

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

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## **After Devastating Accident, Climber Releases Inspiring DVD**

*The Gripping Point* is a six-part teaching series on pain by Craig DeMartino, a rock climber who plummeted nearly 100 feet onto granite—and lived to tell his story

**Denver, CO** – “Nothing hurts like hitting the ground at 60 miles per hour. There’s pain, and then there’s pain that stops you cold,” says Craig DeMartino, recalling his fall on July 21, 2002, a horrific rock-climbing accident that caused Craig to fall 94 feet onto unforgiving granite—and survived without any brain damage, but eventually took his right leg.



His survival was nothing short of miraculous, but it’s come at the price of daily, chronic pain. Now, nearly six years after the fall, Craig and his wife, Cyndy, are releasing *The Gripping Point* (Group Publishing, June 2008), a six-part teaching series on DVD, sharing stories over the years since the accident and what the DeMartino’s have learned about pain and their faith in God.

Despite having his right leg amputated a year after the accident, Craig is still incredibly active, rock climbing and pursuing outdoor sports in Colorado with his wife Cyndy and their two young children, Will and Mayah. He’s a popular speaker around the country and has also won gold medals in national prosthetic athletic competitions. However, he still has a nerve disorder and fusions in his back and remaining leg, serving as constant reminders of how his life changed forever.

With strong parallels to the biblical story of Job, Craig and Cyndy’s story challenges viewers to dig deep into their own painful life experiences, emerging with a new spiritual strength and hope. “Although what Job went through was hideous and horrendous, there was an end to it,” Craig says. “Job had done everything right, but he suffered endlessly. It really wasn’t until he was in pain—mentally, physically and spiritually—that he received all this amazing stuff from God,” he says.

Divided into six, 1-hour sessions designed for small group members to experience Craig’s life, share their own stories of pain to develop a faith that endures hardship. “Pain can teach you something, if you can hear God’s voice through all the noise,” Craig says.

“God uses even bad things for His good. Nobody’s going to get through this life without bad things happening. He can use it to reshape that person, to refine their faith,” Cyndy says. While not everyone has physical accidents, everyone experiences pain, from sickness to divorce to family and career problems—the list goes on and is different for each individual.

For Craig and Cyndy, they hope their experience will help others dealing with pain and disappointment, grow in their lives and faith. “Because I have the pain, it keeps me in the present. It also helps with my empathy toward others. When you’re dealing with pain, you decide what your attitude is going to be about it. It’s your attitude that determines your own reality,” Craig says.

Craig is also Group Publishing’s photographer, which has taken him around the world, from Israel to Vietnam. He also speaks nationwide and has a website at [www.afterthefallministry.com](http://www.afterthefallministry.com). *The Gripping Point* trailer is available on [YouTube](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=...).

Visit [www.group.com/grippingpoint](http://www.group.com/grippingpoint) for a candid interview and more information.

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***The Gripping Point Contents:***

- SESSION 1: If God Loves Us, Why Doesn't He Protect Us?
- SESSION 2: Asking the Right Question
- SESSION 3: You're Not Alone
- SESSION 4: The Benefits of Pain
- SESSION 5: Attitude Determines Reality
- SESSION 6: Can You Trust God Again?
- BONUS FEATURE: After the Fall

***About The Gripping Point:***

*The Gripping Point: DVD Bible Study on Pain* by Craig DeMartino. Published by Group Publishing. DVD. June 2, 2008. \$24.99. ISBN: 646847120480.

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## About Craig DeMartino

Rock climber Craig DeMartino was doing what he loved best as he scaled the heights of the Sundance Buttress in Rocky Mountain National Park on July 21st, 2002. Little did he know that the harrowing “Whiteman” could’ve been his last climb. After a tragic instant of miscommunication, Craig tumbled off the rocky cliff and plummeted nine stories to an almost certain death. Freefalling at over 100 miles per hour, he crashed onto the mountain floor—feet first. With a broken back and shattered ankles, Craig remained unconscious as the doctors advised the family he had less than an hour to live.

