

For Immediate Release

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TWILIGHT FEEDING FRENZY *Radio Host asks: But what are we feeding on?*

DALLAS, TX (June 8, 2010) Deborah Collins, Executive Producer and Host of *Celebrate Women Radio*, thinks it's time someone offered a long overdue reality check regarding the current pop culture craze and she's not afraid to do it on her daily radio program.

It is being called "phenomenon", "the hottest thing on the planet" and is being "devoured" by young and "grown" women alike. Is it the latest beauty secret, weight loss program, or self-improvement tactic? No. It is a story about vampires, drinking blood and losing one's soul. It's being praised virtually everywhere from pundits to professors to pulpits. But remove all the media hype and celebrity gushing and what is *The Twilight Saga* really about?

***Celebrate Women Radio* special programs covering *The Twilight Saga* slated for the week of June 28 coincides with the release of the third movie.** Collins addresses the subject from a perspective probably not available on any national platform. She cuts to the heart of the matter and exposes the darkness behind the subtlety, the seduction and ultimately the deception of the books, movies and countless other products and venues stemming from Stephanie Meyers' best-selling writings, *The Twilight Saga*.

Collins and guests discuss topics of the day relevant to *Twilight* such as:

- Self-image of young women: Lead female character is young, insecure, needy and love-sick
- Obsession: Define obsession and find it's a powerful controlling force
- Yearning for romance: Women look for honor, respect and chivalry
- Mother and daughter bonding: Role models who "lust after young men"
- Advocates of women's rights: Seem to validate giving up everything for a man
- Escape: Withdrawing from responsibility to fill void in empty lives

Deborah Collins is also a speaker, author and Founder and President of Exceptional Women, a fellowship and networking organization for women in the marketplace.

Deborah Collins is available for interviews.

Celebrate Women Radio
Real Women. Real Issues. Real Answers.™

www.celebratewomenradio.com

Listen Online 24/7

Weekdays 7:30 - 8:00 p.m. / KWRD 100.7 FM - Dallas, Texas

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CELEBRATE WOMEN RADIO

Real Women. Real Issues. Real Answers.™
Host Deborah Collins: Her tag line is her life!



DALLAS, TX (June 8, 2010) Deborah Collins, Executive Producer and Host of *Celebrate Women Radio*, is a real woman. She's had real issues. Now she shares real answers. Her answers are not textbook dribble, or from the latest self-help book, nor the result of receiving a degree from an institution of higher education. Collins found real answers as she worked through the issues and challenges in her own life. Because she knows real wisdom is learning from others' experiences, she is passionate about sharing answers with her listeners. When it seemed there were not enough hours in the day to reach the many hurting women coming to her for answers, she started sharing through her own daily radio program, *Celebrate Women Radio*.

"Pick a card. Any card." says Collins describing her life experiences. Abusive father. Young marriage. Abortion. Divorce. Second marriage. Adultery—his. Domestic violence. Second divorce. Adultery—hers, and with a married man. Humiliating exposure. Homosexual brother lost to AIDS. Financial crises including electricity turned off and trips to a food bank. Starts a ministry to women. Writes books. Hosts and produces a radio show.

Through overcoming so many life experiences, Collins believes in being "real" and transparent with her listeners in order to help bring about wholeness in their lives. She encourages her listeners to stop focusing on trying to be the perfect woman and to start embracing their uniqueness. She believes all women should celebrate who they are and to live an exceptional life of overcoming. She often says: **"We are not perfect but we are exceptional!"**

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Twilight Feeding Frenzy

Does Anyone Care What We Are Feeding Our Teens?



DALLAS, TX (June 8, 2010) Deborah Collins, Host and Executive Producer of *Celebrate Women Radio*, answers questions about her upcoming programs slated for the week of June 28 dealing with *The Twilight Saga* and the release of the third movie, *Eclipse*.

Q) From pop culture pundits to professors to pulpits, it seems everyone is riding the *The Twilight Saga* train. As a follow up to your radio programming last year on the previous *Twilight* books and movies, you are devoting a week of programming to discuss this topic. However, you are not riding the same train of thought, so to speak?

