

PRACTICAL SOLUTIONS

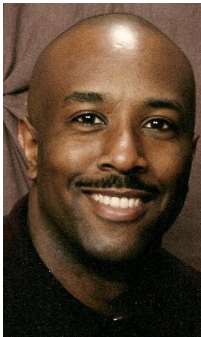
Promoting Functional Families through Words and Deeds

For Immediate Release

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Children's Book Author/Illustrator
Jeffery A. Faulkerson, MSSW



PRACTICAL SOLUTIONS Announces ***“IT’S GOOD TO BE GOLDEN”*** Reading Tour

Wake Forest, NC March 7, 2008 – Are you a school teacher or childcare professional who’s always seeking new ways to enrich the lives of your children?

If so, you need to give children’s book author/illustrator Jeffery A. Faulkerson, MSSW a call at (919) 604-4585, or reach out to him electronically at Jfaulk28@nc.rr.com, and ask for more details about booking an **IT’S GOOD TO BE GOLDEN Reading Tour** event.

ABOUT THE *IT’S GOOD TO BE GOLDEN* READING TOUR

The **IT’S GOOD TO BE GOLDEN Reading Tour** was created to promote literacy among elementary-aged children by giving them African-American characters (i.e., the Golden family) that they can identify with. During each hour and a half-long event, participants receive a private reading by Mr. Faulkerson from one or more of his **IT’S GOOD TO BE GOLDEN** books. Participants will also receive:

- Thought-provoking discussions about the selected book’s content;
- Guided instruction on writing and illustrating their own children’s books; and
- Autographed copies of purchased/gifted **IT’S GOOD TO BE GOLDEN** books.

Stories included in the **IT'S GOOD TO BE GOLDEN Children's Book Series** include:

The Stranger in the Shadows (view cover and description at www.publishamerica.com, Author keyword search: Faulkerson): encourages young children to be wary of strangers even when these same strangers display selfless acts of kindness. The story opens with the Golden family – parents Raymond, Sr. and Millicent, and sons Freddie and Ray-Ray – traveling from Michigan to their new home in Tennessee. When the family stops at a rest area for a picnic lunch, Freddie and Ray-Ray encounter “The Stranger in the Shadows”. Ray-Ray winds up missing, and Freddie assumes that his little brother has been snatched up by “The Stranger”. Freddie must find Ray-Ray to show his parents that he can be responsible for someone other than himself.

The Story of Henry the Heart (view preview and excerpt at www.lulu.com, Author keyword search: Faulkerson): chronicles four-year-old Ray-Ray Golden's quest to listen to your Henry.” Henry the Heart is the guardian angel residing on the left side of Ray-Ray's chest that encourages Ray-Ray to do right when he wants to do wrong. But when Ray-Ray makes some unkind remarks to his classmate Rachel, his willingness to do what's right is put to the test. A must-read for elementary-aged children who are trying to be less selfish and more selfless.

Golden Innovations (view preview ad excerpt at www.lulu.com, Author keyword search: Faulkerson): chronicles Dr. Raymond Golden, Sr.'s quest to decrease humanity's dependence on fossil fuels. Told by his oldest son Freddie, it is a tale that speaks to the importance of fathers being heroes in their children's lives, and how their heroic exploits have the power to change the course of human history.

HOW THE SERIES WAS CONCEIVED

In 2007, Jeffery A. Faulkerson, MSSW penned and illustrated his first children's picture book about a successful African-American family for his then-three-year-old son Caleb. The title of that book was **IT'S GOOD TO BE GOLDEN: The Stranger in the Shadows**. Since then, he has gone on to write and illustrate two more books in the series, *The Story of Henry the Heart* and *Golden Innovations*.

The **GOLDEN** books grew out of Mr. Faulkerson's desire to introduce children of all racial/ethnic groups to African-American characters who are taking full advantage of righteous opportunities. The stories are written for children between the ages of five and 10, and are designed to introduce concepts that are critical to helping children develop platforms for individual and collective success.

ABOUT JEFFERY A. FAULKERSON, MSSW

Jeffery A. Faulkerson is the Founder, President & CEO of PRACTICAL SOLUTIONS, a faith-based social research and service practice with for-profit offerings in communications/media relations and nonprofit offerings in parent education and support, postsecondary advising and planning, and conference planning, coordination and implementation. A stay-at-home parent since August 2005, he has dedicated himself to "promoting functional families through words and deeds."

Jeffery is a graduate of the University of Tennessee, Knoxville, where he earned both his undergraduate (1991) and graduate (1998) degrees in Social Work. He has over 17 years of professional experience in nonprofit administration and direct service delivery to children, youths and parents. He is the author of *Raising My V.O.I.C.E. (Verbalizing Orderly Impressions through Creative Endeavors)* (www.buybooksontheweb.com), which chronicles his quest to understand why Americans focus so much on their differences, not enough on their similarities. His column *Firm...but fair* appears bi-monthly in the online publication *Keeping Family First* (www.keepingfamilyfirst.org). In March 2008, Jeffery was the featured guest on **The Michael Baisden Show**, speaking on the topic *Do As I Say, Not As I Do: Why Parents Need to Set a Better Example*.

Jeffery has been happily married to his wife Regina for over 14 years, and serves as the proud father to four-year-old Caleb. Jeffery and his family currently reside in Wake Forest, North Carolina.

Support his organization's efforts by making a tax-deductible monetary donation to PRACTICAL SOLUTIONS Nonprofit Service Division, which is incorporated under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue code.