

congregational libraries *today*



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CSLAINFO.ORG | FIRST ISSUE 2016

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E-book basics: the PROS AND CONS of adding e-books to your library

BY SUSAN SPONAAS WITH PAT SHUFELDT

Within the past ten years, circulating downloadable e-books, audio books and music has gone from the realm of "only the richest public libraries can afford this service" to something that most public library borrowers across the United States take for granted.

Congregational libraries, often poorly funded to begin with, are faced with a dilemma: find a way to provide this service to their own library users or become increasingly marginalized as members shift from reading print material to reading on their Kindles, Nooks and iPads.

Each library must decide whether to add e-books based upon its own circumstances, but here is some information that may help in making that decision. For brevity, in this article "e-book" may also stand for downloadable audio book, periodical, or music.

First, keep in mind that e-books need a "platform" to manage a circulating collection. An individual may buy an e-book from a publisher or a

vendor such as Amazon.com, but that book is downloaded directly to that person and is meant to be read only by that individual. Loaning a personal copy is sometimes allowed, but usually with significant restrictions.

Having an e-book that is available for circulation to a library's users is a different matter altogether. Restrictions on disseminating e-books, whether via electronic loan



Each library must decide whether to add e-books based upon its own circumstances.

or by creating a print copy of the text, vary widely according to the person or company that owns the rights to the e-book.

>> *article continues on page 2*

Our 2016 CONFERENCE

theme is

Telling Your Story.

CSLA's Story.

Articles on pages 8 and 9.

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It is probably unrealistic for a library to expect to offer e-books for less than \$3,000 per year, with \$4,000 being more likely.

Print vs e-books—

>> *article continued from page 1*

Platforms like Overdrive, the giant of e-book providers, also have their own restrictions. The library must, of course, follow U.S. copyright law; however, it also must follow contract law. Whether a library contracts with a platform provider or (less frequently) purchases an e-book directly from an author or publisher, it must abide by any restrictions set in the contract or bill of sale.

When a library contracts with an e-book platform, the library “purchases” the e-book from that platform’s catalog. The platform company has already contracted for the lending rights to all the titles in its catalog, so the library does not need to have a separate contract with each publisher. The platform provider handles the borrowing and returning of e-books, using a database with individual borrower names and passwords that the library supplies.

Naturally, this service does not come free or even inexpensively. There are two primary costs involved.

First is the cost of the service itself. This covers the provider’s cost of maintaining the hardware, software, internet bandwidth, research, tech support, sales team, and all the

other expenses it incurs in doing business (plus, of course, its profit – these are businesses, not charitable organizations).

The second cost is the price of the e-books themselves. E-book prices are set by the publishers and vary for each book just as print prices vary. Prices



are usually considerably higher for libraries than for individuals, and one seldom finds the discounts that are available for print books. Publishers set the terms for their e-books and this also falls under contract law, not copyright law. A library may buy an e-book from one publisher today and its borrowers will still have access to that title 10 years from now regardless of whether it has circulated one time or 100 times. Other publishers “sell” a certain number

of circulations. For instance, Harper Collins allows 26 circulations under a single e-book license. The library must then purchase a new license in order to continue lending the e-book. Zondervan leases its e-books for two years. The library has to renew the lease if it still wants the Zondervan e-book.

How much would it cost your library to offer e-books? That is impossible to say because it depends upon several factors and is on a sliding scale based upon the library’s resident population (for churches and synagogues, the number of members or a similar negotiated number such as average attendance), how many titles it buys each year and the price of those titles. Any of the reputable companies should let a potential customer view their catalog in order to determine whether the titles fit the library’s needs. For instance, if a provider primarily handles textbooks, it may not be the right platform for a congregation.

On the low end, it is probably unrealistic for a library to expect to offer e-books for less than \$3,000 per year, with \$4,000 being more likely.

