

Snapshots of Heaven starts a new career for Michael Wells

By Peter Kerr

Michael Wells and his partner started an apparel company and enjoyed success; even though they had no experience and learned from their own mistakes. Michael was typical of many successful people – hard driving, long hours of work, and seven day work weeks. He provided a comfortable lifestyle for his family. However, about five years ago, it all came to a screeching halt. Michael and his partner lost the business – they were bankrupt.

“For the first time in my life I hit rock bottom. I felt as though I had nothing left – I was spent. I had nowhere to go, and spent the first few months in Starbucks.” Michael and I were in conversation in his office, and he is so excited about his new career that he’s nearly bouncing off the walls. However, he’s been through some very difficult times, and this makes the current upturn even sweeter. He’s had the support of people who believed in him, his abilities, and he’s worked hard to live up to the encouragement he’s received.

“My wife and kids saved me.” Michael continues. “They never changed who they were and how they related to me. Whatever strength I had came because I could take it from them.” Finally, Michael was given an opportunity work. “Marvin and John German recognized my ability and hired me in a sales capacity for their company, JCORP. I had never



Michael Wells, author of *Snapshots of Heaven*

The author's children, Jeremy and Jenna have provided a wealth of poignant moments for his best selling book

worked for someone – and this was a new experience for me. I was grateful for the work – I needed the discipline of work and let’s be honest here – I needed an income.” Michael stops and looks across the room at me. “At the end of my first day – my kids came running up to me asking, ‘How was your day Daddy?’ All my worries about status and prestige just melted away.”

“My kids were my parachute. Over the next 3 – 4 years I wrote 40 short stories about everyday occurrences with my kids, and how they helped me to grow as a person. I got involved in their lives.”

“The name for the book came long before I even knew I would write a book. We are on the beach during a family vacation in California. The kids were playing, and I turned to my wife Laure and said ‘This is like a snapshot of Heaven’. I stayed with me, and when I was writing all those short stories, I knew the title would be Snapshots of Heaven.”

“I didn’t know anything about publishing a book – but I do know how to make a business go. I asked a lot of questions and drove a lot of people crazy! Our first order was for 2500 books. Now, we have distribution through Chapters in Canada, Barnes and Noble in the U.S., a company in Chicago that sells to over 1000 libraries, and we’re negotiating with a company that supplies 6000 Christian book stores in the United States. Plus of course – we have our own web site.”

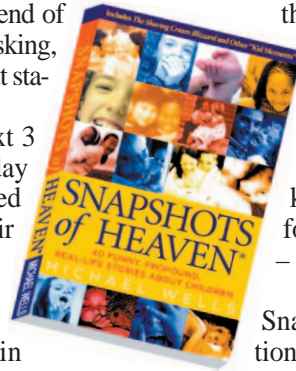
The day I was visiting with Michael, he was finalizing arrangements to appear twice during one day on The Shopping Network in Florida. Each appearance would provide exposure for Michael and *Snapshots of Heaven* to over a million viewers. Radio shows are being scheduled,

including Montreal’s CJAD on April 26. A 20 city tour of radio stations is scheduled. “Snapshots of Heaven is uplifting – they’re good news stories that have come from the funny and profound real-life stories we receive from our children. It may not be as sizzling as a Las Vegas show. That’s Fools’ Gold – our children give us the really golden moments of our lives.” Michael’s enthusiasm is contagious as he continues; “Your kids are only going to be 10 once. Same thing for grandchildren. There are no re-runs in life – if you miss these moments – they’re gone!”

Michael Wells will be signing copies of *Snapshots of Heaven* at two Montreal-area locations. On Sunday, April 29th he’ll be at Chapters West Island on boul. St-Jean from 2 – 4 pm., and a week later on May 6th downtown at Indigo in Place Montreal Trust from 2 – 4 pm. Michael is teaming up with Sun Youth with a corporate fundraiser. Corporations are being encouraged to buy in quantities of 25, 50 or 100 books at \$15 each. \$5 from each book will go directly to Sun Youth, and the money will be used to help sponsor kids to attend the Sun Youth Summer Camp.

Today, the future is very bright for Michael Wells, in part because he took the time to slow down and appreciate his family, and the gifts that his wife and children provided. In a way, his financial misfortune turned out to be his own *Snapshot of Heaven*. Michael has plans for a second volume, an edition about dogs and another dedicated to stories about grandparents.

For more information about Michael Wells and his book, please visit the website: www.snapshotsofheaven.com



Best wishes for continued success!

Peter Kerr, Publisher of The Montrealer

THE Montrealer ©