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Summer 2012



**A Library
for All Needs**

**Caring
for Old Books**

**BOOK ROUNDUP
Going Home:
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Issues**

**OLD LIBRARY, NEW LIBRARY
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 - DEVOTION
 - FRANK PREPPI
 - CREATING HOME
 - MYSTERY SILVER COINS
 - CREATING HOME

—Beth Smith, librarian
Hope Community Church, Manitowoc, Wisc

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ECLA

Evangelical Church Library Association

The Evangelical Church Library Association is a fellowship of individuals, churches, and publishers for the purpose of enriching lives through the ministry of well-organized church and school libraries and media centers. Founded in 1970, ECLA is a nonprofit, tax-exempt organization.

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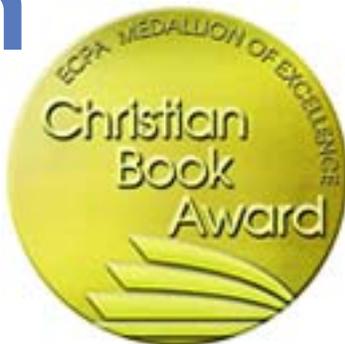
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Christian Book Awards



Book Updates

Revised

Hearing God by Dallas Willard (InterVarsity, updated and expanded)
When a Child You Love Is Grieving by Harold Ivan Smith (Beacon Hill)
When You Don't Know What to Say: How to Help Your Grieving Friends by Harold Ivan Smith (Beacon Hill)

The Evangelical Christian Publishers Association (ECPA) announced the winners for the 2012 Christian Book Awards. Presented annually to the finest in Christian publishing, the Christian Book Awards honor the highest-quality titles in seven categories, including first-time category for new author.

One finalist title, *Nearing Home* by Billy Graham (Thomas Nelson), received the top honor by being named the 2012 Christian Book of the Year for its profound impact and high judging scores for excellence.

Award winners by category are:

- Bibles: *ESV Student Study Bible*, Crossway
- Bible reference: *Dictionary of Christian Spirituality*, Glen G. Scorgie, Zondervan
- Children: *The Story for Children, A Storybook Bible*, Max Lucado, Randy Frazee, and Karen Davis Hill, Zonderkidz
- Fiction: *The Queen*, Steven James, Revell
- New author: *Love Amid the Ashes*, Mesu Andrews, Revell
- Nonfiction: *Close Enough to Hear God Breathe*, Greg Paul, Thomas Nelson
- Inspiration: *The Law of Happiness*, Dr. Henry Cloud, Howard Books

From hundreds of entry titles published in the last year, the Christian Book Awards select five finalists in each category based on both editorial excellence and category-specific criteria. To view the winning titles and finalists, go to www.christianbookexpo.com/christianbookawards.

The Christian Book Awards, established in 1978 as the Gold Medallion Book Awards by the Evangelical Christian Publishers Association, recognize the absolute highest quality in Christian books. Based on excellence in content, literary quality, design and impact, the Christian Book Awards are the oldest and among the most prestigious in the religious publishing industry.

Save the Date!

Annual ECLA Conference

October 12-13, Wheaton, Ill.
 Theme: Yesterday's Foundation,
 Tomorrow's Challenge

Friday: Dinner With Local Authors
 Saturday Keynote Speaker: Lynn Austin

Workshops to help you with your ministry

Book Giveaway at the end of the day

Wanted

Wanted: Pictures of your bulletin boards, posters, and displays.

You can give other librarians promotional ideas by submitting your photos for publication in *Church Libraries*. E-mail them as attachments to linjohnson@eclalibraries.org. Include the following information in the message:

- what it is (e.g., poster)
- name and position of the person who created it
- church name, city, and state.

Promotional Hooks

JULY

Audiobook Month
Fiction Is Fun Month
National Purposeful Parenting Month
National Antiboredom Month
National Bathroom Reading Month
24: National Parents Day

AUGUST

Romance Awareness Month
9: Book Lover's Day
15: National Relaxation Day

SEPTEMBER

Library Card Sign-up Month
Read a New Book Month
Children's Books Month
National Literacy Month
Women of Achievement Month
2-8: Religious Reference Books Week
8: International Literacy Day
23-29: National Religious Music Week

Tips for Using Electronic Versions of *Church Libraries*

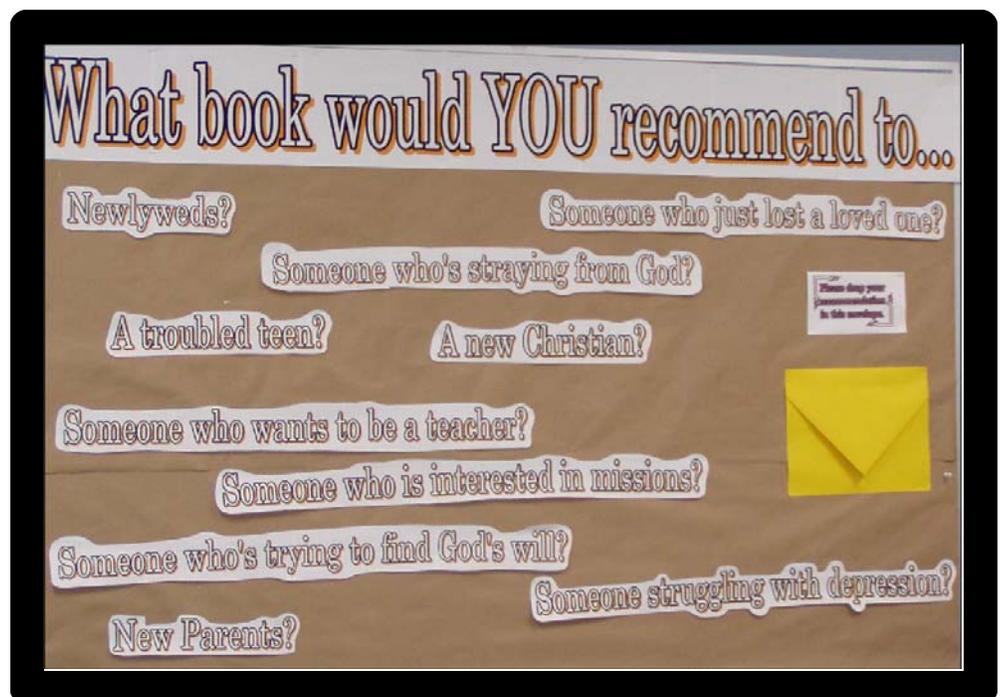
Printing *Church Libraries* as a PDF file to read online or download instead of printing hard copies and mailing them saves the Evangelical Church Library Association enough money to continue this ministry.

To save *your* resources and time, consider these tips:

- Forward the e-mail with the link and password to your library or organization staff instead of printing a copy to pass around. (Remember, you may not give this information to anyone outside your church or organization. Instead, direct people who are interested to the sample copy without a password on our Web site.)
- Keep a list of issue dates and passwords in a computer file, so you won't have to hunt for them. Or create a folder for the quarterly e-mails with passwords in your e-mail program.
- Download the files, and save them in a folder on your library and/or home computer. They will be handy for searching whenever you're looking for an article or book review.
- If you prefer hard copies, save paper by printing the files on both sides of the paper.

BULLETIN BOARD

—Lisa Kern, librarian
College Church, Wheaton, Ill.



Yesterday's Foundation, Tomorrow's Challenge

by Ceil Carey

ECLA's annual conference on October 12-13 will be here before we know it.

One exciting part of the weekend will be Christy Award-winning author Lynn Austin as the keynote speaker on Saturday. Lynn will speak in part about the many changes facing churches and librarians in 2012.

Changes are part of the challenges confronting us as church and school librarians. This year's conference will touch on these issues in workshop topics, such as e-books and e-readers, how books create community, the future of church libraries, and the law and the church.

The author meal is back by popular demand, this year on Friday evening. Local authors who are scheduled to attend include Lynn Austin, Max Elliot Anderson, Valerie Bell, Kathleen Bostrom, Christine Field, David Gibbs,

Dave and Neta Jackson, and Caryn Rivadeneira,

The cost of the two-day conference is such a small investment for what is gained: meeting authors; workshops; book swap; free books from publishers; and, of course, never to be underestimated is networking with other church and school librarians and sustaining an organization that gives inestimable support to those same librarians.

Mark the date on your calendar now, and plan to attend in October at the Evangelical Free Church in Wheaton, Ill. You won't regret investing your time and money to make a difference in God's Kingdom through your library ministry.

Ceil Carey is copresident of the Evangelical Church Library Association and a church and school librarian.

Conference Help Wanted

The ECLA board can't do everything!

We need more volunteers to do a variety of tasks before and during the conference. You do not need to live in the Chicago area to help.

For a list of tasks and/or to volunteer, contact Donna Waln, conference director, now at donna.ecla@sbcglobal.net.

Use Our Reviews

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Paper Airplanes Reading Club Flying High for Reading

by Jeanetta Chrystie

The grandchildren in my family delight in holding paper airplane contests, sailing their latest creations from our deck and watching them loop and careen toward the ground. Sometimes the best toys are the simplest ones, created by each child's imagination. You can bring the excitement of this simple delight to a reading club.

General Design

This reading-club idea allows children of all ages to sail their imaginary paper airplanes along a looping course drawn on a large poster board by reading at least 12 books. Young children can participate by selecting books for adults to read to them. You may want to create two or three age-specific clubs, so children and young teens can learn age-appropriate facts about making paper airplanes during the club.

For younger children, the Paper Airplane Club will familiarize them with ways to fold a piece of paper to create a paper airplane. Joining this club lets prereaders select books for their parents to read to them. You might want to require children to read a minimum of three or four books about Christian topics among the children's books in your library.

For older children, the Pilots Club can build on their knowledge of paper airplanes. They can explore different patterns of paper planes, helping them enjoy a fun craft and encouraging creative self-expression. Reward reading a minimum of 12 books, with at least

one book each from five selected categories, with a printed certificate stating the child's name and "Certified Paper Airplane Pilot" in bold letters.

Select reading categories from the books in your library. For instance, you might specify at least one biography, one Christian living title, two novels, and one science-related book.

For teens, the Paper Airplane Masters Club can encourage crafting a variety of paper airplane styles based on Internet searches or a book from the public library if you don't create handouts to provide multiple plane patterns. You might want to include watching selected Christian movies (with a one-paragraph summary to be submitted), as well as reading a missionary biography, a short book of the Bible, and a Christian-growth book designed for teens.

This reading club idea can be reused every few years as children grow, which provides kids an opportunity to earn additional certificates as they grow older.

*This reading club
idea can be reused
every few years
as children grow.*

Plane Props

You will want to create the usual reading club materials: sign-up sheets, a tracking poster, rules, and beginning and ending dates. You can download pictures of paper airplanes to decorate your club materials by using Microsoft Word. Simply select "Insert," then "Clip Art." Enter the search term "paper airplanes" to find several graphics you can add to your club documents.

A good way to create initial interest in the upcoming promotion is to hang paper airplanes from the library ceiling or dangle them from the edges of shelves. Use your own childhood paper-airplane designs; follow instructions for creating paper planes from a book; or follow the written instructions or video examples from one of these Web sites: www.10paperairplanes.com, www.paperairplanes.co.uk/planes.php, paperairplaneshq.com/paper-airplanes.html.

I do not recommend giving these three Web addresses to kids because they might be tempted to click on one of ads. However, they may be useful to your staff and parents.

If you want some paper airplane patterns you can print, see one of these Web sites: www.funpaperairplanes.com, familyfun.go.com/printables/printable-paper-crafts. These are safe sites, so you can provide the addresses to older children and teens.

You can make some of the paper airplanes you use to decorate the library from white paper. Then make others from colored or patterned pa-

PROMOTION

per. Use the kind of paper that is designed for use in computer printers; construction paper is too heavy for good paper airplanes. Finally, decorate some planes with crayons only because stickers, glue, and wet markers may make them too heavy to fly well.

You can also download a delightful and free printable paper airplane storybook from www.arvindguptatoys.com/arvindgupta/aero.pdf, which includes instructions for making paper airplanes.

You may decide to print copies of a few of the airplane instructions to display in the library window, accompanied by folded models of the planes. If you can purchase a book about paper airplanes, display it too. As an alternative, display printed pictures of paper airplanes.

Flights of Fancy

Four weeks before the start date, place paper airplanes around the library and in the library display window.

Three weeks before beginning the

reading club, hand out a flyer announcing a paper-airplane design contest. Ask children and teens to make paper planes to display in the library window, and give out stickers or markers for each plane submitted. You may want to limit the number of submissions to two or three per person.

If you want to, you can select winners in each age group. Or let everyone be a winner for loaning his or her paper airplane to help decorate the library for the reading club. After the club is over, be sure to let owners claim their planes, avoiding destroying someone's creative triumph.

Two weeks before the club begins, have a contest for older children to see what words can be made from the letters in the words *paper airplanes*, using each letter only once. Younger children could draw pictures of airplanes and decorate them with crayons.

One week before the reading club begins, double-check your physical preparations and be certain your library staff and any additional nonstaff

helpers understand their responsibilities. Using additional volunteers is a great way to involve more church members in your ministry and help them learn what is available for their own use in the library. You may find that one or two of the volunteers is interested in joining the library staff.