>> *article continues on page 3*



congregational libraries today



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Choosing an e-book platform for your library

As with any financial decision, it is important to shop around when considering an e-book platform. In *E-book Platforms for Libraries* (Library Technology Reports, vol. 49, no. 3, 2013) author Mirela Roncevic lists 51 competing platforms. Most of these have a fairly tight focus—academic, reference, children’s books, etc. CSLA does not endorse any e-book platform provider, but some providers pulled from Roncevic’s report that may be of interest to congregational libraries are:

3M Cloud Library – <http://ebook.3m.com> (3M)

Axis 360 – <http://btol.com/axis360> (Baker & Taylor)

Ebrary – www.ebrary.com (ProQuest) Non-fiction only, but a broad range of subjects

Overdrive www.overdrive.com (Overdrive) The largest public library e-book vendor

The American Library Association (ALA) has a very good FAQ document, “[Frequently Asked E-book Questions from Public Librarians](#),”¹ on its website. It is a bit dated (2011) but still has helpful information for the novice.

A more recent (2014) ALA offering is found on one of its subsidiary websites, Library’s Transform. “[Frequently Asked Questions Regarding E-books and U.S. Libraries](#)”² has some good information on the publisher’s and author’s viewpoint regarding the lending of e-books.

How it works: When a library contracts with an e-book platform, the library “purchases” the e-book from that platform’s catalog. The platform provider handles the borrowing and returning of e-books, using a database with individual borrower names and passwords that the library supplies.

¹ http://www.ala.org/offices/sites/ala.org.offices/files/content/oitp/e-book_faq.pdf

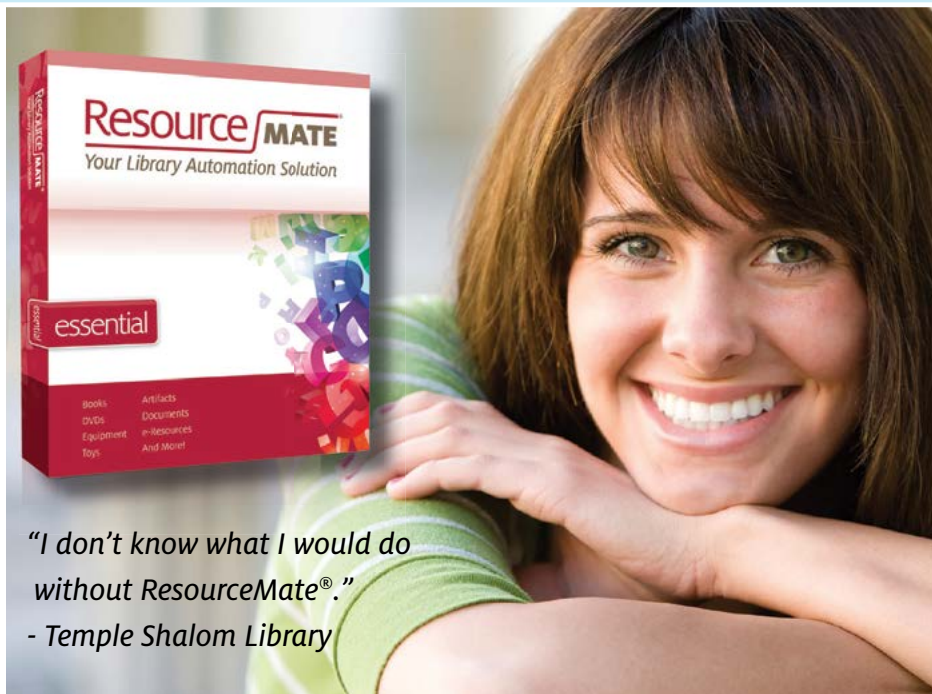
² <http://www.ala.org/transforminglibraries/frequently-asked-questions-e-books-us-libraries>

Print vs e-books—

>> *article continued from page 2*

On the upper end for congregational libraries, Champion Forest Baptist Church (Houston, Texas) budgets \$10,000 per year for e-books. Jane Hope, Champion Forest’s head librarian, said that their church has three campuses, so e-books are a plus since they are easily accessible regardless of what location a church member regularly attends.

Another factor is that a library must have reliable funding over a period of many years. This is one reason, according to Joe Dickinson of Overdrive, that library consortiums established for the purchase of e-books have dropped out of favor. One library which has lost its funding could jeopardize the investment of the rest of the consortium members.



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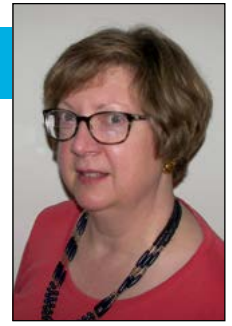
www.resourcemate.com

Comparison: Print books vs E-books

So what are the pros and cons? This comparison of e-books to print may help you decide.