But God had a different plan for Craig. Through a series of miraculous events, Craig survived his 100-foot fall to discover a renewed relationship with Jesus and to testify of God’s wondrous power in his life. However, after a year and a half of surgeries, Craig and his wife, Cyndy, were forced to make the heart-wrenching decision to amputate his right leg below the knee and replace it with a prosthetic device. His close encounter with death and his firsthand confrontation with God’s divine intervention have set Craig on a new path. With a fresh perspective, Craig now spends his energy encouraging others to center their lives around the only One who truly matters.

Craig’s incredible recovery documented in a video, “After the Fall: A Climber’s True Story of Facing Death and Relying on God,” has touched and changed the lives of thousands. National audiences have also been inspired by hearing Craig’s dramatic story featured on Discovery Channel’s *Vital Scan* series, which won a Gold Telly Award.

Craig graduated from Kutztown University with a Bachelor of Fine Arts degree in Communications Design and a minor in Photography. He has pursued his passion for photography while working as a commercial photo studio assistant and as a photojournalist for the Gannett news service and the Associated Press. Craig has also successfully owned and operated a private photography studio. Since 1994 Craig has journeyed throughout America, Europe, Vietnam, and Israel as the photographer for Group Publishing in Loveland, Colorado. Though he continues to shoot pictures for Group Publishing, Craig now also travels throughout the country sharing his story with others, transmitting the powerful message God preserved his life to deliver.

## Cyndy DeMartino

Her passion for the outdoors has led Cyndy DeMartino on the ride of her life! Growing up with somewhat eclectic parents in a “barn” in Pennsylvania, Cyndy fell in love with nature and sports, including running, skiing and rock climbing. After graduating from high school, she moved to Crested Butte, Colorado, for a year to enjoy the slopes and to ski to her heart’s desire. A year later, she got back to business and began studying at Colorado State University where she obtained a degree in Wildlife Biology.

While home visiting her family for Christmas, Cyndy met her future husband, Craig DeMartino, while climbing at the Philadelphia Rock Gym. She was surprised to discover that he was planning to move to her college home of Fort Collins, Colorado, the very next week! After exchanging phone numbers, they began rock climbing as friends—which eventually led to romance, marriage and a family. After their two children were born, Cyndy and Craig shifted their lives from that of two outdoor climbing nuts to two outdoor climbing nuts with kids. But on July 21, 2002, everything changed when Craig suffered a tragic 100-foot fall which almost took his life. Miraculously he survived, but the doctors were forced to amputate his right leg below the knee.

Now Cyndy and her husband travel throughout the country sharing the spiritual lessons they have learned from Craig’s fall and amazing recovery. Her favorite job is being a stay-at-home mom of their daughter Mayah and their son Will.

**For an interview with Craig and Cyndy DeMartino, contact Ben Laurro at Pure Publicity at 818.753.4056 or [Ben@purepublicity.com](mailto:Ben@purepublicity.com)**

## **Suggested Interview Questions**

For Craig DeMartino, featured speaker in *The Gripping Point*

1. *The Gripping Point* is a DVD based on your horrific rock climbing accident in 2002. Could you briefly tell us what happened that day?
2. It's been nearly six years since the accident. Do you live in constant pain every day?
3. You and your wife experienced an outpouring of support following the accident. What was it like to be on the receiving end of such support? Was it always helpful?
4. Listening is important when dealing with people in pain. How can we overstep our boundaries by offering solutions to people's problems instead of simply listening?
5. You have a wife, Cyndy, and two young children. How has this accident affected your family? Do we ever suffer alone?
6. Your story has much in common with Job in the Bible. What insight into Job have you gained from your life journey?
7. Do you think God uses pain to get our attention? Why or why not?
8. How has pain helped you depend on God?
9. What's the worst question to ask when you're in pain?
10. What do you mean by "attitude determines reality"?
11. Is it true that life is "10 percent what happens to you and 90 percent how you react to it?"
12. What are some of the benefits to pain?
13. How can people begin to trust God again after going through extreme pain?
14. How do you hope sharing your story impact others who are suffering?
15. What's next for you and your family?

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