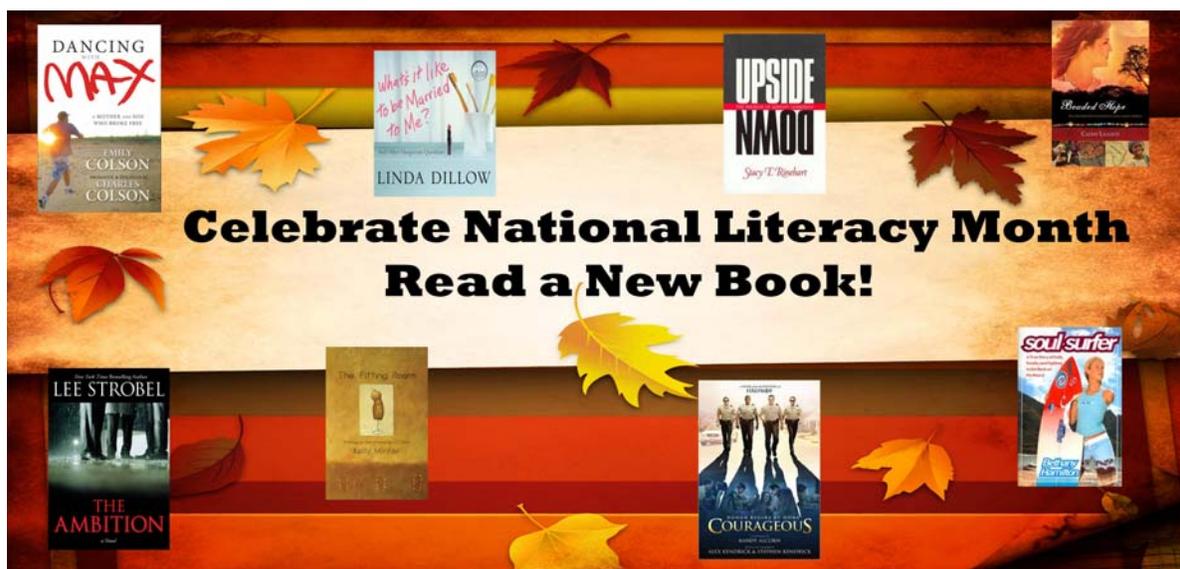
Coming in for a Landing

Within a week of the reading club's close, discuss any areas that can be improved for the next year.

Thank all the workers for their help, tell them how important each one was to the success of the club, tell them how many books were read during the club, and offer to let interested volunteers join the library staff. Even if no one decides to remain a regular staff member, your praise for their valuable help will encourage them to help with future reading clubs.

Jeanetta Chrystie is a freelance writer and a church-library volunteer at University Heights Baptist Church, Springfield, Mo.

BULLETIN BOARD



—Beth Smith, librarian
Hope Community Church, Manitowoc, Wisc

A Library for All Needs

by Jeanetta Chrystie

The church library is our family meeting place. When an activity is completed, I go to the library to browse through the latest books and magazines, so my husband always knows where to find me. Invariably, I find a book to check out and read.

Other people pass the attractive window display and decide to look at new acquisitions, seasonal themes, or a collection of books by a popular author.

People use the church library in many ways. Are you providing a place where their needs can be met?

In-depth Research

Recently, a Sunday-school lesson prompted my interest in further study of Barnabas. First, I read a remarkable paperback about him; and I had to know more.

So I checked the library's computer catalog and found several other books about Barnabas. I also found books about Paul that included information about Barnabas. One librarian found references to Barnabas in a book about Peter. We discovered more about Barnabas in two books that are collections of information about several Bible persons. Information about Barnabas was also available in several reference books. The library even has children's books and DVDs that include Barnabas.

My church library is a gold mine for teachers and learners. Most Bible characters could be found, plus biographies, missionary stories, and a large

reference section. The library workers are always eager to help people find something to read. I enjoy their friendly smiles as they help me find materials to enrich Sunday-school lessons and family Bible studies.

Variety for All Interests

My husband and I look to the library staff to provide classic and recent Christian-living and growth books, as well as a wide selection of entertaining Christian fiction. We are grateful so many volunteers devote their time and efforts to enrich our lives. I find books to help me share Christian ideas with, and better understand, unbelievers plus devotional books and books about marriage, parenting, and many general-life issues.

Children locate appropriate missions books and maps for their mission groups. They can enjoy the brightly decorated and inviting children's reading area, reread favorite old books, and discover new books the librarians display to catch the children's attention. This year a friend's daughter read C. S. Lewis's *Chronicles of Narnia* books. She genuinely enjoyed them, and I remembered how I had enjoyed reading those books years ago.

It's great to be able to communicate with children on a deeper level of thought, to share a common interest, and to realize their growing Christian awareness is developing because of their experiences with good Christian books and DVDs.

Magazines are also available. The

library carries magazines dedicated to fascinating biblical archeology topics with great pictures, current social issues, current Christian thoughts on leadership and cultural topics, family-related topics, and special holiday craft and recipe ideas. Many of the magazines are donated subscriptions after the donor has read them, and some are placed on a giveaway table after six months.

In addition to children's and youth DVDs, many of the women's and small groups' past Bible studies are added to the library for other people to study.

Around holidays and seasonal emphases we find not only pertinent books and magazines but also CDs and DVDs we can check out. We listen to the beautiful Christmas music while creating new holiday decorations together. We try out new recipes from

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Old Library, New Library

Phase Two: The Move

by Jerusha Agen

Editor's note: "Phase One: The Plan" appeared in the Spring 2012 issue.

The design process for a new library facility was no simple task for the expansion of the New Hope Presbyterian Church building in Green Bay, Wisc. Research, creativity, and compromise eventually led to a library layout that excited our staff and supporters.

The work, however, had only begun. Once the library committee and church determined and approved the design of a new library, the next concern was transportation of the library's media items to the new location.

Though the move wouldn't take place until construction of the new building was complete, doing as much preparation as possible before the moving date made the transition easier and faster.

Reduce Inventory

For New Hope Library, advance preparation included reducing the amount of inventory that would need to be moved. We spent several months before the moving date purging media that had not been checked out recently or frequently enough.

You'll want to review such items and, unless they are classics or should be kept for another reason, weed them out. If your library has any stored inventory, as we did because of space limitations, this is the time to go through those items, purging what you can and reaffirming what should be

kept. As we discovered, the less you have to move to the new facility, the better.

Pack in Advance

Another beneficial step of preparation is to pack as many media items ahead of time as possible. Valuable time can be wasted on the moving day if books and DVDs still need to be boxed before they can be moved. As the moving date nears, start to pack up media items currently on the shelves, beginning with the least popular.

For transportation (and for stored media), we found that large, Rub-

Though the move wouldn't take place until construction of the new building was complete, doing as much preparation as possible before the moving date made the transition easier and faster.

bermaid containers with lids work better than cardboard boxes. The tough plastic stands up to the heavy weight of books better than cardboard and is less cumbersome to move.

However, these containers are too pricey for many libraries to use exclusively. To supplement, be sure to secure many medium-sized boxes ahead of time. Steer clear of large boxes because they become too heavy to carry when loaded with books.

Find Wheels

If your library does not already own a book cart, an impending move is a great reason to get one. One or more carts will make the transportation of books from room to room and from container to shelf faster and more orderly. Book carts also allow for a makeshift display of items if you're stuck keeping the library open to the public in the midst of a transitional stage to the new location.

If a book cart isn't an option, think of other ideas for wheeled transport. Wagons, mechanics' creepers, and dollies are all viable alternatives.

Prep the New Space

While you prepare for the move in your old library, think ahead to things you can do to prep the new space as well. Visit the new location to verify that the expected shelving and layout is in place.

During the planning and design stage, you will likely have determined where different types of media are go-

ing to be displayed. When the new shelving is in place, and before the moving date, it's a good idea to figure out the details of where each section will start and end.

Estimating the amount of shelf space you will need for each section of the library's current media will enable you to take a crucial step in preparing for the move—labeling shelves. If you succeed in gathering volunteers to help with the move, the people transferring your media to the new location will have no idea where any of it goes.

You can get more benefit from these willing volunteers if you have already labeled each section of shelves with the call numbers on the labels of the items to shelve there. Workers will then be able to start putting books away, rather than leave you with a pile of boxes at the end of moving day.

Recruit Help

Perhaps the most essential part of preparation for the move is to organize a group of reliable people to help. Announce the need for volunteers, along with the date and time for the move, to your congregation via oral announcements and printed notices in your church bulletin and newsletter.

A sign-up sheet is a good idea, so volunteers will feel more committed and you will know how many people you can depend on to be present.

The key to successful recruitment is to make the move a fun event. Advertise that snacks and treats will be provided, or consider serving a meal to your helpers to thank them. Encourage families to help out as a way to serve the church while spending quality time together.

In addition, plan to play music in the background while your volunteers work, and offer them lots of reassurances and gratitude for their service. For our move, we connected with the church's youth group leader to enlist the help of the young people. By coordinating the moving date with the

If prepared for thoroughly and tackled with a celebratory spirit, the move can be one of the most exciting and enjoyable parts of the process.

youth group ahead of time, all the teenagers were present, bringing their youthful energy to make the move a quick and fun time.

As with all the phases of transitioning a church library to a new space, prepping for and executing the move is not for the faint of heart. However, if prepared for thoroughly and tackled with a celebratory spirit, the move can be one of the most exciting and enjoyable parts of the process.

The physical move may be daunting, but it is also the moment when the precious media items arrive at their new home, where they will sparkle with renewed life and interest to patrons entering the new facility for the first time.

Revel in this moment, but also be prepared for more work ahead. Your transitioning tasks are not finished with the big move. One more phase awaits: achieving your new library's happy ending.

Jerusha Agen is a freelance writer and has served in church libraries for 18 years. She worked with the library director at New Hope Presbyterian Church when the library was moved to a new location.

All Needs

continued from page 8

the magazines and share them with family and friends. We can learn about holiday celebrations in other countries or plan a party around a theme from information that is readily available in our church library.

I rely on our library for books to ease a troubled mind and soothe an aching heart, as well as books to uplift, teach, inspire, and challenge. I've discovered the beauty of poetry, the emotion of a verse illuminating the soul in a succinct way other books can never touch. When I want to delve deeper into Christian theology, staff members are ready to help. When I want light, humorous reading to cheer a burdened time, they help me find just the right book.

Surprising Uses

When we first move to a new area, we visit several churches before joining one. I was impressed with the facilities and variety of materials available in the church library where we currently worship. My husband was particularly interested in a book he found about the founders and history of the church. It's a wonderful scrapbook to have available for members, old and new alike, to browse through and learn about the beginnings and subsequent development of their church.

When I need a gift for a friend or relative, whether it's for consolation in grief, rejoicing over an addition to a family through birth or adoption, congratulations to a new high-school or college graduate, or welcoming new neighbors, I no longer start by trekking around the shopping mall. I start at my church library.

Librarians help me find appropriate materials for each occasion. Often they are more familiar with the contents of books than most store clerks.

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Caring for Old Books

by Susan Hourigan

My earliest memories of a church library were at my Sunday school, a small, dark, uninviting room crowded with worn, old brown-covered books and a strange smell I could never quite identify. To my knowledge, no one ever used the books. They did not beckon to be read. Their fragile, tatty state made sure they were handled as little as possible.

Today those books, which I looked at with disdain, are probably priceless. So how do we keep our precious books safe from the devastating effects of aging and deterioration and appealing to our readers?

Create a Special Area

A good way to add charm to a library and keep your relics safe is to remove them from your main group and house them in their own special area. Some of the best options are a book shelf that is not readily accessible to patrons or a glass display case with a lockable door. This way the books are kept safe and any reading can be done in a controlled environment.

These types of collections don't have to be large. You can begin with a small selection and add more at a later time. The books you choose for this special collection should generally be ones that are out of print or old and have sentimental value.

Try not to get carried away with your choices, or your assortment may grow faster than you have room for. According to the Library of Congress's

Web site, it contains 151.8 million items on approximately 838 miles of bookshelves, including more than 34.5 million books and other print materials. I'm sure you don't have that kind of space!

Restore the Books

Once you have picked out the books that need to be rehoused, determine if any need restoration to get them back into an acceptable condition for display or storage.

One of the more common problems old books face is the growth of mold and mildew. Mold, which varies in color and growth rate, needs two things to survive: moisture and something to feed on. Mold can feed on all kinds of

organic materials, including paper and dust.

To prevent mold outbreaks, the best thing to do is invest in a humidifier that can be set to keep the air in your library at a relative humidity of around 50 percent. If you find any books affected with mold or mildew, dampen a clean cloth with a little rubbing alcohol and wipe the infected areas. Do not use bleach as it is a harsh chemical and will damage the pages. Then set the book out in the sun to dry, as sun kills many types of mold spores.

Spine damage is another problem old books develop, but it can be fixed with the right tools and know-how. The spine is the one part of a book that suffers the most damage each time the book is opened. Over time simple expansion and contraction can easily begin to break the joint.

When the glue holding the pages together has become so brittle they are no longer actually being held into place, you know your book has a problem. I found this out the hard way when one day I spied a small book on prayer. To my surprise, as I opened it up, the glue completely cracked; and the pages fell to the floor.

The best solution to this problem is to get the book rebound. Book binding is a wonderful way to extend the life of your old books and keep them usable and strong. As book binding is rather technical and requires special equipment and time, it is best to take the books to a professional binder. Many different materials are used in

A good way to add charm to a library and keep your relics safe is to remove them from your main group and rehouse them in their own special area.

the process of rebinding a book, so investigate what will suit your needs and budget.

The pages within books also need special attention when it comes to the handling of them. If a page is torn, treat it with acid-free paper mist, a spray that won't cause ink to run but will help resist aging of paper. Then place a piece of document-repair tape across the tear.

Eventually pages inside older books suffer from the effects of excessive handling, and often any damage done is irreversible. When pages come into contact with hands, acid and oils from skin are transferred to them. The best advice is to always wear protective gloves when handling the pages.