ISSUE	PRINT BOOKS	E-BOOKS
Platform costs	Print books DO have a “platform.” Consider the initial cost of shelving and building space, on-going cost of cleaning, heat and air, insect control, etc.	Cost of provider’s platform, usually ½ the total provider’s bill and billed annually.
Per item cost	Varies with item. A one-time expense. Also, some useful books are donations.	Varies with item. Usually a one-time expense. Donations can only be monetary donations. Usually priced higher than e-books sold to individuals.
Cost per use	Cost of the item per circulation goes down but is limited by the sturdiness of the item and physical damage.	Cost of the item per circulation goes down. Physical damage is not an issue. Some publishers limit circulations.
Availability	Most books are initially published as print books. Some, especially self-published books, may only be available as e-books.	Some books are not available as e-books. Occasionally the e-book version of a title may not be released until months after the print version becomes available. E-books from specific publishers are not available on all platforms. Platforms also vary as to which e-book format(s) they support.
Accessibility	Borrowers must access the library’s physical location during its hours of operation. The size of the font is unchangeable. Weight of books is an issue for some users.	Borrowers have 24/7 access to the server. Shut-ins, congregation members on military deployment or foreign mission, etc. can still borrow books. Internet access and a device capable of downloading the e-book is required. Most platforms require an app to be installed to access the e-book. Good accessibility for persons with visual disabilities—font size can be enlarged by the borrower and many devices have text-to-speech capability.
Overdue & lost items	The library must track down and/or replace overdue and lost items. Fines may be an issue for some congregations.	The item is automatically returned at its due date. Renewal options are determined by the library.
Staff time	Selection time (reading reviews, determining user needs, purchasing material) Checking out and returning item. Shelving item.	Selection—basically the same as with print. Most providers can generate a suggested item list based upon parameters set by the library and/or on the library’s purchasing history. No time spent by librarian on circulation or shelving tasks.
Searchability	Depends upon a library’s cataloging system—from no catalog at all to a print catalog to an online catalog with full bibliographic records.	Varies. Most providers offer a basic author and title search on their own sites and advanced search options on the individual library’s platform site. Overdrive and ProQuest both offer free basic downloadable MARC records and optional full MARC records so that users see e-books listed along with print items in the library’s catalog.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE: WHAT MAKES A GOOD STORY?



Marcia Trauernicht,
CSLA President

Happy New Year—I hope that you all had a blessed and wonderful time with family and friends for Hanukkah and Christmas. Both of those holidays are based on events that are often told in story format, at various levels for young and old.

So why do you remember some stories rather than others, and what made that story good? In my previous article, I touched upon a few qualities of a good story: it has to be interesting, it needs to touch an emotion or sentiment with the audience, and it needs to have a purpose, whether it is a life lesson or an entertainment. Often different stories are needed for different audiences. I'm sure we all know someone who is a great storyteller, but how do the rest of us make sure that our stories connect with others? For CSLA, how do we best tell its story?

1. What is CSLA's value to you?

- a. How has CSLA helped you personally in your work with your library? Be specific.
- b. Who has CSLA helped in your congregation through your library? Be specific
- c. How has your library improved thanks to CSLA? Be specific.

2. Who is your audience for your story?

- a. Members of your congregation.
- b. Ministerial staff.
- c. Congregational board members.



- d. Educational leaders and teachers of your congregation.
- e. Members from other congregations with an interest in libraries, education, etc.

3. Is your story brief, easy to tell, enthusiastic and memorable?

- a. Your story should be two-three minutes or less, when told verbally.
- b. Use your own words—they are much more believable and allow you to be more comfortable in the telling.
- c. Focus your story on a specific event or a specific person. It is okay to change names while keeping to the facts of the story.
- d. Tailor your story to your intended audience.
- e. Believe in your story.