A) You could say I am trying to stop a runaway train! I have seen the first two movies and have major concerns about how the books and movies are affecting young impressionable “tweens” and teens. In all the media coverage, the viral *Twilight* feeding frenzy, there are a few things that no one seems to be talking about. Like Bella’s poor self-image; her sick “obsession” with Edward and thoughts of suicide. This girl spends all her time fantasizing about a toxic relationship with a vampire. Not to mention how women of all ages are obsessing and fantasizing about Edward – even married women! There must be a real void in women’s lives, if they are focusing so much time and attention on a fictitious teen romance.

Q) One issue you are especially passionate about is the figure of Bella, the female lead character, and her self-image. You have said that she is a poor role model for young girls. Elaborate on this please.

A) As I watched the first two *Twilight* movies and the dynamics surrounding Bella – her self loathing, absentee mother and a father who is clueless I was shocked at the media hype and how so many moms are fueling this “obsession”. Not to mention how Bella is disconnected from the normal teen school activities and social life. She is so depressed and desperate to be with Edward, that she engages in dangerous activities in hopes that he will rescue her. This story is an example of how distorted the public’s perception is and how media, women and young girls are overlooking some very destructive behaviors. For months after Edward leaves, Bella continues in depression, becoming catatonic, even suicidal and where is her father? There is no adult to intervene in her life. In real-life, we would be horrified that a parent would be so negligent. Without intervention, Bella eventually snaps out of her depression and turns to a teen werewolf who she manipulates to get to Edward! Another dead-end relationship!

Let's look at Edward the vampire. He is dark, moody and has nothing going for himself except his supernatural powers. He is not happy being a vampire and mopes around, a loner. And Bella, who has nothing particularly good going for her at this point in her life is drawn to him, obsessed with him and that's a good thing? We would never tell our teens that this sick unhealthy behavior is acceptable!

Q) You also have some strong concerns about the words that people are using to describe the so called *Twilight* phenomenon. Could you address this?

A) Yes, it has become a feeding frenzy! It's being said that women and girls are "devouring" these books and movies. To devour means to eat voraciously, or ravenously; to consume destructively, recklessly, or wantonly. Women and young girls devouring *The Twilight Saga* would imply that there is a void, an emptiness, a hunger that is not being satisfied. What is this craving that is causing females to "ravenously, destructively, recklessly and wantonly consume" these novels and movies?

It is not just teens who are obsessed with the *The Twilight Saga*. Women of *all* ages are devouring these stories in order to escape. Why the strong need to escape in romance novels, a fictitious story full of exaggeration? Has the lack of heroic endeavors and chivalry in our society created such a void in our hearts that we obsess over a fictitious so-called love story about teens, vampires and werewolves? Edward is not a hero! He is a tortured vampire who wants to drink Bella's blood. He can offer Bella only one thing – a wretched existence where she will never eat food again and will constantly fight against the urge to kill others. Oh, and don't forget that she will lose her soul and live like this eternally! Somehow, we overlook these minor details because he "seems" gallant, chivalrous, and *romantic*!

Bella is so miserable that she is willing to do anything to be with Edward. She obviously wants to be transformed from the insecure, hurting, pitiful creature that she sees herself, to be like Edward, a so-called reformed serial killer with supernatural powers who is not happy with his "authentic self". She is willing to overlook the dangerous and destructive aspects of this toxic relationship to be with him. Again, in any other context, we would be getting her into counseling immediately. Instead we are cheering for her to be with Edward! This is what some are calling a phenomenon. I call it crazy, toxic and destructive.

Q) What is your opinion on the Twilight moms' websites, clubs and various other venues where it's been said that moms are bonding with their daughters through *The Twilight Saga*?

A) Mothers bonding with their daughters over this feeding frenzy makes me sick to my stomach. It is a sad day when grown women are so unfulfilled in their lives that they have an obsessive crush on young men, teens mind you, in the movies. The teens playing the vampire and werewolf roles happen to be very well built. Seriously, mothers are bonding with their daughters over "lusting" after young teen boys. What would these same women say and do if it was grown men obsessing with their sons over teen girls? Women would be outraged! Mothers engaged in fantasizing about toxic teen

relationships can not be healthy. Not to mention that mother's participating in this type of behavior are endorsing Bella as a role model. This is not responsible parenting. Our reaction to the *Twilight* phenomenon is a sad indicator of how far we have fallen from our responsibility as being good parents and role models. It concerns me that an entire generation of teen girls is lacking secure, moral female role models in their lives. And no one is willing to address these aspects of the so-called phenomenon.