Choose Proper Lighting

Once the restoration is taken care of, it's time to think about lighting. Reading being the most important task in libraries means that proper lighting is essential. Choosing the right kind for a special collection must be done with a lot of thought. The lights we use contribute to the longevity of the books on our shelves.

Direct sunlight can be a book's worst enemy. Books on shelves that come in direct contact with sunlight will soon begin to fade. Once a book has faded, there is no way to bring the color back. Placing spotlights directly onto book displays is also not a recommended practice for the same reason.

Fluorescent lights are one of the most practical ways in which to light the library without giving off a great deal of glare. They give off an acceptable amount of light for reading and are not damaging to books. Fluorescent lamps can be purchased in warm (2,700K), medium (3,000-3,500K), and cool (4,100K) colors, depending on your personal choice and the atmosphere you are looking to create.

LED (light-emitting diode) fluorescent lamps are a great improvement on the tradition florescent lamp. Their ad-

The books you choose for this special collection should generally be ones that are out of print or old and have sentimental value.

vantages are a longer life span, lack of radiation, saving energy, and environmentally friendly. LED fluorescent lamps are far superior to other kinds.

No longer do our old books have to be hidden out of sight in dark corners. Now they can be restored and proudly displayed. Following these few tips, you will be able to transform your library into a place that is inviting to visitors with tranquil lighting, great displays, and countless books providing rich wisdom from the past.

Susan Hourigan is cofounder of Ministry of the Word Library, Kariong Community Baptist Church, New South Wales, Australia, www.ministryofthewordlibrary.com.au.

There are many little ways to enlarge your child's world. Love of books is the best of all.

—**Jacqueline Kennedy**

All Needs

continued from page 10

In my library, I can sit at a table, relax, and look through books to my heart's content—no impatient shoppers, no suspicious shopkeepers, no crowded aisles, no aching feet. Whenever it's convenient, before or after church services, I can take my time to find how suitable each book will be for my intended recipient. Then I can confidently request it at a local Christian bookstore, knowing this gift conveys my feelings and fits the recipient well.

Welcoming Smiles

Our librarians volunteer their time to show people books and help answer their questions. I believe they enjoy helping others. They must. Their warm smiles greet everyone who enters the library, revealing they like working with books—and people.

I wonder if patrons who want to learn about topics often prompt additional acquisitions. How many others wander into the library to pass the time or visit with a friend, then find something interesting and check it out to take home and enjoy? How many others ask for the latest release of a favorite author? How many others bring vague questions to the church library in search of clarification and specific answers?

What a ministry—and what a responsibility—to choose the proper books, magazines, and other materials that will best serve the needs of all the different members in a church's congregation.

In fact, it's such an important ministry that I volunteered to help with it—and I'm glad I did!

Jeanetta Chrystie is a freelance writer and a church-library volunteer at University Heights Baptist Church, Springfield, Mo.

Going Home: End-of-life Issues

by Cindy Grabill

My 92-year-old mother was hospitalized last summer. The doctor warned me she would soon lose her ability to swallow and urged me to authorize the placement of a feeding tube. I prayed but didn't believe that was God's will, so I didn't allow the procedure. But the idea of watching her starve to death tormented me. I asked God for help and placed her in His hands. He took her to heaven two weeks later, and she never forgot how to swallow.

Countless Christians wrestle with equally difficult and life-changing decisions daily. They must decide about unwanted pregnancies and the future of clinically brain-dead loved ones. Several of the following books help with these types of crises. Others remind the dying they do not walk alone and give them a glimpse of heaven. Some help children and teenagers cope with death. Since everyone deals with these issues, they belong in your church library.

90 MINUTES IN HEAVEN

by Don Piper & Cecil Murphey
Revell, 978-0-8007-5949-0, PB, 208 pages, \$13.99

Following a car accident, Rev. Piper took a brief trip to heaven where he met friends and family and worshipped God. Yet his patience was sorely tested when God asked him to return to Earth to live in more pain than

he knew could exist. Piper shares his self-pity, depression, anger, and humility as he learned to depend on others for his needs. Through his traumatic experience, he understood God's purpose and set out to do the work to which he had been called.

Piper's description of heaven will erase readers' fear of death. He presents key lessons that will help them grow in their faith, including the power of prayer, God's faithfulness, and the joy that can come through suffering. Recommend this book to people who are curious about heaven and who desire to see God's hand in life's struggles.

*Some of these books
remind the dying they
do not walk alone
and give them a
glimpse of heaven.
Some help children
and teenagers cope
with death.*

CASE FOR LIFE: Equipping Christians to Engage the Culture
by Scott Klusendorf
Crossway, 978-1-4335-0320-7, PB, 256 pages, \$15.99

Klusendorf addresses the question "What is the unborn?" and shows abortion to be the worst form of child abuse, even in the case of rape. He discusses stem-cell research and cloning and presents the biblical view on abortion. He comforts those who have killed their unborn babies and helps pastors develop their pro-life stand.

Klusendorf, a speaker and president of Life Training Institute, has exhaustively researched this subject. He writes that there is no such thing as moral neutrality and includes potential questions and solid answers, so pro-life Christians will know how to defend their positions. He provides numerous case studies and examples to show that life begins at conception. Review questions and suggestions for further study conclude each chapter.

Recommend this book to patrons with pro-choice convictions or to those who need help knowing why they are against abortion. If every person who favors abortion read this book, there would be no pro-choice stand.

BOOK ROUNDUP

EVERYBODY WANTS TO GO TO HEAVEN, BUT NOBODY WANTS TO DIE

by **David Crowder & Michael Logan**
Zondervan, 978-0-310-29191-6, HB, 256 pages, \$16.99

Crowder and Logan are musicians and show readers how bluegrass music can “reach the soul like nothing else can.” They include its history and trace the history of the soul back to ancient Egypt. They compare bluegrass music to spirituals where the lyrics concentrate on suffering but point readers to “Glory Land” where death is only the beginning.

This funny, yet serious book provides information one might not find elsewhere, like how ancient Egyptians disposed of corpses’ brains. Its unique style and conversational lingo will cause even the saddest griever to smile.

HEAVEN by Randy Alcorn

Tyndale, 978-0-8423-7942-7, HB, 530 pages, \$24.99

HEAVEN FOR KIDS: Answers Your Kids Will Understand

by **Randy Alcorn with Linda Washington**

Tyndale Kids, 978-1-4143-1040-4, PB, 384 pages, \$13.99

Families often research the area they are about to visit. This authority on heaven presents information in question-and-answer format, so Christians will know more about their eternal home. The kids’ version includes such topics as animals, clothes, music, food, rest, work, and worship. Alcorn delves further into these topics in the adult counterpart, discusses the two heavens, and deals with doctrinal issues and tough questions.

Alcorn demonstrates his encyclopedic knowledge of literature and the Bible. He gets readers excited about what God has in store for them (no cloud-sitting) and shows how they can prepare now for the life to come. Recommend *Heaven* to the “burdened, discouraged, depressed, or even trauma-

tized.” The author writes that this will encourage them and help them “see the shore.”

HEAVEN IS FOR REAL: A Little Boy’s Astounding Story of His Trip to Heaven and Back

by **Todd Burpo with Lynn Vincent Nelson**, 978-0-8499-4615-8, PB, 168 pages, \$16.99

HEAVEN IS FOR REAL FOR KIDS: A Little Boy’s Astounding Trip to Heaven and Back

as told by **Colton Burpo to Todd & Sonja Burpo**

Nelson, 978-1-4003-1870-4, HB, 32 pages, \$14.99

Four-year-old Colton Burpo went to heaven for a short time during emergency appendectomy surgery. This pastor relates his son’s experiences there. He describes the music, colorful rainbows, and streets paved with gold. He includes the people Colton met, among them John the Baptist, Mary, and his sister whom his mother miscarried and had never mentioned. The adult version tells of the days before and after surgery, emphasizing how God met their needs in miraculous ways.

Both books allow readers to see heaven through the eyes of a child. The beautifully illustrated picture book gives details to which kids can relate and reinforces the idea that Jesus “really, really loves children.” The adult counterpart emphasizes God’s presence, both here and in heaven. In Colton’s words, “Jesus told me that He died on the cross so we could go see His Dad.” These books will bless anyone who is even thinking about going to heaven.

HOW TO PLAN A FUNERAL: and Other Things You Need to Know when a Loved One Has Died

by **Liz Cowen Furman**
Beacon Hill, 978-0-8341-2375-5, PB, 128 pages, \$12.99

This elementary-school teacher pre-

sents tried and true ideas for meaningful funeral services, provides information to help readers decide which disposition method is best, and suggests ways to cut costs. She includes tips for writing an obituary, outlines the stages of grief, and offers ways to help others cope with loss.

Morticians often take advantage of grieving family members to sell them the most expensive products and services. Furman provides thorough information that will help them make decisions before they reach the funeral home. Her ideas for the funeral are numerous, and implementing several will create a service to be remembered.

NEARING HOME: Life, Faith, and Finishing Well

by **Billy Graham**

Nelson, 978-0-8499-4832-9, HB, 176 pages, \$19.99

This famous evangelist shares his increasing disability but also his resolve to continue to share his faith and encourage others. He cites Bible characters whom God used in spite of their advanced ages. He warns against self-pity, encourages contentment, and emphasizes the need to plan ahead, so one is ready for old age. He gives readers a glimpse of heaven where they will worship God and be reunited with those who have gone before.

Graham includes practical information to help seniors make their retirement years count and shares reminiscences with Ruth that will touch people’s hearts. He instills in readers a longing to reach heaven in the same way weary travelers are ready to go home. Recommend this book to older adults but also to middle-aged readers as Graham includes practical information that will help them plan for their senior years.

BOOK ROUNDUP

Countless Christians wrestle with ... difficult and life-changing decisions daily.

PRO-LIFE ANSWERS TO PRO-CHOICE ARGUMENTS

by Randy Alcorn

Multnomah, 978-1-5767-3751-4, PB, 294 pages, \$18.99

Pro-life versus pro-choice. Give the baby life. Kill that cluster of cells inside the mother. This battle runs rampant in our country. Alcorn proves that abortion for any reason is murder. He emphasizes the psychological damage and guilt mothers experience and tells of dishonest doctors who make a living from this treachery.

This book is compelling reading. Alcorn's pictures are graphic; he tells one true horror story after another. He proves that life does begin at conception and emphasizes that we are not to play God, who is the giver and taker of life. Recommend this book to every pro-choice advocate or to pro-lifers to share with their pro-choice friends.

SOMEONE I LOVE DIED

by Christine Harder Tangvald

Cook, 978-1-4347-0291-3, HB, 32 pages, \$12.99

Children often become angry, sad, and depressed when they lose a loved one. This bestselling children's book author helps kids understand death and paints a vivid picture of heaven. She assures them their hurt feelings are temporary and Jesus wants to be their Savior and explains how they can meet Him. Each page includes interactive

exercises that may be photocopied.

Tangvald meets kids right where they are. The interactive exercises will help them express their feelings through drawing or writing short sentences. She points them to Jesus who will never leave them and suggests ways parents can connect with their children. Recommend this book to parents to share with children who are hurting and who don't know what to say to them.

SUNSETS: Reflections for Life's Final Journey

by Deborah Howard

Crossway, 978-1-5813-4645-9, PB, 320 pages, \$20.99

Howard, a hospice nurse, tells true stories of people whose strong faith in a sovereign God helped them face death bravely. She discusses the hospice program, includes 15 purposes of suffering, and offers a detailed plan of salvation as she urges readers to consider where they will spend eternity.

Howard fills these pages with comforting Scriptures and the underlying message that God is present and will never leave us. The stories will comfort and inspire readers as they learn of others who crossed the finish line. Recommend this book to people with terminal illnesses and patients and caregivers who are afraid of the word *hospice* as that means that death is near.

WAIT UNTIL THEN

by Randy Alcorn

Tyndale Kids, 978-1-4143-1041-1, HB, 32 pages, \$14.99

Nathan has spina bifida and uses a wheelchair, and his grandfather needs a walker. Gramps encourages Nathan to look forward to heaven where they will run, jump, play baseball, and have "better bodies than Olympic athletes." Gramps shows Nathan how to have a relationship with Jesus and reads to him about the new Earth from Revelation. Nathan is sad when Gramps dies but knows he is enjoying his new body

in heaven, as will Nathan one day.

This uplifting story of a special relationship between a boy and his grandfather teaches kids about heaven and includes the plan of salvation in kid-friendly words. Each page is a full-color illustration of that part of the story. Recommend this book to someone with a disability since a perfect body awaits him or her in heaven.

WHAT DO I DO?: When Teenagers Deal with Death

by Steve Gerali

Youth Specialties, 978-0-310-29193-0, PB, 128 pages, \$6.99

More than 8,000 people die each year in teen-related deaths. Gerali, an adolescent expert, helps specific groups cope with these untimely demises. He speaks to teens of dangerous activities that could cause death and includes the warning signs of suicide. He advises parents about unplugging respirators and donating organs and guides youth pastors as they encourage the terminally ill and comfort the grieving. Gerali cites numerous ways church members can support a family both before and after a death.

Gerali writes that many readers are not experienced in handling teen death. He thus includes basic, but thorough information on many topics, including those not normally thought of, such as to how to help a teen prepare for seeing his friend in the casket. He stresses the inevitability of death and the omnipresence of God. This is easy reading, full of helpful ideas. Recommend this book to the specific groups noted here.

Cindy Grabill is a freelance writer who oversees her church's book table.

Submit topics for future roundups to her at cindygrabill@aol.com.

