

**Review of *Butterfly in Brazil: How Your Life Can Make a World of Difference*
(as printed in *Worship Leader Magazine*, June 2007)**

As you are likely aware, the butterfly effect is a phrase used to help describe complex technical ideas found in the chaos theory and the effects that initial conditions can have on large outcomes. Simply put, the wind from a butterfly's wings creates tiny changes to the atmosphere, and those changes could have such an effect as to engender a tornado across the globe, or halt a tornado. In his book, *Butterfly in Brazil*, Glenn Packiam (of Desperation Band) takes the implication of this elegant idea and gives it spiritual and literal significance for our lives. Our actions in each and every moment could have an effect that changes the world. It rings close to what Maximus says in the movie *Gladiator*, "What we do in life echoes in eternity." But Packiam takes it to a higher plane; not only do our actions echo in eternity, they profoundly affect the physical and spiritual world today. In a day where most of our heroes, even our spiritual ones, are superstars with massive followings, this is a bold and important realization.

Packiam fleshes out the truth of God's still small voice in the great and noble act of living day-to-day. His openhearted writing style wins you over quickly with lessons couched in memoirs (which track his journey from a childhood in Malaysia to a life in America) and lessons from history and Scriptures. And though he clearly has an insightful understanding to today's culture, he never lords it over us in an overuse of slick pop references. In fact, it's his ability to approach the commonplace with more of a reliance on story and grace than movie references and societal superstars that will give *Butterfly* longevity.

Butterfly in Brazil makes you think twice about how you approach your days and relationships. It makes you consider how you treat the barista at Starbucks. If that doesn't seem like such a noble, groundbreaking, revolutionary thing, read Packiam. You will gain a new perspective and see that world-changing events are started in the commonplace more often than they are in the majestic.