The same people who give the self-help gurus a voice about being "your authentic self" and not giving "your power away" and being around "good energy" are also promoting the *Twilight* feeding frenzy. Bella is not willing to accept her authentic self or listen to her "intuition" about heading down a dangerous path. So much so that she is willing to give her "power" away and be around dangerous "energy". Bella is obsessed, depressed and miserable. I think the so-called "universe" is trying to tell her something!

Q) Why do you think Christians and the Church so quickly and easily embraced the Twilight Saga?

A) We are made in the image of God and therefore are spiritual beings, with a soul who live in a body. It is part of our identity in Christ. We are hungry for things of a spiritual nature, for the supernatural and transformation. In my estimation, the secular world has recognized and tapped into the mysterious spiritual world where the church often has not. The sad part is that the secular world entertains us with "good evil" fighting against "bad evil". In many churches today, the Holy Spirit is ignored or not even allowed to operate. He has been "disabled" or unplugged. In my opinion, many in the Body of Christ feel powerless and are not experiencing true transformation so they turn to the *Harry Potter* series and *The Twilight Saga* to fill the void. Of course, these are counterfeit and many are easily deceived. Good Christians go to church, Sunday school, Bible Studies, and small groups and then secretly "devour" the *Twilight Saga behind closed doors because they are hungry for the Holy Spirit and good overcoming evil*. Some churches and ministries have gone so far as to embrace the books and movies and erroneously teach how Edward is like Christ! Something is seriously wrong when churches are so desperate to connect with the culture that they are watering down sermons to engage with their congregations and be consumer friendly. Some have gone so far as to have *Twilight* Bible studies! This is calling evil good and good evil!

Much of the allure about *Twilight* is that it appeals to our heart, or rather the unmet needs and issues of our heart. The driving need for escape, for romance, for the supernatural. We are investing enormous amounts of time, money and emotional resources on a fictitious toxic romance about the supernatural. Because we are not grounded in the truth of God's word, and are not being transformed, we are easily deceived and drawn away from the truth to fill the empty void in our lives.

The imagery in *Twilight* is strikingly similar to many images and components in Scripture and in fact directly goes against God's Word. It is clearly prohibited in the Holy Scriptures to eat or drink blood and that drinking blood is detestable and an abomination to the Lord. The life is in the blood and Christ poured out his sinless blood

to make atonement for our sins. Yet, many Christians, leaders, churches and teachers are comparing the lead male character in *Twilight*, Edward, to a type of Christ. I find that questionable at best and heretical at worst.

Q) So these are just a few of the topics you will be covering in your radio programs that air beginning the week of June 28 to coincide with the third movie release in theaters. Tell us more about your radio show and some of your other topics and/or guests?

A) Our tag line is “Real women. Real issues. Real answers.” I am focusing on the real issues that women are facing today that are not being addressed from the pulpit and in Bible study. Such as Depression, Domestic Violence, Adultery, Perfectionism and Poor Self Image, Single Parenting, Boundaries and much more. I bring on different guests, some experts and some are just your everyday woman. It is the everyday REAL woman in my audience that I want to address.

A few of the topics I covered over the past year that got a lot of response are *Women That Wound* by author Sue Edwards of Dallas Theological Seminary, *Setting Boundaries with Adult Children* with Allison Bottke, author and speaker; perfectionism and body image with Jen Strickland, author of *Girl Perfect* and a former runway model; physical health with several women who provide health, nutrition and fitness services; and of course the programs I did on *The Twilight Saga* topic brought a lot of response last year!

Q) What about male listeners? First, do you have any and why do they listen?

A) I always say, “Smart men tune in!” and YES, I do have many male listeners. Some that even write in commenting on the topics and say how much they enjoy the show. I believe men want to understand the heart of the women in their lives. They want to know how to understand their wives and daughters. The men who listen get “real answers” to some of the issues going on in their current relationships.

Deborah Collins is available for interviews.

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