BOOK REVIEWS

Bible & Theology

THE GIRL'S STILL GOT IT

by Liz Curtis Higgs

WaterBrook, 978-1-57856-448-4, PB, 223 pages, \$14.99

This virtual walk from Moab to Bethlehem in the days of Naomi, Ruth, and Boaz is a crash course in the sovereignty of God. With chatty Higgs as your guide, you see how the Lord rocked Ruth's world and how He continues to work behind the scenes, directing the lives of all who put their trust in Him.

Liz's sound, verse-by-verse commentary of the book of Ruth leaps from the past to the present, gleaning timeless truths that speak to hearts. She reveals Ruth's rags-to-riches redemption story with rollicking humor and deep insight, paying extraordinary attention to interesting social and cultural customs of the day. A study guide overflows with practical, personal ways to put God's Word into action. Highly recommended for church libraries, small-group and personal study, and sharing with women who think the Bible is dull and irrelevant. HIM

Biography & Memoir

CALLED TO CONTROVERSY: The Unlikely Story of Moishe Rosen & the Founding of Jews for Jesus

by Ruth Rosen

Nelson, 978-1-5955-5491-8, HB, 307 pages, \$22.99

When Moishe Rosen met Jesus as Savior, he went against his Jewish heritage and grew to become one of the most influential evangelists of our

time. His daughter skillfully introduces us to Moishe as he developed his passion for Jesus and birthed the international Jews for Jesus organization that remains a powerful, life-changing movement today.

Ruth has produced an interesting biographical account that includes her father's words, as well as historical facts. We get to know and appreciate the Jewish man who so passionately understood that everyone needs to be born again into a relationship with the Redeemer. Moishe never considered himself a gift to Jewish evangelism. Instead, he considered Jewish evangelism to be a gift from God entrusted to him. This book opens doors to Jewish customs and provides the reader with insights that promote understanding and a willingness to reach out to the Jewish community. Evangelical churches will find this an insightful addition to their libraries. BWR

FAITH AND OTHER FLAT TIRES: Searching for God on the Rough Road of Doubt

by Andrea Palpant Dilley

Zondervan, 978-0-310-32551-2, PB, 300 pages, \$14.99

Sadness and nostalgia are not the point of this memoir. Instead, Dilley leads readers through a witty and engaging tour of her pilgrimage. She grew up in a Christian home (her parents served as missionaries in East Africa for six years) and shared the joys and perils of growing up in her Quaker missionary clan.

While her family life was stable, from early childhood Dilley was aware of pain and suffering in the world. This awareness continued throughout her teens, college years, and after, as she pondered questions about why God allows suffering, whether He cares about His people, and why He is so silent. In sensitive passages, she detailed how she navigated a path of rebellion, left the church, and ventured into a spiritual journey in search of God.

It is often tempting to skim through memoirs, but readers who pick up this volume will want to savor every word. It's a book for anyone who has staggered under the load of doubt about God and faith. Readers will find some answers as they read Dilley's tale. JCH

Children

Bibles & Bible Storybooks

101 BIBLE ADVENTURES: The Ultimate Quest for Truth

by Carolyn Larsen

Tyndale, 978-1-4143-4997-8, PB, 215 pages, \$12.99

The Bible can be as exciting as any good adventure book. Bestselling children's writer Larsen sets out to prove it with a devotional guide that provides kids with action-packed stories from the Bible. Each chapter, designed for elementary children who can read on their own, contains an introduction to the story, a passage from the New Living Translation, a short paragraph of application, and a key verse.

This great resource helps kids get into a routine of personal Bible study. The NLT version is easy for them to read, and the key verses are perfect for memorization. Even the applications, while brief, are relevant and age-appropriate. While older children will probably be familiar with nearly all of the classic stories, this book is appropriate for kids who are starting to explore the Bible on their own. ALG

BOOK REVIEWS

Preschool & Early Readers

JONAH'S WHALE

by Eileen Spinelli

Eerdmans, 978-0-8028-5382-0, HB, 26 pages, \$16

This familiar Bible story is presented in vibrant, full-page illustrations. The narration is presented with easy words and often in sentences of no more than three or four words. It begins with God's creation of whales and then the calling of one whale to swallow Jonah to rescue him during the great storm at sea. The drawings allow children to see through the side of the whale, revealing Jonah inside the belly, thus making the story more comprehensible.

Spinelli took a few biblical liberties in the story, such as having the whale pray to God, asking Him about what he should do with Jonah, and then at the end having Jonah come back to the sea in his old age to make visits to the whale. These aren't theological heresies, obviously, just narrative fun. For youngsters who like visual images with stories and for very young readers, this book is entertaining and easy to follow. DEH

THE PRINCESS TWINS AND THE PUPPY

978-0-310-72709-5

THE PRINCESS TWINS PLAY IN THE GARDEN

978-0-310-72705-7

I Can Read!

by Mona Hodgson

Zonderkidz, PB, 32 pages, \$3.99

Princesses Abby and Emma love playing in their castle home. In *The Princess Twins and the Puppy*, the twins learn to trust God in scary situations when Puppy gets lost. In *The Princess Twins Play in the Garden*, Princess Emma is worried about how she looks but learns that loving her friends is more important.

Each book focuses on a Bible verse and encourages readers to make good choices. Young readers, especially girls, will enjoy these easy-to-read books. Colorfully illustrated and entertaining, they are suitable for your children's section. BW

Juveniles

CODE OF SILENCE

by Tim Shoemaker

Zonderkidz, 978-0-310-72653-1, PB, 336 pages, \$14.99

If you witnessed an attempted murder and the criminals looked like police officers, what would you do? For 13-year-old Cooper MacKinnon, that is the question he faces. After Cooper and his friends, Hiro and Gordy, witness the attempted murder of Frank Mustacci, they agree to a code of silence: a pact not to tell anyone what they saw. They do so to avoid being killed by the criminals, who they think are police officers. But are the lies they tell to preserve the code worth it?

Code of Silence is a fast-paced, suspenseful book that challenges young people to consider the ethics of lies, false witness, murder, and greed. The characters are well-developed and feel real; for example, Cooper acts like a typical 13-year-old. The plot is out of the ordinary, but it is believable. Shoemaker is a popular speaker at youth retreats and knows his audience well. SHP

DOG DAZE

The S.A.V.E. Squad #1

by Lauraine Snelling & Kathleen Damp Wright

Barbour, 978-1-61626-560-1, PB, 159 pages, \$5.99

Aneta has just moved to America. When Ms. Jasper adopted her from a Ukrainian orphanage, the young girl never expected that being a family was forever. When she gets chosen to work on a fundraiser for the local animal

shelter with three other girls, she's afraid she will somehow upset the Jaspers and be sent away. As the girls plan the fundraiser, things keep getting worse.

This book is filled with cultural experiences and great lessons. Young readers will learn their "forever home" is with God and how to deal with bullies. They are introduced to children from different backgrounds, including homeschoolers and a girl from a divorced family. Topics are acceptable for kids, and the lessons from Scripture are realistic and readily applicable to modern circumstances. KSI

KONDI'S QUEST

by Sylvia Stewart

OakTara, 978-1-60290-288-6, PB, 152 pages, \$15.95

Kondi only wants her father's love. After her acceptance of Christ, this 12-year-old Malawian girl tries to follow God, loving Jesus, staying away from witchcraft, and forgiving her father for his violence against her and her family. But she can't understand why her father, Bambo, does not love her.

This novel shares biblical truth through Kondi's story of following God, while teaching readers about the Malawian culture. The plot, however, is a bit slow and aimless at times. The writing lacks creativity but is suitable for a young audience. The relationship between Kondi and Bambo develops movingly throughout the story, even though the dialogue and plot tend toward the overdramatic. This book would be a good addition to a church or school library because of its Christian themes. CS

SHADES OF TRUTH

978-0-310-72662-3

FLICKERING HOPE

978-0-310-72664-7

From Sadie's Sketchbook #1-2

by Naomi Kinsman

Zonderkidz, PB, 205-208 pages, \$7.99

After moving from California, Sadie

BOOK REVIEWS

Douglas is having a hard time finding her place in the world. When she gets to her new school, the kids have already labeled her. Her dad's job as a bear researcher isn't popular with the natives of Eagle's Nest, Mich. Balancing her newfound love for the gentle creatures and doing what is right, Sadie struggles with the side to choose: the researcher's or the hunter's. As a beloved teacher helps her express herself through art, she discovers the differences of shadows and light, fear and faith.

Through the series, readers see Sadie's faith and hope grow in God. Young readers will enjoy the short chapters and e-mail messages that conclude each. The writing is fresh and will connect with young readers. This series is targeted toward young girls and would be a great addition to any library. KSI

Christian Living

AWAKE: Doing a World of Good One Person at a Time

by Noel Brewer Yeatts

Baker, 978-0-8010-1458-1, PB, 176 pages, \$12.99

AIDS, hunger, and unsanitary water claim thousands of lives each day. Countless young girls are abused and abandoned. Children of developing nations know nothing but the devastation of war. How do Christians react to these situations? Are they appalled, surprised, outraged? Or are they desensitized?

As vice president of World Help, Yeatts offers not only accurate information but also stories of firsthand experiences with suffering. She challenges first-world Christians to remember the great commission, trade guilt for action, and take on the over-

whelming problem of poverty one person at a time. This powerful, motivating book will deeply touch and enlighten comfortable Christians. LVO

AWAKEN YOUR SENSES: Exercises for Exploring the Wonder of God
by J. Brent Bill & Beth A. Booram
InterVarsity, 978-0-8308-3560-7, PB, 208 pages, \$15

God has created five unique senses and a human brain with two different sides and functions. Minister Bill and spiritual director Booram describe how we can better heighten our senses while learning about God and the brilliancy of the Earth around us. This book is separated into five parts, each dedicated to a particular sense. In each section, the authors describe ways to increase sensual sensitivity, such as creating a spiritual menu to go alongside your food menu and studying the feeling of a certain object and identifying how that object's feeling can remind you of Christ.

Every thought is original, open-minded, and beautiful. I recommend this book to anyone who is tired of a normal devotional routine and wishes to get a fuller understanding of the Creator through the created world. DR

CHOOSE JOY: Because Happiness Isn't Enough

by Kay Warren

Revell, 978-0-8007-2172-5, PB, 256 pages, \$21.99

We all have those days when we can't see the bright side of things. But does that mean we can't still have joy? No. Warren explains the difference between joy and happiness and offers suggestions related to prayer, meditation, group friendship, and Christian service as ways of enhancing both. Her purpose is to show that joy is something to be chosen, unlike happiness, which depends on circumstances.

She does a good job of giving biblical principles and showing practical ways to apply them to everyday life.

Filled with research and illustrations from her own life and the lives of her friends and family, this book is pragmatic, realistic, contemporary, and insightful. Warren is cofounder of Saddleback Church with her husband, Rick, as well as founder of the HIV & AIDS Initiative there. This book would be a good text for people dealing with depression or needing encouragement after a life setback. CC

COMPELLED: Living the Mission of God

by Ed Stetzer & Phillip Nation

New Hope, 978-1-59669-351-7, PB, 192 pages, \$14.99

How do you live a life of love? How does the church love others? *Compelled* answers these questions by looking at God's perfect love as an example and applying it to "missional living." From knowing God's perfect love to the church living out God's command to love, this book both inspires and educates.

The authors explore love's aspects of sacrifice, devotion, dedication, encouragement, and shared joy. They give illustrations from popular movies and share anecdotes from their personal lives. They handle the topic with care and an overall uplifting tone. Both authors have significant experience teaching, preaching, and writing as pastors and Christian counselors. Although this book is targeted at leaders in ministry, anyone who is interested in Christian service would do well to take a look at it. It's a teaching text de-

SEQUEL

to *Living Successfully with Screwed-Up People*

by Elizabeth B. Brown

Revell, 978-0-8007-2011-7, \$12.99

Working Successfully with Screwed-Up People

BOOK REVIEWS

signed to instruct Christians on how to express and share love and teach others to do likewise. OJ

EMBRACED BY GOD: Celebrating Who and Whose You Are
by Babbie Mason
Abingdon, 978-1-4267-4134-0, HB, 422 pages, \$18.95

Many of your patrons will recognize Mason as an award-winning singer and songwriter. She also is an excellent author. Her book is several steps above the standard devotional, a personal conversation between an evangelical woman and those she hopes to bring home to the Father. This warm, caring, biblically solid book provides 21 days of hope for those who, when told God loves you, have questioned how He could.

The potential for this book is enormous. It not only is a strong outreach to those who seek love, it also encourages Christian women at all levels to delve deeper into their relationship with God as they live within the wonder of His unconditional love. You will want to promote this book as an outreach tool and a women's study-group resource. BWR

EMPTY PROMISES
by Pete Wilson
Nelson, 978-0-849-94651-6, PB, 220 pages, \$15.99

Using anecdotes, personal stories, and quotes from respected Christians and non-Christians, pastor Wilson explores the promise and lies the world tells us. Within the stories of hopelessness, sin, and brokenness, readers will recognize themselves or people close to them. But they are not left with a message of despair. Instead, Wilson wraps them in the comforting truths of God's promises and teaches them how to banish the lies of the world.

The book is well written, well phrased, and well researched. Most of the anecdotes come from Wilson's personal experience at his church or di-

rectly from the Word. This book would be especially helpful to new Christians and young married couples. KSI

THE FIRE OF THE WORD: Meeting God on Holy Ground
by Chris Webb
InterVarsity, 978-0-8308-3563-8, PB, 197 pages, \$15

To experience the freshness of God's living Word and the life-changing nature of the Bible, we must first relearn how to read the Bible. Webb challenges readers to set aside preconceived notions and presumptions about the Bible as they relearn how to read it. One of his primary themes is that the Bible exists to draw us into Christ's presence.

