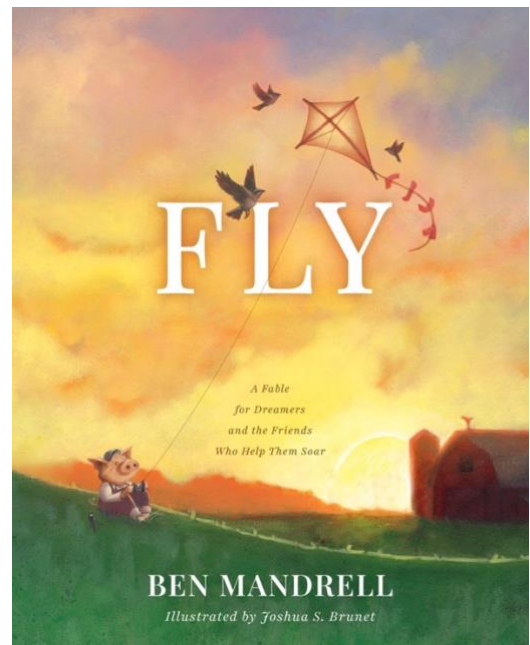


Mandrell’s new kids’ book, ‘Fly,’ sparks gratitude for young dreamers

BRENTWOOD, Tenn., Dec. 15, 2025 — “Fly,” an inspiring tale of dreams lifted by the kindness of others, leads readers to reflect on those who help us.

Ben Mandrell, pastor of Bellevue Baptist Church in Memphis, Tenn., created the new children’s book, “Fly,” released by B&H Kids, along with illustrator Joshua Brunet. The story follows Harold Pig, a determined dreamer who senses he was made for more than the ground beneath him. When his ideas turn skyward, unlikely friends step in to help—reminding readers that even the boldest dreams take flight through support, encouragement and quiet acts of belief.

Mandrell, former president of Lifeway Christian Resources, crafted “Fly” to spark meaningful conversations about gratitude, mentorship and the people who help shape our journeys.



“Fly began with one thought: every dreamer needs others to believe in them,” said Mandrell. “Though the world tells this pig to stay grounded, he senses he was meant for the air. His story reminds us that we reach our greatest heights through quiet help and unexpected kindness. Josh and I created this book to spark gratitude in children for the mentors who lift them.”

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To request an interview, please contact Jill Waggoner at jill.waggoner@lifeway.com or 615.330.6821.



About the Author

Ben Mandrell serves as the senior pastor of Bellevue Baptist Church in Memphis, Tennessee, and is the author of “Fly” and the recent Bible study, “Together.” He and Lynley were married in 2001 and have a blast hanging out with their family and two dogs. Ben thrives on discovering the oddities about the people he meets along the way, so he keeps a handy list of twenty-seven questions to use for curious moments. His perfect day would include creative writing, pizza plus post-season sports, and listening to nostalgic songs on repeat.

Possible Interview Questions

- What inspired you to write “Fly”?
- How has gratitude been important in your own life? Where and how do we see gratitude in the Bible?
- How is gratitude a part of leadership?
- How can parents turn this story about encouragement and mentorship into a meaningful conversation at home?
- What practical rhythms can parents and ministry leaders introduce—like thank-you notes, mentor spotlights, or simple service projects—to help children cultivate a lifestyle of gratitude?
- How can we foster mentorship in our families and our churches?
- Many children wrestle with doubt or discouragement when their hopes feel out of reach. How can adults come alongside them with encouragement?
- How can churches use meaningful stories during key milestones—such as graduations, teacher appreciation, or volunteer recognition—to highlight the importance of encouragement and community?

