

# Booklist

Advanced Review – Uncorrected Proof

Issue: October 1, 2007

★ **Crazy for God: How I Helped Found the Religious Right and Ruin America.**

Schaeffer, Frank (Author)

Oct 2007. 416 p. Carroll & Graf, hardcover, \$25.99. (0786718919). 269.

The son of missionary parents, raised in the 1950s in the Swiss Christian commune L'Abri that they founded, Schaeffer saw his life's course as carved in stone. He would grow up following in the footsteps of his father, Francis, one of the most influential Evangelical Christians of the twentieth century, devoting his life to spreading the word of God. As he pursued this path, becoming a successful religious documentary filmmaker by age 23, he began to notice fellow travelers whose religious philosophies differed significantly from his own. At first, he could ignore the differences, which were more about amassing personal wealth and power than service to the Lord, because this was all he knew how to do. But after he helped shape an antiabortion, pro-life strategy that severely divided the U.S. along lines he came to see as unreasonable, Schaeffer started to take a long look at himself and what his life was about. The upshot of that has been giving up his ministry, plummeting to the professional and financial rock bottom, but eventually finding how to make a living and face himself in the mirror again. Sounding a refreshing variation on the I-was-lost-but-now-I'm-found theme, Schaeffer's apology rings true.

— *Donna Chavez*