4. Does the result or point of your story provide a specific outcome to support your work / CSLA's value? ¹

To conclude, here's a story for you:

"A man came upon a construction site where three people were working. He asked the first, *What are you doing?* The man answered, *I am laying bricks.*

He asked the second, *What are you doing?* The man answered, *I am building a wall.*

He walked up to the third man, who was humming a tune as he worked and asked, *What are you doing?* The man stood up, smiled and said, *I am building a cathedral.*" ²

Of those three men, whose story would you want to hear? The *most* important thing to remember in telling your story: don't downplay the importance of your work, and be proud of what you accomplish.

¹Dunford, April. [The Importance of Storytelling in Marketing.](#)

²Dlugan, Andrew. [Book Review: The Story Factor by Annette Simmons.](#)

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Stop by CSLA's Facebook page (<https://www.facebook.com/cslainfo>) to see many of the great things that are happening in congregational libraries. From cataloging to new books to using social media, catch a glimpse of what other librarians are doing.



DOING DEWEY

USING TABLE 2 TO SPECIFY GEOGRAPHIC AREAS

BY SUSAN SNYDER
ssnyder44147@gmail.com

Tables in the Dewey Decimal classification are used to make classification numbers more precise by providing additional numbers that can be added to the base number. Numbers from the tables are never used alone. When adding a number from Table 2 makes the entire completed number longer than three digits, insert a decimal point between the third and fourth digits of the completed number.

Table 2 consists of numbers for geographic areas and biography. Specifically, geographic subdivisions beginning with 11 through 19 are used for areas, regions and places in general. These include regions by climate, oceans, and socioeconomic regions.

It is important to remember that these are extensions to narrow down by region an item which is about a non-geographical subject. For instance, a book on establishing libraries in Tanzania would have 027 (libraries in general) for its base number with 0678 (the extension for Tanzania from Table 2) added after the decimal. Establishing libraries is the primary subject of the book; the location of the libraries is

TABLE 2 (excerpt) – Geographic and biographical subdivisions

001-009	Standard subdivisions (from Table 1)
-11-19	Areas, regions, places in general
-2	Biography
-31-39	Ancient world
-41-98	Modern world
-7	North America
-73	United States
-74-79	Specific areas & states of the U.S.
-99	Extraterrestrial worlds

secondary. If the book were primarily geographical, such as a travel guide to Tanzania, then its base number would be the specific number for geography and travel in Tanzania, 916.78.

The number 2 stands for persons (biography) when added to 09 after the base number for the subject area for which the person is famous. Small congregational libraries often use B or Bio followed by the last name of the biographee rather than using a Dewey number for the subject area followed by 092. Adding 092 is more often used for collective biographies.

Geographic subdivisions beginning with 31 through 39 are used for places in the ancient world. Geographic subdivisions beginning with 4 through 9 are assigned to places in the modern world. The

geographic subdivision 99 is used for extraterrestrial worlds.

Table 2 is used in different ways depending on the instructions in the main schedules. For some numbers in the main schedules, these instructions tell the classifier to add on the numbers from Table 2 directly. For example, under the numbers for Christianity in the modern world (274-279), these instructions say, "Add to base number 27 notation 4-9 from Table 2." This results in numbers such as 277 for Christianity in North America and, more specifically, 277.3 for Christianity in the United States.

As noted above, when adding a number from Table 2 makes the entire completed number longer than three

>> *article continues on page 7*

Disaster Management

Planning for Small Libraries

by Laura Dallas. (2015) Disaster can strike at any time. This is an excellent guide for producing a plan to be ready when "IT" happens. Succinct and to the point. \$10/\$12 + S&H



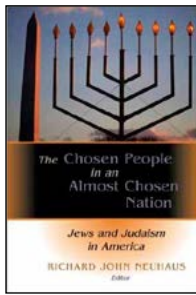
CSLA GUIDE

Developing an Effective Library: Ways to

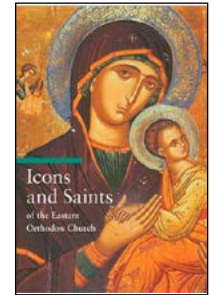
Promote Your Congregational Library.

by Lois H. Ward. (2004) All aspects of promoting the congregational library and publicity ideas for inside and outside your congregation. Planning and budgeting, creating ownership, programs that will get your members in the door, and how to use all the publicity tools available to you. \$10/\$12 + S&H.