Webb is president of a spiritual-formation ministry. By sharing his own and others' experiences, he makes his case for how the Bible can thrust its readers into Christ's presence, become a powerful force in their lives, and change their lives. He argues that we must learn to listen to Christ's voice in Scripture, be attentive to that voice, and live in response to His message. This is a book your patrons will enjoy, particularly because of Webb's ruminations and the way he engages his audience. Readers who want to grasp the big picture of the Bible and experience it as a life-changing text will find useful material here. JCH

A GENEROUS LIFE (Applause Not Included)
by Kevin Stirratt
Beacon Hill, 978-0-8341-2798-2, PB, 160 pages, \$13.99

What have you done today for which you have not expected a response? Don't we all go through life doing things that will, in the end, benefit ourselves? We are back-scratchers. We do things for someone so he or she will do something for us. In contrast, this book gives suggestions for shifting toward a truly selfless life of honoring God with our motivations.

Pastor and teacher Stirratt uses lots

of anecdotes and biblical stories, which make it an enjoyable, yet convicting text. He teaches without lecturing or preaching, delving deeply into the nitty-gritty of every type of relationship. Chapters include a focus on marriage, parenting, reconciliation, and church fellowship. It is best for married couples but could be read by anyone. KSI

GLORIOUS MESS: Encountering God's Relentless Grace for Imperfect People
by Mike Howerton
Baker, 978-0-8010-1391-1, PB, 203 pages, \$14.99

Pastor Howerton parallels the story of Jonah to the lives of Christians. He uses it to encourage us, showing that Jonah—even after his second chance—messed up. He uses Scripture and reason to demonstrate that God loves us in spite of our ugliness, sin, and hypocrisy. Every chapter ends with a sidebar called "Mining the Mess: Making It Personal," where Howerton gives application directions. The book ends with a small-group discussion guide with suggested reading, response and reflection questions, and Scripture exercises.

The book's tone is serious, but the writing is conversational with occasional parenthetical jokes. The jokes, at times, are crude and rub the wrong way, drawing so much attention to themselves that the points presented around them are lost. Nevertheless, this book is worthwhile reading, especially for young adults struggling with doubts about God's love. MLS

HEAVEN IS NOW: Awakening Your Five Spiritual Senses to the Wonders of Grace
by Andrew Farley
Baker, 978-0-8010-1438-3, HB, 218 pages, \$17.99

While some people might be hesitant to believe in the idea of heaven on Earth, pastor and professor Farley de-

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velops an interesting theory. Because there is nothing separating us from speaking to God this very moment, we do have access to heaven here on Earth. While we cannot ignore the pain and sin still here, we nevertheless can feel, hear, see, smell, and taste the sweetness and splendor of heaven here and now through prayer, meditation, Scripture reading, witnessing, and singing.

The book is divided into segments related to the five senses and includes study questions for each chapter. KSI

HOW THE CHURCH FAILS BUSINESSPEOPLE (and What Can Be Done About It)

by **John C. Knapp**

Eerdmans, 978-0-8028-6369-0, PB, 178 pages, \$15

Considering how many business-oriented people are in the Bible and the fact that more than half of the parables Christ taught make reference to money or possessions, it's amazing it has taken so long for a competent writer to address the topic of contemporary business ethics from a Christian perspective. Fortunately, professor Knapp has faced this issue head-on and compiled superb advice for executives, business owners, entrepreneurs, and even hired laborers.

Knapp draws on years of experience as a management consultant and college business professor to offer godly perspectives on such matters as competition, ambition, work-related stress, profits, customer service, and product quality. He refers to Scripture; but he also teaches readers to use common sense, righteous discernment, and the golden rule in selling services and products.

Written with wit, wisdom, and contemporary examples, this is a marvelous text for all Christians who wrestle with wanting to do God's will in the work arena. DEH

LIVING INTO THE LIFE OF JESUS: The Formation of Christian Character

by **Klaus Issler**

InterVarsity, 978-0-8308-3811-0, PB, 225 pages, \$16

Biola professor Issler delves into spiritual formation's often misunderstood gap of the "how" in being conformed to the image of Christ. His book offers practical steps to help the willing heart become the "doing heart" of a true, transformed believer. Divided into three parts, it challenges believers to identify gaps or negative behaviors; conform their world views to Scripture; and live out their spiritual callings through healthy relationships, genuine forgiveness, and God-honoring attitudes toward money.

Issler admitted that Dallas Willard's writings influenced his study, and Calvin Miller's foreword suggests this is not "lite fare" or a silver-bullet fix. Most of the book calls for slow, introspective reading, even though Issler has tried to simplify the concepts with alliterative tags. Thick with well-indexed Scriptures and quotations from other thinkers, I recommend it for church libraries that have thoughtful, theologically sensitive readers. JZ

NOTICING GOD

by **Richard Peace**

InterVarsity Press, 978-0-8308-3821-9, PB, 192 pages, \$15

Ever wondered if you've heard the voice of God? Or struggled to see God in everyday life? Peace, an evangelism and spiritual-formation professor, hopes to educate Christians on this spiritual discipline. *Noticing God* addresses God's presence in every aspect of life, providing advice on how to notice Him in nature, church, and community with discernment.

Through personal experiences, others' accounts, Scripture references, and extensive research, Peace addresses the longing to encounter God while on Earth. He uses ordinary examples to

help readers understand the search is not beyond their range. I recommend this book to patrons wanting to learn more about noticing God in everyday life. Churches will benefit from Peace's chapters on the church and religion and their part in illuminating God to the congregation. SC

THE PRESSURE'S OFF: Breaking Free from Rules and Performance

by **Larry Crabb**

WaterBrook, 978-0-307-73053-4, PB, 359 pages, \$16.99

Are you caving under the pressure of thinking the "old way"? According to Crabb, Christians have embraced two false notions: (1) following the rules will result in a good life, and (2) God is important because of His blessings. He puts the "old way" and "new way" of thinking into light, showing that when you seek God and nothing else, the pressure truly is off you. Along with an eight-week workbook, readers can use the lessons in this book to switch from selfish pursuits to the spiritual cycle of coming to the cross with brokenness.

This book initiates a lot of good reflection. However, it implies that few of our actions have any effect on our well-being, which contradicts several biblical statements that insist we are to be believers of the Word and *doers* of the Word. Nevertheless, Crabb's insistence that we need to be more God-centered in our thinking and behavior is a strong and relevant message. RMM

QUIT GOING TO CHURCH

by **Bob Hostetler**

Leafwood, 978-0-915547-70-8, PB, 216 pages, \$14.99

Many Christians struggle with a creeping apathetic attitude. What we need to do is stop going through the motions of Christianity. This book outlines 12 areas where Christians struggle with apathy. Hostetler states it is "about identifying and correcting the way we have forgotten—or de-

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parted from—the way of Jesus.” It is about throwing off the fetters of religion and focusing on faith.

Pastor and speaker Hostetler targets Christians who have been going to church for most of their lives and are dulled by predictable sermons, routine worship, repetitive prayers, and lackluster rituals. He wants to rekindle their religious passion. Each chapter ends in a prayer, which makes the book perfect for a daily study. KSI

SOMETIMES HE WHISPERS, SOMETIMES HE ROARS: Learning to Hear the Voice of God
by Marilynn Chadwick
Howard, 978-1-4516-5736-4, PB, 241 pages, \$14.99

Having trouble maintaining an active, vibrant prayer life? Speaker Chadwick has spent the years since 9/11 on a journey of prayer and now shares her lessons in this practical guide to the discipline of prayer, using God’s Word as the starting point.

Chadwick’s book reflects her growth in prayer and relationship to God over 10 years. She details many of her own specific prayer ideas, while offering them as a springboard for the reader to develop his or her own methods. She gives many examples of answered prayer from her own life. Highly recommended. JA

SOUL DETOX: Clean Living in a Contaminated World
by Craig Groeschel
Zondervan, 978-0-310-33368-5, HB, 234 pages, \$22.99

Every soul has been poisoned by things of this world, whether ideas, vices, or behaviors. *Soul Detox* shows how to use prayer, communion, meditation, and Bible study to begin the process of flushing this poison from one’s system. Groeschel purposes to show people how to escape from self-delusion, sin, and false beliefs.

Pastor Groeschel is both helpful and convicting. He communicates his mes-

sage in a powerful and insightful way, although his allusions to language may be considered a bit inappropriate by some. He keeps a reader’s attention with his light, funny style of writing and continual insertion of anecdotes, whether his own, a friend’s, or from the Bible. Recommend this book to patrons who seek ways to avoid the emotional and spiritual pollution of today’s society. CS

WHAT GOD THINKS WHEN WE FAIL: Finding Grace and True Success
by Steven C. Roy
InterVarsity, 978-0-8308-3939-1, PB, 192 pages, \$16

As Christians, how do we deal with failure? In a culture “addicted to celebrity,” Roy teaches us how, by God’s grace, it’s possible to face failure head on. Boldly, he addresses such issues as embarrassment, disgrace, disappointment, weakness, and fear.

Roy’s ability to relate Scripture to everyday life makes the Bible come alive in a real way. Supported with lesson-oriented anecdotes, he writes with authenticity borne from his experiences as pastor and college professor. He points out that even the heroes of the faith, from David to Peter, were often colossal failures, yet they still were able to recuperate and again serve the Lord. The nonjudgmental tone of this book makes it an encouragement to anyone trying to cope with elements of personal failure. CC

Books are the perfect entertainment: no commercials, no batteries, hours of enjoyment for each dollar spent. What I wonder is why everybody doesn’t carry a book around for those inevitable dead spots in life.

—Stephen King

Contemporary Issues

THE INTOLERANCE OF TOLERANCE

by D. A. Carson

Eerdmans, 978-0-8028-3170-5, HB, 186 pages, \$24

Can any culture truly accept everyone and everything? Is anyone completely certain about what it means to be tolerant? Have Western cultures, in their quest to include all people, become exclusive of anyone who dares speak according to conviction? These are the questions research professor Carson ventures to face and answer.

Through extensive research, he provides compelling examples from both historical and current events, so the evolution of tolerance is clearly illustrated. His case thus built, he moves on to advise Christians on how to keep their faith and integrity strong in a world where everything seems to be acceptable, except standing for one unchangeable truth. This book is written clearly and honestly and includes an index that highlights such topics as politics, religion, ethics, morality, business, education, entertainment, art, and culture. It helps Christians learn to stand their ground on biblical issues that must remain solidified. LVO

A capacity and taste for reading gives access to whatever has already been discovered by others.

—Abraham Lincoln

Books are the quietest and most constant of friends; they are the most accessible and wisest of counselors, and the most patient of teachers.

—Charles William Eliot

Evangelism & Missions

Evangelism

CONNECTING CHRIST: How to Discuss Jesus in a World of Diverse Paths

by Paul Louis Metzger

Nelson, 978-0-8499-4724-7, PB, 330 pages, \$16.99

With more than 20 major religions in this world, we live on a religiously diverse planet. Professor Metzger discusses many of the religions, worldviews, and lifestyles prevalent and controversial today, explaining their key elements of belief and worship. He teaches Christians how to understand and communicate with people of different faiths and worldviews through many stories of his own and his friends' interactions with followers of Islam, Mormonism, and Hinduism. He also explains how to use these methods in witnessing to homosexuals, atheists, and cult members.

Metzger stresses that, no matter how many Bible verses you quote, it is God's love and His will that changes people. I recommend this book because it provides a good understanding of non-Christian religions and teaches ways of sharing Jesus with those who follow these beliefs. JAS

LIVE LIKE A MISSIONARY: Giving Your Life for What Matters Most

by Jeff Iorg

New Hope, 978-1-59669-305-0, PB, 206 pages, \$16.99

The word *missionary* conjures up several images, including a person who travels to a distant land to minister to another culture. But Iorg, a seminary professor, challenges that image, and he concludes that God calls all Chris-

tians to be missionaries. The core of missional living is not about relocating to another land but, rather, that the ultimate objective of missional living is for Christians to live their faith close to home, telling the gospel to people around them or doing other Kingdom-building activities in their communities. When Christians understand God's mandate to share the gospel, they then realize they are on mission.

This is a book for all believers who want a better understanding of their call to a missional lifestyle. After reading it, Christians will understand more readily their missional responsibility and realize it is about reaching people for God. JCH

Missions

EVERYDAY MISSIONS: How Ordinary People Can Change the World

by Leroy Barber

InterVarsity, 978-0-8308-3636-9, PB, 153 pages, \$15

Do you ever find yourself in a rut? Or find yourself wondering what God can do with your "averageness"? The solution is to stop focusing on yourself and start focusing on loving and serving those around you. This book describes ways in which that shift can be made via service, ministry, Bible studies, witnessing, tithing, teaching, and praying.

Barber, president of Mission Year, a young adult inner-city ministry, writes in a down-to-earth way, using anecdotes and other people's stories to weave throughout his topical chapters. This book would be best for college students and adults who are passionate about being extraordinary Jesus followers in an ordinary world. KSI

Family

Marriage

THE BEAUTIFUL WIFE: Focused on Christ, Fulfilled in Marriage

by Sandy Ralya

Kregel, 978-0-8254-4220-9, PB, 237 pages, \$13.99

When daddy's princess marries another mommy's prince, reality soon replaces fantasy; and many changes are required. This book encourages both upcoming newlyweds and already married women to seek guidance from God and experienced nurturing women who will help them become the creators of a beautiful marriage in Christ.

The book covers all aspects of the woman's role in marriage and personal choices that affect those around her. It is an enjoyable conversation between the reader and author that includes lists of reflections and first steps after each chapter. The content progresses from the beginning of the relationship to the mother role and finishes with the empty nest.

