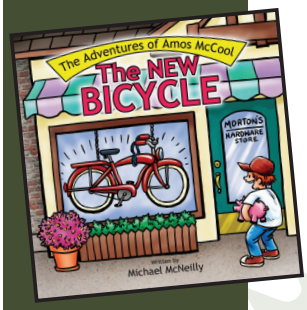
Michael McNeilly

Author Bio

Michael McNeilly is the director of content development at Crown Financial Ministries, an international nonprofit ministry that teaches biblical financial principles.

A resident of Gainesville, GA for more than 35 years, Michael and his wife, Amy, have two daughters. Their 10-year-old was diagnosed with Cystic Fibrosis at age 3, and in the ensuing years, the family has learned to live each day God gives them with purpose. They are active in CF fundraising and parent support groups.

The author of *Guide to College Majors and Career Choices* and contributing writer to the new film learning experience, *God Provides* (both from Crown Financial Ministries), Michael is involved in financial coaching ministry in his church and community. He enjoys cycling, running, triathlons, hiking, camping, and remote control airplanes. Visit Michael at www.amosmccool.com, or his blog at www.michaelmcneilly.authorweblog.com/.



Book Recap

Amos McCool doesn't own a bicycle, but he desperately wants the bright red bike hanging in the hardware store window. As he works to earn money for his dream bicycle, Amos learns important lessons about being responsible. Faced with an unexpected choice to give his new bike to someone less fortunate, Amos discovers the joy of showing generosity.

Interview Questions:

1. Your book's main character, Amos McCool, originated in your own family over 30 years ago. Tell us about how Amos was created.
2. What makes Amos McCool so cool?
3. In *The New Bicycle*, Amos uses an Idea List to brainstorm ways to earn money so he can buy a bike for himself. What is an Idea List and how can kids use it?
4. How can the *Adventures of Amos McCool* serve as conversation starters for parents to discuss important issues with their children?
5. What tips can you share to help parents creatively instill values into their children?
6. One of your daughters has a serious illness. How has her illness impacted your family?
7. How has your 15 years of employment at Crown Financial Ministries influenced the creation of the Amos McCool series?
8. Are more *Amos McCool* books in the works?

For more info, or to schedule an interview please contact: Abigail Davidson | 360.802.9758
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News

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The Adventures of Amos McCool: It's Cool to be Kind

Enumclaw, WA — Michael McNeilly, director of content development at Crown Financial Ministries, regularly counsels families who have a "quest for success" mentality; they assume happiness is dependent on accumulating more things and on giving loads of stuff to their kids.

In his children's book, *The New Bicycle* (the first in *The Adventures of Amos McCool* series), McNeilly turns the tables on the "quest for success" mentality. He helps young readers gain an appreciation for the joy of hard work, the wisdom of sacrificial saving, and the importance of delayed gratification.

In the book, McNeilly's young hero, Amos McCool, yearns for the bright red bike that hangs in the local hardware store's window. Amos decides to work all summer to earn money for his dream bicycle. As he washes cars, paints mailboxes, and mows lawns, Amos learns that it feels good to work and save for what he so badly wants.

When he is presented with an unexpected opportunity to help a friend in need, Amos must make a difficult decision: should he keep the new bike he has worked so hard for, or give it away?

"Work can be fun, especially when you're using your God-given skills and abilities," says McNeilly. "God will put people in your life who need love, care, and compassion. He may ask you to sacrifice and give to those less fortunate. I want kids to see that it is cool to be themselves, do the right thing, and treat others with love and respect."

Howard Dayton, co-founder of Crown Financial Ministries, adds, "Through the eyes of Amos McCool, kids will be inspired to dream, get off the couch, use their imaginations, and be 'different' for God. They will see that it is cool to be kind to others and to work hard for what they want in life."

For more information, to request a review copy or to schedule an interview, please contact Abigail Davidson by phone at 360-802-9758, by email at abigail@winepressgroup.com , or by fax at 360-802-9992. To purchase a copy of this book visit www.winepressbooks.com or call 877-421-7323.