

Toby & Andre (1999)

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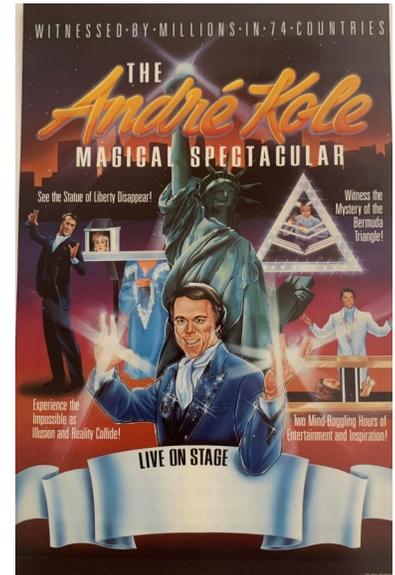
October 2022 Ministry Update

Dear Friends & Family!

I am sad to share with you that one of my mentors in life and ministry has stepped into eternity. Yet, rejoicing that he is now in the presence of our Lord. Robert Gurtler, better known worldwide as Andre Kole, passed away peacefully after a long battle with Alzheimer's on October 17.

I first corresponded with Andre in the early 1980s. From my earliest correspondence to the decades of friendship and ministry collaboration that followed, he was always helpful and encouraging but also challenged me to pursue a level of excellence that should reflect someone who identifies as a follower of Jesus Christ.

Not familiar with Andre's work and ministry? In that case, you only need Google his name to learn that he was one of the most outstanding creative minds in the industry of illusion but also one of the most effective evangelists of his time, sharing the Gospel of Jesus Christ with an estimated ten million people around the world through live presentations. Over the decades of his ministry, approximately one million people indicated that they decided to follow Christ in response to Andre's invitation.



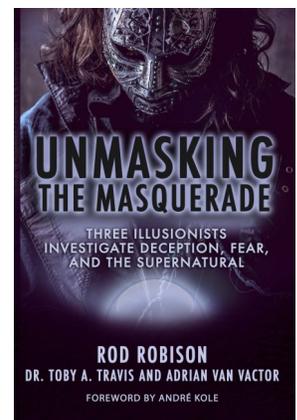
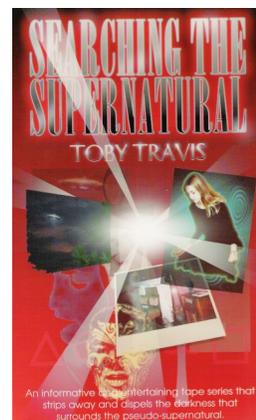
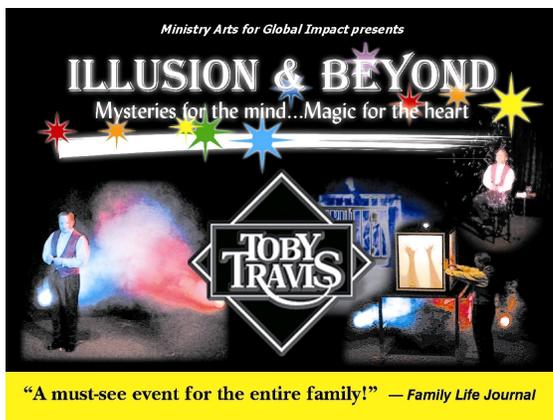
Andre, Kathy, & Toby (2017)

In 1987-88 I toured with Andre's "Magical Spectacular" trekking the show's tons of equipment throughout the United States and Canada. During the road trips and breaks between performances, Andre acted as an executive consultant to the show, which at the time Youth For Christ had commissioned me to develop (i.e., "Illusion & Beyond") that launched its first tour in the Fall of 1988. For the twenty years of itinerant ministry that followed, Andre, and his wife, Kathy, remained dear friends, continued collaborator on numerous projects (see images below), and financial supporters of our ministry, even after I "retired" from itinerant ministry and transitioned into full-time Christian Education.

I have been asked to speak at Andre's funeral, which will be held in Phoenix, AZ, on Saturday, November 12. Honored. If you would like to help with the travel expenses (as booking the flights with this short notice are outside our family budget) your donation of any amount to help offset the travel expenses is sincerely appreciated. And thank you for your prayers as we gather to celebrate Andre's life, ministry, and friendship.

Yours for Christ,

Toby (for Tannia & Emma too!)



"A must-see event for the entire family!" — Family Life Journal



Enclosed is my gift of \$ _____ designated for the ministry of *Toby & Tannia Travis #20245*.

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A higher purpose.*