Ralya is founder and director of Beautiful Womanhood, a marriage-mentoring ministry. This book is an excellent resource for small-group or individual study for those who are looking for God's best in their marriages. BWR

DATE YOUR WIFE: A Husband's Guide

by Justin Buzzard

Crossway, 978-1-4335-3135-4, PB, 148 pages, \$10.99

Buzzard is obviously committed not only to his marriage, but also to marriage in general. He divides his book into four sections: the good, the bad, the new, and the perfect. He shares much of his own life in identifying and addressing issues that are critical in a

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healthy marriage. He concludes with an afterward written by his wife and a note from a 90-year-old man who is now caring for (dating) his invalid wife.

Pastor Buzzard's experience is limited (he's only been married eight years), and his children are still quite young. While he articulates his desire for young men to keep on working at their marriages to the end, the considerable references to physical intimacy and "time away from the kids" can limit the applicability to empty nesters and retirees. Still, this is a good and easy read for husbands who desire to do a better job of fulfilling their calling to love their wives. BR

MARRIED FOR REAL: Building a Loving, Powerful Life Together
by Eddie & Tamara George with Rob Simbeck
Abingdon, 978-1-4267-2248-6, HB, 181 pages, \$19.95

Two celebrities who grew up in dysfunctional families discuss six areas that helped shape and grow their six-year marriage. Tamara (once part of the singing group SWV) and Eddie (Heisman trophy winner and pro-football player) share back-and-forth about personal baggage, taking time to grow, keeping God in a relationship, financial wisdom, sexual issues, and maintaining personal identities.

A couple for seven years before marriage, they agreed to sexual abstinence during their nine-month engagement. Those with troubled family backgrounds may relate to the Georges' transparency. The end-of-chapter discussion questions will help couples communicate. Eddie's reference to yoga as part of his spiritual practice may raise caution for some. This is a celebrity-driven book about a young marriage with photos of the Georges sandwiched inside. Much better marriage books, written by seasoned pastors and counselors, exist. Probably pass on this one. JZ

PRAYING GOD'S WORD FOR YOUR HUSBAND

by Kathi Lipp
Revell, 978-0-8007-2076-6, PB, 208 pages, \$13.99

According to Lipp, her prayers for her husband changed from stagnant to bold when she began personalizing Scripture as prayers for him. She offers prayers that quote or paraphrase Scripture and connect with 14 different needs in a husband's life. They cover his relationship with God, emotional life (feeling overwhelmed or inadequate, worry), work life, past mistakes, his present (marriage, friendships, children), his mind, and his dreams for the future.

The book begins with instructions on how to pray, including prayers for a non-Christian spouse. Then Lipp offers specific scriptural prayers for targeting needs over a two-week cycle of personal intercession or for group prayer. Her "girlfriends" writing style contrasts with the more serious tone of Stormie Omartian's *The Power of a Praying ...* series. Add this book to your library if you already have good check-out traffic for Omartian's books. JZ

WHAT THE BIBLE SAYS ABOUT LOVE, MARRIAGE & SEX: The Song of Solomon

by David Jeremiah
FaithWords, 978-1-4555-1142-6, PB, 288 pages, \$15.99

Because about a third of all marriages end in divorce, the time is ripe for this book that expounds the joys of a successful union. With unabashed candor, pastor Jeremiah explains, verse-by-verse, the significance of 15 happenings during the courtship, wedding, wedding night, and later years of King Solomon and Shulamith.

Passages that have mystified Bible readers for years make sense once their cultural significance is understood. The author's suggestions for personal application of the truths explained make this a must-read for starry-eyed cou-

ples contemplating marriage.

The pages are laced with Scripture and observations from respected Christian writers. With only 12 chapters, it is right for a Sunday-school elective or small-group study. It's also great for personal study. Parents would do well to share it with their high-school and college children. HIM

Parenting

88 GREAT DADDY-DAUGHTER DATES

by Rob & Joanna Teigen
Revell, 978-0-8007-2033-9, PB, 220 pages, \$10.99

There is not a lot to say about this book that the title has not already said. Each of the 88 chapters are devoted to a different activity and designed to build memories—and character—for Daddy's little girl. Each activity explains what props might be needed (e.g., GPS, phone book, camera), a place to go, and a reason for going. It includes a purpose for each activity and concludes with a prayer.

Most of the "dates" are accomplished locally, but the book concludes with eight "extreme" dates—activities that include extended time, going out of town, or fulfilling a dream. I had to wait for granddaughters, but I intend on borrowing a few of these ideas myself in order to make the most of the time I have with my five princesses. Highly recommended for anyone with a daughter. BR

DIFFERENT DREAM PARENTING: A Practical Guide to Raising a Child with Special Needs

by Jolene Philo
Discovery House, 978-1-57293-467-2, PB, 331 pages, \$12.99

Your church library needs this comprehensive reference book for parents of children with any kind of special need, whether autism, cancer, or other issue. Philo has lived this special pa-

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rental life and has completed a work full of resources, tactics, and tools to help parents navigate the challenges to become the best advocate for their child.

The book is divided into six sections: "Diagnosis," "Hospital Life," "Juggling Two Worlds," "Long-Term Care Conditions," "Losing a Child," and "Raising a Survivor." Each section of four chapters includes one chapter on spiritual issues.

Parents will find excellent suggestions for resources, keeping organized, advocating for their child, national organizations, lists, asking spiritual questions, and much more. The book offers advice and examples from professionals working with special-needs families and parents who have learned how to cope. Highly recommended for church libraries and parents of special-needs children. JA

HELP WANTED: Moms Raising Daughters
by Darlene Brock
OakTara, 978-1-60290-280-0, PB, 224 pages, \$14.95

In the midst of a fiery political debate between stay-at-home and working moms, Brock offers an interesting perspective on the most difficult job in the world. She was a busy executive in the music-recording industry while she became a mom of two daughters. She contends that being a mother is not one job but several with a variety of responsibilities, such as coach, time manager, professor of gender studies, and military strategist.

Brock devotes one chapter and job description to each of 13 positions that she thinks are embodied in motherhood. Often humorous, as well as poignant, this quick-read is nonetheless inspiring to moms who want to raise productive, healthy, young women.

Although Brock's book is essentially a secular treatise with few, if any, biblical references, there is nothing in her philosophy that is anti-Christian. Nev-

ertheless, you would be better served to look further for a book on motherhood that is more clearly based on Scripture. JAW

MARRIED MOM, SOLO PARENT: Finding God's Strength to Face the Challenge
by Carla Anne Coroy
Kregel, 978-0-8254-2626-1, PB, 272 pages, \$15.99

Who would ever want to be married and yet parent alone? But that's the situation for many women whose husbands work far from home, have addictions, are incarcerated, etc. Coroy addresses many aspects of problems that arise when Mom is the only involved parent in the family. She tells her own story, interwoven with examples from other women and truths from God's Word, about relating to a husband while parenting alone.

Her words ring true as she shares the spiritual path she walked with God to reach a point of hope and healing. Topics she covers include emotions, discipline, celebrations, mealtimes, emotional divorce, no longer "needing" a husband, and many more. Coroy's husband wrote the last chapter, which is a testimony to God's work in both of their lives. Appendices include resources, blessings, and Job 38—42. Highly recommended for church libraries and women's ministries. JA

RAISING WISE CHILDREN: Handing Down the Story of Wisdom
by Mark Matlock
Zondervan, 978-0-310-66937-1, PB, 160 pages, \$12.99

When prospective parents are asked which gender they prefer, the usual response is a noncommittal "as long as he or she is healthy." According to veteran youth pastor Matlock, an equal or better choice should be, "as long as they are wise." Biblical wisdom is handed down from one generation to the next and is more essential to suc-

cessful lives than genetics, skills, or other inherited traits.

Matlock offers anecdotes from his own parenting experience and lists seven marks of wisdom he wants to see in his two children, including trusts in God, seeks good counsel, and exercises self-control. At the end of each chapter is a "Do Something" section, in which readers are given practical exercises. Recommended. JAW

WHEN THEY TURN AWAY: Drawing Your Adult Child Back to Christ
by Rob Rienow
Kregel, 978-0-82543653-6, PB, 167 pages, \$12.99

Why doesn't my child have faith? What did I do wrong? Many Christian parents are asking these questions and are desperately seeking hope. Rienow wants to give parents the answers to these questions and hope for the future. He discusses tools for parents to change the ways they and the adult child view each other.

Relationships can improve and pave the way for living the Christian faith in an impactful way in front of the adult child. Rienow is a pastor and speaker who ministers full-time through Visionary Parenting. Highly recommended for both church libraries and parents. JA

Fiction

ACCUSED
Pacific Coast Justice Series #1
by Janice Cantore
Tyndale, 978-1-4143-5847-5, PB, 376 pages, \$12.99

Watch your backs as you investigate Cantore's heart-pounding novel. Stuck with a desk job in juvenile, detective Carly Edwards longs for the old days when she patrolled the streets. When the mayor is murdered and a young man is arrested, Carly is called to in-

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terrogate the boy. Nothing is as it seems as the case unfolds to even bigger questions. Against her better judgment, Carly calls on her ex-husband, Nick, for help. Should she really trust the man who once betrayed her?

Accused has a well-drawn plot and a Christ-centered message of forgiveness and restitution. Due to the officers' views of the world there is harsh language, but nothing is used unnecessarily or too graphically. The dialogue and description are realistic, pulling the reader into scenes and settings. This is a page-turner for readers who like tension, forward movement, and strong character interaction. AW

AS ONE DEVIL TO ANOTHER

by Richard Platt

Tyndale, 978-1-4143-7166-5, PB, 208 pages, \$15.99

In the style of C. S. Lewis's *Screwtape Letters*, this book is a witty perspective on the current state of our culture (politics, media, education, religion, finances). In the correspondence from a senior devil, Slashreap, to his young nephew, Scardagger, Slashreap tutors his protégé in the art of winning a soul away from the "Adversary" and into hell.

Platt has done massive amounts of research, and it shows. While some Lewis enthusiasts potentially could criticize the language, this book is remarkably true to a style he'd use if he were writing today. Topics like sexual temptation and the inherently disturbing topic of devils will be better understood by older teen and adult readers. KSI

BY THE LIGHT OF THE SILVERY MOON

by Tricia Goyer

Barbour, 978-1-61626-551-9, PB, 317 pages, \$12.99

Aboard the doomed *Titanic*, a prodigal son and his affluent brother vie for the heart of the beautiful Amelia Gladstone. Though traveling to America to

meet a prospective suitor, Amelia finds herself drawn to the two men. Wealthy Damien can offer her the world. Broken Quentin can give her nothing but love. Amelia must decide which path God is leading her down before the "Ship of Dreams" sails straight into a nightmare.

The story of the prodigal son is placed in an entirely new setting and written with remarkable impact. The colorful characters are endearing and memorable. However, the dialogue sometimes seems a bit forced. I recommend this novel to women looking for a sweet romance. It isn't sophisticated, but it is entertaining. And its biblical parallels regarding lessons of forgiveness, brotherly love, and family devotion are obvious. BF

THE CHASE

Crime Scene: Houston #1

by DiAnn Mills

Zondervan, 978-0-310-33317-3, PB, 368 pages, \$14.99

The case of a little girl found starved to death in a seedy Houston neighborhood haunts former reporter Kariss Walker. Now she's fulfilling her dream of writing a suspense novel about the cold case. She is teamed with cynical FBI agent Tigo Harris, who is in the process of bringing down a vicious gunrunning gang. Soon clues turn up suggesting the two cases are connected, and Kariss finds herself on the wrong side of one of the most brutal gangs in the city. The pair must put aside their differences and learn to trust in God if they want to survive.

The Chase tugs the heartstrings, even as it rushes forward at breakneck speed. The characters seem ready to walk off the page, and the peek into the worlds of writers and FBI agents is thought provoking and entertaining. Highly recommended. BF

ECHOES OF TITANIC

by Mindy Starns Clark & John Campbell Clark

Harvest House, 987-0-7369-2946-2, PB, 352 pages, \$13.99

Adele and Kelsey Tate's stories caught me from the start. Kelsey's story is told with interspersed flashbacks to the younger days of her great-grandmother, Adele, during the *Titanic*'s fatal maiden voyage. Then in modern times we watch Kelsey trying to live up to Adele's legacy.

Plot twists, both past and present, make this a compulsive page-turner. Christianity is prevalent in the story—not enough to be offensive to an unbelieving audience, but the perfect amount to provide thought-provoking insight. I immediately identified with both of the female leads. But I also had an emotional connection to the male characters, allowing the story to appeal to both genders. Given that this year is the 100th anniversary of the sinking of the *Titanic*, this book is timely for those who are history buffs and those who enjoy fast-paced fiction. CH

GUILTY BY ASSOCIATION

The Jamieson Legacy #1

by Pat Simmons

Moody, 978-0-8024-0368-1, PB, 353 pages, \$14.99

Can an angry Black man ever be anything else? This book asks that question, following Kevin "Kidd" Jamieson's journey from his life in a Boston ghetto to an upscale life in St. Louis. Kidd is angry with his father for deserting his family, angry at whites for enslaving his people long ago, and angry at God for allowing it all. He starts to reevaluate his anger when he meets Eva, a beautiful woman who challenges all his assumptions about life and God.

This story is saturated in Scripture and often takes a preachy tone. Simmons's characterizations of Kidd and Eva are strong, but too many other characters make the book confusing.

