

# Charisma

The Magazine About Spirit-Led Living

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Worship leader Israel Houghton believes praise will get us through the tough times. » BY CHAD BONHAM

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In a season of layoffs, buyouts and bailouts, these Christian business leaders found that God still blesses. » BY KEN WALKER

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## KENN RENNER

The number of real estate agents in the Austin, Texas, area has shrunk 30 percent since last year, reflecting a decrease in average monthly home sales in 2008 of more than 50 percent, according to Realtor Kenn Renner. However, after seeing his sales double the first two months over the same period last year, the head of Renner Realty is aiming for

a 50 to 65 percent increase in 2009—he hopes to reach \$20 million. Symbolizing his optimism is the early March listing of an \$800,000 home that sold in four days. “We surrender the whole business to [God],” says Renner, a member of Glory House Christian Center. “With the power of prayer and our model of doing things—people are looking for that. They want encouragement.” Though an independent agent for 25 years, Renner says last fall God directed him to become an affiliate of Keller Williams Realty. The Austin-based franchiser is now the nation’s third-largest residential real estate firm. Renner liked the priorities of co-founder/chairman Gary Keller: God first, followed by family and then business. “As a stereotype, [business owners] put business first,” Renner says. “It’s proven that God first is more biblical.” For every home sale, Renner Realty donates \$360 to Fullness in Christ Ministries, a Texas ministry founded by charismatic pastor Ras Robinson. “It’s one of the ways I’m letting people know this is a Christian business,” Renner says.

