy topic: *The Problem of Evil: Modern Philosophy and You*
Leadership topic: *Why You Should Be What You Say, and Say What You Are*

THEOLOGY FOCUS

Ethics/morality/culture topic: *Cleaning Cultural Dirt off the Gospel's Face*
Theology/philosophy topic: *God's Little Robots vs. The Unbridled Anarchists: Divine Sovereignty and Free Will*
Leadership topic: *Why You Should Be What You Say, and Say What You Are*

LEADERSHIP FOCUS

Ethics/morality/culture topic: *Success Without Cheating, Honesty Without Failure*
Theology/philosophy topic: *Philosophy, Theology and Other Pies in the Sky*
Leadership topic: *The Low-Conflict Leadership Lifestyle*



how marc's work touches others

“Marc doesn’t shy away from speaking about difficult issues. At the same time, he makes sure to explain his topics in ordinary terms. He's confident and at ease—he connects with the audience and draws them into his subject matter.” (David J. Dyck, Chairman, Westman Bible Conference)

“Schooley engages our hearts with some relational moments, and our minds with some sly, often humorous, jabs about politics and faith.” (Eric Wilson, NYT bestselling author)

“Marc is the coordinator of our outreach ministry. He is a trusted associate pastor, teacher, and friend to his congregation...without the slightest hesitation, I highly recommend Marc as a teacher and preacher.” (Pastor Shelby Samuels, Concord Baptist Church, League City, TX)

“...this novel has affected my thinking greatly since I first read it, giving me a new metaphor to examine my own life.” (GoodReads reviewer)

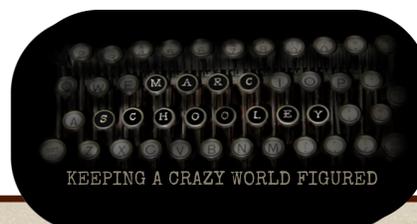
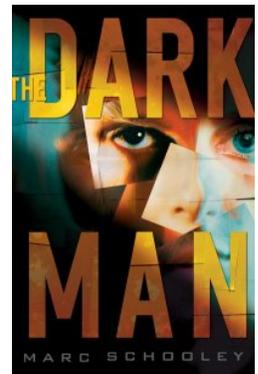
“Marc is not only a Bible teacher, he is a student of philosophy and it shows in his writing. Not only is it Biblically solid, it's philosophically rich. He doesn't paint a one-dimensional god but shows an awesome God as testified in Scripture...5 stars = life changing.” (Steve Taylor, book reviewer)

“Enter into the mind of an 'innocent' Nazi, a man who is 'just following orders.' Follow him into the worst of the torture and death camps, a place literally alive with evil. Is he responsible for the deaths he assists? Is he being kind by making the fires hotter so the sentenced will die more quickly?...Schooley takes us on a frightening journey into the identification of evil, the rationalization of sin, and what it means to be truly awake...Do we see the world as it truly is, or are we daydreaming through reality? How can we know?” (Amazon.com reviewer)

“*König's Fire* is a work of art. From start to finish it is compelling, moving and utterly fantastic...I'm amazed by how well the 'big themes' were blended into a narrative that is essentially all action.” (Kerry Nietz, author)

“*König's Fire* has much in common with its protagonist: it is intelligent, literate, and willing to examine the reality of human sin with open eyes.” (Rachel Starr Thomson, author, book reviewer and blogger)

In 2011, König's Fire was nominated for the Christy Award and the Carol Award, the two top awards in Christian fiction.



a word from marc

DREAMING IS SEEING THE WORLD AS IT IS NOT

In the past, I expended tons of time and effort, if such things can be weighed, in a dreamlike state. As a student at the University of Texas, I walked every day beneath huge letters cut into the rock facade at the base of the tower which stood at the center of campus. It read: *Ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.*

I thought the words were Plato's, or someone's...

Years later, when I became a Christian, I picked up a Bible and searched it intently for the first time. I chose a passage at random. I don't need to tell you which was the most amazing verse I read.

Awaken, O sleeper, indeed.

There are a lot of ways to keep the world figured. The Problem of Evil, in all its forms, provides a catalyst that drives my communications and creative work. In some sense, this catalyst must be present for all storytelling—or at least virtually all good storytelling—as story requires conflict. Otherwise, it would be more like:

"What's up?" he asked.
"Nothing," she said.
The End.

And that would be no reflection on real life.

The days of this world are evil—it's all over the evening news. But they are also full of hope. See, I'm the guy who always does things “wrong.” I never have quite believed what I'm constantly told by the world about all these different things. Yet, against all odds, I find myself among a minority of people living happy, fulfilled, and unafraid to cross the chilly Jordan.

That's probably why I've found that the commonsense sides of theology, philosophy and seeking integrity work so well for dealing with life. Here—where the hereafter comes into view—is the real stuff.

The world's not scary, it's just a little crazy. So, let's keep it figured. I'd love to share more with you and your group, and I hope to hear from you soon.