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The dialogue is rather stilted and often clichéd; and the book contains doctrinal biases, such as endorsing conditional salvation. Although it makes good points about racial and ethnic pride, the writing quality is too poor to give it a strong recommendation. KS

HAZEL CREEK

by **Walt Larimore**

Howard, 978-1-439-14182-3, PB, 353 pages, \$14.99

Reminiscent of Laura Ingalls Wilder's writing style in *Little House on the Prairie*, this snapshot of mountain folk, gypsies, and the Great Smoky Mountains quickly draws readers in. This tale takes place during the Roaring Twen-

ties, although the only things that roar in the Smokies are cougars and rifles. Abbie Randolph is forced to grow up quickly and rely on "that ole time religion" when the new age of industry begins to threaten the family farm and their very lives.

It is obvious Larimore did a lot of research on culture and dialect. Readers will be instantly drawn to the col-

SEQUELS

to *Book of Dreams*

by **Davis Bunn**

Howard, 978-1-4165-56721-5,
\$14.99

Hidden in Dreams

to *Beyond a Bride*

by **Mona Hodgson**

WaterBrook, 978-0-307-73030-5,
\$13.99

The Bride Wore Blue

to *Sunrise Series*

by **Karen Kingsbury**

Zondervan, 978-0-310-26624-2,
\$14.99

Coming Home

SERIES UPDATES

Backstage Pass

by **Janice Thompson**

Revell, 978-0-8007-3347-6, \$14.99

#3 *The Director's Cut*

Hanover Falls

by **Deborah Raney**

Howard, 978-1-4165-9995-1, \$14.99

#3 *After All*

Raleigh Harmon Series

by **Sibella Giorello**

Nelson, 978-1-59554-536-7, \$15.99

#5 *The Stars Shine Bright*

Big Sky

by **Tricia Goyer**

B&H, 978-1-4336-6870-8, \$14.99

#3 *Beyond Hope's Valley* (final)

Heart of the Rockies

by **Kathleen Morgan**

Revell, 978-0-8007-1971-5, \$14.99

#2 *A Love Forbidden*

Secrets of Roux River Bayou

by **Kathy Hermon**

Cook, 978-0-7814-0342-9, \$14.99

#3 *Relentless Pursuit* (final)

The Brides of Alba

by **Linda Windsor**

Cook, 978-1-4347-6476-8, \$14.99

#3 *Rebel*

Irish Angel

by **Jill Marie Landis**

Zondervan, 978-0-310-29372-9, \$14.99

#3 *Heart of Glass*

Shipshewana Amish Mystery

by **Vannetta Chapman**

Zondervan, 978-0-310-33044-8,
\$12.99

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by **Eva Marie Everson**

Revell, 978-0-8007-3437-4, \$14.99

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Kauffman Amish Bakery

by **Amy Clipston**

Zondervan, 978-0-310-31996-2, \$12.99

#5 *A Season of Love*

Texas Trails

Moody, 978-0-8024-0408-4, \$14.99

#6 *End of the Trail*

by **Vickie McDonough**

The Gates of Heaven

by **C. S. Lakin**

Living Ink, 978-089957-892-7,
\$14.99

#4 *The Unraveling of Wentwater*

Lake Manawa Summers

by **Lorna Seilstad**

Revell, 978-0-8007-3447-3, \$14.99

#3 *The Ride of Her Life*

The Women of Lancaster County

by **Mindy Starns Clark & Leslie
Gould**

Harvest, 978-0-7369-3862-4, \$13.99

#3 *The Amish Bride*

BOOK REVIEWS

orful descriptions of the mountain settings and likable characters. While it's only a page-turner in parts, the story is an enjoyable pace, reminiscent of times gone by. This book will interest readers who enjoy Christian fiction, historical novels, or stories that have a distinct sense of place. KSI

HIDING IN PLAIN SIGHT

Place of Refuge #1

by Amy Wallace

Harvest House, 978-0-7369-4731-2, PB, 304 pages, \$13.99

A big-city cop leaves her chaotic world to escape her past. Officer Ashley Walters begins to find peace in small-town life. Still, she can't escape reminders of the brother she loved or the crimes that are all around, even in a quiet Mennonite community.

Wallace has all the aspects of a good story. The plot is solid, and the characters are interesting and three-dimensional. As the story progresses, though, the pacing feels rushed in places and the dialogue a bit forced. The contrasts of the metro cop "hiding" among the quiet, humble Mennonites offers opportunities for Christian virtues to be superimposed on modern vices, crimes, and degradation. This is more than standard bonnet fiction. KH

IN THE SHADOW OF CATHERINE

by Doris Elaine Fell

OakTara, 978-1-60290-279-4, PB, 416 pages, \$23.95

Catherine O'Sullivan is the iron fist behind the flourishing O'Sullivan *Star* newspaper. She appears to have it all together, but inside she's a complex mix of emotions. More than anything, she wishes to be reunited with her daughter, Amanda. Living in her mother's shadow has been hard on Amanda. She sets off on a journey to find who she is and who she really loves, including her commitment to God. From Afghanistan to Paris, being linked to the Taliban and later an Italian diamond mob, the melodrama

is like a treadmill.

Fell writes in a way that makes everything into a hyperbolic frenzy with plot twists on every other page. While some readers might enjoy the complication of overlapping characters and multitiered plots, the mere bulk of the novel may be off-putting to others. KSI

THE IRISH HEALER

by Nancy Herriman

Worthy, 978-1-936034-78-9, PB, 320 pages, \$14.99

Rachel Dunne is a gifted healer accused of murdering a patient. Devastated and outcast, she abandons her practice and trust in God. She starts anew in London, assisting Dr. James Edmunds. After losing his wife, Edmunds has been tormented by guilt and failure. His world brightens, however, when the kindhearted Rachel arrives. As the threat of cholera spreads, secrets are discovered, romance blossoms, and trust is broken. When Dr. Edmunds's daughter falls ill, he and Rachel must find the strength to confront their pasts and accept God's grace.

Herriman's debut novel is thoroughly engaging. Although at times the dialogue is wooden, her descriptions vividly portray Victorian England. The plot is tenderly written with the message to trust God's plan in the face of failure, making it a good addition to a church library. Laced with romance and suspense, women will especially enjoy this book. BW

JOSIANE

by Carol Savage

OakTara, 978-1-60290-266-4, PB, 236 pages, \$17.95

Left to die by her island tribe, Josiane calls on the Big God she knows must exist. American tourists Bill and Judy Worth rescue her, taking her with them back to New York. So begins Josiane's relationship with the true God. This relationship guides her through her introduction to the outside

world, a shocking discovery about her ancestry, and her desire to reach her tribe with the Gospel.

Josiane chronicles a modern young woman's desperate search for the God who will fulfill her. New and mature Christians alike can relate to the obstacles and triumphs she encounters along the way. Although the constant spirituality in the dialogue is somewhat irritating and some of the events in Josiane's life are a bit unbelievable, the emotion this book projects is spot on. I recommend this novel to women readers. BF

SECOND CHANCE

by Eileen Hinkle Rife

OakTara, 978-1-60290-318-0, PB, 179 pages, \$16.95

When her last child leaves home, middle-aged housewife Mave Robertson wonders if there is anything left in life. Her husband makes it clear that an empty nest is not the place for romance to blossom. When boredom inspires her to volunteer for Second Chance Ministries, she finds a new purpose in helping troubled teens, especially Dareece, who is desperate to be free from a gang.

Though the dialogue and narration are unrealistic at times, Rife handles relevant issues without obscene language or crude content. The characters develop significantly as they look to the Bible for aid in their hardships. The Song of Solomon teaches Mave how to appreciate her mate, and Psalms teaches Dareece how to endure life. I recommend this book to anyone who needs encouragement to follow the Lord in times of frustration and trial. LVO

THE SOUND OF RED RETURNING

Red Returning Trilogy #1

by Sue Duffy

Kregel, 978-0-8254-2574-5, PB, 288 pages, \$14.99

When Liesl witnessed the shooting of her dear Harvard piano professor,

BOOK REVIEWS

she never imagined he was a double agent or that he'd entrusted secret information to her that both the Russians and Americans were desperate to have. Now, years later, Liesl is thrown into a whirlwind of international espionage and also a love affair, with the fates of lives resting in her musically gifted hands. She seeks God's guidance to make proper life choices.

This novel seesaws between intense political intrigue and slow-paced, personal back stories. At times, the back stories seem to take front and center, making the shorter, intense scenes feel like bridges to another character's personal narrative. While it's not quite a political heart-pounder nor a romance epic, patrons who like a little bit of both will find this book easy to read, if not overly stimulating. LG

THYME FOR LOVE

On the Road to Love #1

by Pamela S. Meyers

OakTara, 978-1-60290-302-9, PB, 200 pages, \$16.95

When April Love first walks through the doors of Rescate de Nino's restaurant, it seems as though her aspiration of becoming a chef is about to become a reality. However, with the unexpected return of her former fiancé and death of her new boss, April's life-long dream turns into a nightmare. Accusations fly, suspicions arise, and buried emotions rekindle in a multilayered plot of romance and mystery.

Meyers approaches the otherwise serious plot with a humorous tone. Each character has a special quirk, creating an interesting mix of personalities. While this novel may provide some entertainment value for Christian women, it does not make any particular moral point. The characters wrestle with ethical issues but don't rely directly on biblical examples as guidelines for dealing with their problems. LVO

THE WELCOME COMMITTEE OF BUTTERNUT CREEK

Butternut Creek #1

by Jane Myers Perrine

FaithWords, 978-0-89296-921-0, PB, 366 pages, \$14.99

When newly ordained minister Adam Jordan is hired to lead the flock of Butternut Creek Christian Church, he quickly realizes seminary never prepared him for Miss Birdie and her band of widows. Miss Birdie and her friend, Mercedes, generously educate Adam on how things should be done and volunteer to find a wife for him. When Adam dodges their attempts, they focus on the other newest bachelor in town, former Marine Sam Pe-terson. After losing his leg in Afghanistan, Sam struggles with depression and post-traumatic stress while falling for his physical therapist, a single mom with two sons.

The characters have potential but are not deep emotionally. Instead of flowing, the plot is mostly a play-by-play account. The dialogue is stiff and has some profanity. Some readers may not identify with a character who is a female ordained minister, and you should be aware of theological controversy in this novel. AA

WILDFLOWERS FROM WINTER

by Katie Ganshert

WaterBrook, 978-0-307-73038-1, PB, 320 pages, \$9.99

After getting a phone call about a crisis in her hometown, Bethany Quinn is reluctant to go back to the place she abandoned 10 years ago. Only planning on staying a week, her visit extends longer than expected with the combination of losing her job and inheriting the family farm in her grandfather's will. Struggling with the young man who's reluctant to move off the farm he cares for and trying to hold together the pieces of the life she worked so hard to create, Bethany must look to the God of her past and trust in Him again to make it through

her future.

This novel offers a heartwarming story with dynamic characters, intertwining plots, and a satisfying ending. I recommend this book to women who are seeking a soft-felt, romantic story. KS

Teens

THE BRAVE: Conquering the Fears That Hold You Back

by Hayley & Michael DiMarco

Revell, 978-0-8007-3305-6, PB, 162 Pages, \$12.99

What do you let hold you back? The DiMarcos examine that question and more. They take teens on a journey to help them find ways to understand and overcome fear, beginning with a look into their formerly fearful lives. Topics include finding a mentor, researching Scripture, reading about others who have faced challenging trials, increasing prayer time, and journaling.

One area they delve into is the topic of pain, particularly why it has to be experienced at all and why on so many levels: physical, emotional, cultural, social, and psychological. Drawing from the Bible, they show ways God has used pain as a teaching tool, as a way of disciplining those he loves, and as a way of saving the lost.

The writing is anecdotal and conversational. The book begins with a self-examining quiz to help readers get a perspective on their current setbacks and opportunities. It's obvious the DiMarcos' experience as youth counselors helps them address topics of keen interest to teens and provide genuine help for that age group. DH

INTERRUPTED

by Rachel Coker

Zondervan, 978-0-310-72973-0, HB, 320 pages, \$15.95

Love is always confusing, especially

BOOK REVIEWS

when it's mingled with grief and bitterness. Allie Everly experiences this firsthand when her mother dies and she is sent, hours after the funeral, from her home in the South to the coastal regions of Maine. She is intent on not seeing Maine or her adopted mother as her home and family, and she is determined to live out her dream of becoming a poet. But when her childhood friend arrives for the summer and World War II threatens to become a reality, she must choose between living in the past or opening herself to the future and love.

Interrupted is a bit slow in the beginning, but eventually it does pick up its pace. The characters' reactions are believable, though the dialogue is somewhat wooden at times. The book is set both in Tennessee and Maine, but there is so little description it could take place anywhere. I recommend it for younger teens but not readers with more sophisticated tastes. DR

PURE LOVE, PURE LIFE: Exploring God's Heart on Purity
by Elsa Kok Colopy
Zondervan, 978-0-310-72609-8, PB, 208 pages, \$9.99

Books on sexual purity are a dime a dozen. But this book goes much deeper than drawing healthy physical boundaries in dating. Colopy wastes no time getting to the heart of the Lord in pu-

rity and how it can change a person's life in singleness, dating, and marriage.

The subject of purity can be touchy, but Colopy handles it tactfully, using a lot of stories from both her own and others' personal experiences, as well as specific scriptural references. This book has a fun, quirky tone, while also addressing such pertinent questions as: What does it mean to live a pure life? Is setting boundaries really enough? How do I react to certain situations and temptations? I heartily recommend this book as a must-have for the reading lists of any young adult and teen women. LG

SHIFTING SAND
by Peggy Clement
OakTara, 978-1-60290-297-8, PB, 89 pages, \$15.95

Fourteen-year-old Luke seems to have a perfect life until he discovers his best friend, his dad, has cancer. When his father dies, Luke is immersed in an ocean of depression and inexpressible grief. This leads to years of substance abuse, alcoholism, and immorality; and Luke's future seems doomed. However, when an unopened Christmas package is found in his father's closet, Luke wonders if he has had the wrong attitude toward life. A look at Christian virtues offers a ray of hope.

Shifting Sand is an emotionally driven tale. But often the plot seems rushed, so character motivation is not clear. Also, the dialogue is rather formal and unrealistic. Although this book does an excellent job of pointing out the tragedy of using drugs and alcohol, it takes in stride Luke's exploitation of young women. For a quick profile of a teen coping with grief, this book offers some insights. LVO

SERIES UPDATES

Life at Kingston High
by Melody Carlson
Revell, 978-0-8007-1963-0, \$12.99
#2 *The Best Friend*

The Solitary Tales
by Travis Thrasher
Cook, 978-1-4347-6417-1, \$9.99
#3 *Temptation*

Women

MORE BEAUTY, LESS BEAST: Transforming Your Inner Ogre
by Debora M. Coty
Barbour, 978-1-61626-347-8, PB, 224 pages, \$9.99

Ladies, do you have an inner ogre that often threatens to overwhelm your beautiful, hidden princess? Do you want some practical, entertaining advice on how to tame that beast? You're not alone, and Coty is here to help. Coty looks at four aspects of beauty: outer beauty, inner beauty, fruit of the Spirit, and relationships. Each chapter begins with a key Bible verse and ends with a pertinent quote and three discussion questions. A Scripture index organizes the key verses she uses.

Each chapter is filled with witty, honest, and inspirational wisdom. Coty, a columnist and speaker, draws from personal experience, Scripture, and research. She often uses lists and catchy acrostics as memory aids. While her book is geared toward middle-aged and older Christian women, females of all ages will enjoy and learn from it. SHW

Give me a man or woman who has read a thousand books and you give me an interesting companion. Give me a man or woman who has read perhaps three and you give me a dangerous enemy indeed.

—Anne Rice

The habit of reading is the only enjoyment in which there is no alloy; it lasts when all other pleasures fade.

—Anthony Trollope

DVD REVIEWS

Documentary

THE GIFT OF LIFE

with Gov. Mike Huckabee

Citizens United, 7-98304-19736-5, 71 minutes, \$19.95

Life for a baby of rape, a baby with a handicap, is explored in this documentary on the sanctity of life. Huckabee hosts it and discusses his pro-life views.

The DVD presents leaders in the

Pro-Life movement, including some previously working in the abortion industry. Other speakers include a woman whose mother wanted to abort her after a rape, a motivational speaker who was born without arms, and a couple who adopted a frozen embryo. These and other firsthand accounts, plus an update on Pro-Life groups, makes for a convicting film. Some biographical details and photos of the Huckabee are included, but these are not a distraction from the poignant

Pro-Life message. Highly recommended for church libraries. JA (Order from www.TheGiftofLifeMovie.com.)

SERIES UPDATE

Chuck Swindoll's *Paws & Tales*
Tyndale, 978-1-4143-4114-9,
\$9.99
#8 *Being Kind & Caring*

MUSIC REVIEWS

Contemporary

OVERCOME

by Lara Landon

139th Broadway, 6-6944700412-7, \$9.99

Singer and songwriter Landon established a strong fan base with her previous album, *Beloved*. Many of the songs on that album and *Overcome* were inspired by true events that happened in her walk with God or in the lives of loved ones.

For example, the heart-gripping song "Falling" reflects a decision either to choose God and what is right or to choose the path of worldly sin. Additional songs reflect a more upbeat, worshipful style, such as "Better for the Breaking" and "The Spirit of the Lord," that are old-fashioned, hand-clapping melodies similar to Southern Gospel tunes.

This CD bursts with worship music

that features excellent instrumentation and Christ-centered lyrics. Anyone with a love for songs that radiate a spiritual meaning will enjoy this it. AW

Hymns

AMAZING GRACE: Celtic Hymns & Blessings

Discovery House, 0-717336-424126, \$10.99

If you're looking for a change-up to your hymn listening, if you love the Celtic groups so popular on PBS these days, if you wish for more in that genre with a Christ-centered twist, you'll find what you're seeking here. As the title indicates, this is a blend of vocals and instrumentals with the variety of cadences and supporting instrumentation that's expected from this genre.

Some of the blessings are contemplative. My favorite is "Circle Me, O

Lord," that voices the heartfelt prayer, "In this world so dark and cold ... hold me to Your heart." Others, especially "We're Marching to Zion" and "Joy in the Kingdom," are upbeat and energizing—with amazing fiddling. The collection opens and closes with "Amazing Grace," complete with bagpipes. It's a rich, cultural experience. J-AI

ANGEL BAND: THE HYMN SESSIONS

by Andrew Greer

Ma'M, 8-04879-25822-3, \$12.82

I expected the typical selection of hymns. What is here instead is a collection of mostly gospel songs, opening with "O Come Angel Band," featuring guest vocals from Sonja Isaacs (of the Gospel bluegrass family group The Isaacs).

The vocals have the slightly flat twang you'd expect on the Opry stage. Yet the styles are as eclectic as you can get. There's a country/bluegrass take on the spiritual "Down By the River

MUSIC REVIEWS

Side," a banjo accompaniment to Malotte's classic "The Lord's Prayer," and an oom-pah-pah beat to "In the Garden."

As Greer explained, "These songs first opened my heart to God. Their verses and melodies have cultivated an ongoing conversation between my best Friend and me. I hope through listening you discover a similar dialogue." The settings are unexpected, and the content is meaningful. Recommended. J-AI

WORLD OF PRAISE: Instrumental Hymns
Discovery House, 0-717336-334425, \$10.99

Take a trip around the world to hear these favorite hymns in stylized regional settings from Spain ("O the Deep, Deep Love of Jesus") to the Middle East ("Jesus, Lover of My Soul") to Africa ("What a Friend We Have in Jesus") to Ireland ("O Worship the King") to Appalachia ("Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing") and more in between.

These aren't your grandparents' hymns. They're reset in unexpected beats with instrumentations that both haunt and thrill, played with a variety of exotic instruments to lift praise and worship to the Lord. If truly every tribe and tongue and nation will one day carry praise to God, maybe it'll sound a little like this. J-AI

HYMNS
by Guy Penrod

Servant, 6-1788461422-5, \$13.99

Blend a perennial favorite voice among Southern Gospel fans with some of the most requested, beloved selections from the well-worn country hymnal, and you have a sure winner. Add a high-profile duet with centenarian George Beverly Shea ("Does Jesus Care?"), and you can't lose.

Produced again by Gaither Music (after a crossover album in the country arena), Penrod offers his unique

solo take on such favorites as "We'll Understand It Better By And By," "Count Your Blessings," and "Nothing But the Blood."

Listen with your imagination, and you may find yourself back at the old church for homecoming Sunday and dinner on the grounds. It's this *t h i s* genre at its most prototypical—yet it's so warm and welcoming. I enjoyed it as a flashback to younger, simpler days. I'll listen again, soon. J-AI

LOVE THAT WILL NOT LET ME GO: Classical Ensemble with Devotional Readings from Oswald Chambers
Discovery House, 0-717336-396225, \$10.99

Beginning and ending with "O Love That Will Not Let Me Go," this collection of instrumental hymns offers glimpses of our status before God, our absolute dependence on Him, and our desperate need to listen for His voice.

Hymn fans will enjoy these low-key, yet refreshing orchestrations of familiar tunes. Chambers fans will be thrilled with the way readings from his work add context and weave the selections into a seamless tapestry. The two are matched meticulously to lead listeners in a worship experience that enriches a devotional hour with new insights and old reminders.

As a violinist, I loved all the lush arrangements, especially "The Love of God" and "O Worship the King." Highly recommended to encourage patrons to draw closer to God. J-AI

No matter how busy you may think you are, you must find time for reading, or surrender yourself to self-chosen ignorance.

—Confucius

Reviewers

Julie Agen, church librarian
Ashlee Amann, writer
Sarah Cespedes, writer
Caroline Cilento, writer
Becky Farb, writer
Lyndsey Gammage, writer
Amy L. Green, writer
Claire Hadley, writer
Kacey Heinlein, writer
James C. Hendrix, reviewer
Dr. Dennis E. Hensley, writer
David Hestand III, writer
Julie-Allyson Ieron, writer, editor
Katelyn S. Irons, writer
Olivia Jessup, writer
Hope Irvin Marston, writer
Ronni M. Meier, writer
Lexie V. Owen, writer
Scott H. Phillips, writer
Demelza Ramirez, writer
Barbara Winslow Robidoux, editor
Bob Rose, pastor
Kristin Schwartz, writer
Kristi Schweitzer, writer
Meredith L. Sell, writer
Joshua A. Spotts, writer
Carlita Stewart, writer
Judy A. Waggoner, church librarian
Stephanie H. Warner, writer
Anna Williams, writer
Brianna Wyatt, writer
Jeanne Zornes, writer

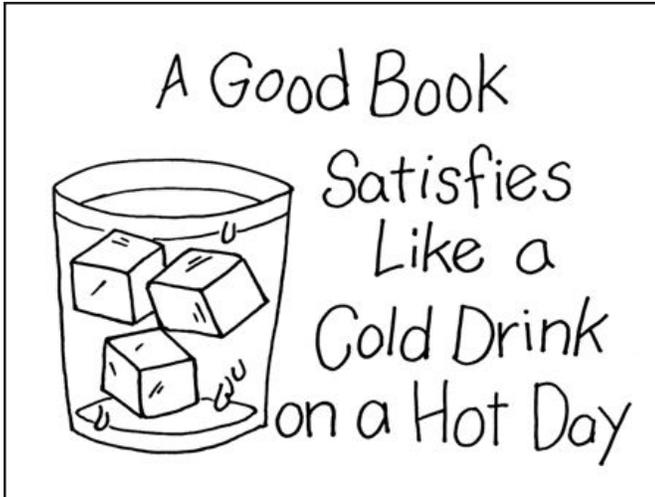
The greatest gift is a passion for reading.
—Elizabeth Hardwick

Children are made readers on the laps of their parents.

—Emilie Buchwald

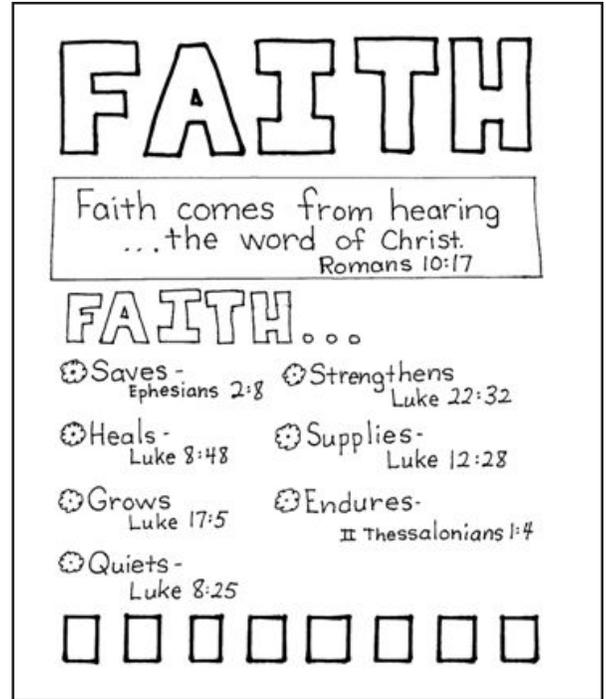
POSTER/BULLETIN BOARDS

by Arlene Walker



Poster

Use a piece of light green poster board. Design and cut an oversized drinking glass and ice cubes as shown from light blue paper. Glue in place on the board. Use a pencil to sketch the letters of the caption, then trace the words with a black marker.



Bulletin Board

Cover a bulletin board with dark blue cloth or paper. Use yellow paper to cut large letters for the word *FAITH* and mount them across the top. On a large strip of yellow paper, use a pencil and ruler to sketch the letters for the verse and reference from Romans 10:17.

Cut smaller letters for the word *FAITH* and seven long yellow strips from yellow paper. Use a pencil, then a marker to letter each strip with one of the words describing faith and the Bible reference. Cut seven flowers from rusty-orange paper, and mount a flower on the left side of each strip. Mount everything in place on the board as shown, leaving room along the bottom to display copies of book jackets from books about faith.



Bulletin Board

Cover a bulletin board with white paper. Design and cut a spot as shown from black paper, large enough to cover most of the board. Find colorful magazine pictures depicting places (spots) to read, e.g., shady place under a tree, porch or patio, blanket on the beach, living-room chair, and hammock. Carefully tear the edge of each picture, and glue it in place on the black spot as shown.

Cut letters for the caption from black paper, but the word *Spot* from white paper. Glue the word *Spot* in the center of the black spot. Staple the remaining letters of the caption in place as shown. In spaces around the edge, mount copies of book jackets from recent titles added to your library.

Arlene Walker is a freelance writer and retired teacher.

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- Pictures of bulletin boards, window displays, and/or posters you've created to promote books and your library. (No pay for this one either but lots of gratitude from other librarians who need ideas.)

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—Lin Johnson, Managing Editor

Helps for Your Library

Library Software Solutions by Debra Stombres—\$6

Library software reviews from
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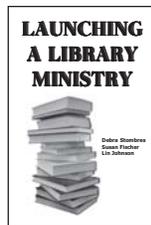


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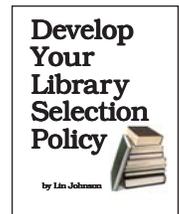
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