CSLA GUIDE



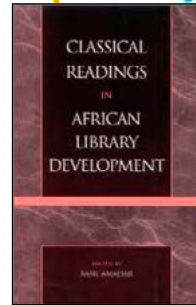
U.S.A. -73



Eastern Russia -47



Brazil -81



Central Africa -67

Dewey's geographical areas—

<< article continued from page 6

digits, insert a decimal point between the third and fourth digits of the completed number.

A more common way to specify geographic location of a subject is to add 09 from Table 1, which signifies historical and geographical treatment, and then add the appropriate number from Table 2. This method may be used anywhere the main schedules do not contain instructions to do something differently. For example, 296 stands for Judaism, 296.09 stands for historical and geographical

treatment of Judaism, 296.097 stands for Judaism in North America, and 296.0973 stands for Judaism in the United States. A decimal point is always added between the third and fourth digits of the completed number.

When two geographical places pertain to the subject of the book or audiovisual resource, follow the instructions given in the main schedules. For example, a new feature in the 23rd unabridged edition involves numbers for

eastern Orthodox churches. The number 281.9 stands for Orthodox churches, 281.947 is used for the Russian Orthodox Church (adding on 47 for the location of the church headquarters), and 281.947073 is used for the Russian Orthodox Church in the United States. This feature may result in numbers that are too long to be convenient for many congregations, but it will probably be useful to libraries in Orthodox churches.

Fundamentals of Financing Your Congregational Library



by Craig Kubic. (2008) Guide will assist the congregational librarian in developing a realistic plan for the careful acquisition and management of the financial resources that libraries need to become a vital part of a congregation. \$12/\$14 + S&H.

CSLA GUIDE

Cataloging & Classification

by Susan E. Snyder. (2004) This guide will take you through all the steps in cataloging. It covers physical processing, encouraging the use of the catalog, and creating bibliographic records, classification, and classification schedule. \$10/\$12 + S&H

CSLA GUIDE



Celebrating the art of telling our story at Annual Conference

BY SARAH MEGHAN HARPER

Let me tell you a story... This year's conference celebrates the long history of CLSA's commitment and support in telling the story of church and synagogue libraries everywhere and in helping each of us tell the story of our congregation's library.

Conference participants can attend workshops on a variety of topics including marketing your library, disaster management, book repair, cataloging, collection development, curating web resources, using social media, integrating web resources into your collection and the art of storytelling.

Kent State has a beautiful, park-like campus with plenty of green space and trees galore—in fact, Kent State was honored as Ohio's first Tree Campus USA university.

The city of Kent lies immediately adjacent to campus, offering the fun dining and unique shopping experiences you expect in a small, college-town environment. And you are only 40 minutes from major metropolitan areas in downtown Cleveland, Youngstown and Canton, and 20 minutes from Akron. The area is rich in arts and culture, entertainment, family fun, and sports and recreation opportunities. Plan to arrive early for the conference or stay afterward so you can explore all that the area has to offer. And be sure to bring the family.



The conference details:

WHAT: Hear dynamic authors and storytellers, participate in interactive workshops with professionals and see the latest library resources in the exhibitor hall.

WHEN: July 27-29, 2016 Join us for pre- and post-conference tours to visit church and synagogue libraries and the special collection of the Cleveland Botanical Garden.

WHERE: Kent State University, School of Library and Information Science, 3rd floor of the University Library, Kent, Ohio.

Get more

Read more about the campus: <http://www.kent.edu/go/explore>

About Kent, Ohio: <http://www.kent.edu/go/town>

About Northeast Ohio: <http://www.kent.edu/go/beyond>

Join the fun!

Design a 50th anniversary logo

The Church and Synagogue Library Association will celebrate its 50th birthday in 2017 and wants you to join in the fun by designing a special logo to commemorate the occasion. This logo will not replace the current logo and seal, but will be used throughout 2017 in *Congregational Libraries Today* and on the CSLA website, stationery and other merchandise. All CSLA members and their friends are invited to participate in the contest.

As you design this logo, remember all the valuable services CSLA has offered over the years to help congregational librarians. The design should reflect the character and mission of CSLA and should be suitable for use with congregational libraries of all faiths.

The deadline for submission is June 15. All entries will be printed and brought to the CSLA conference at Kent, Ohio, July 27-29. The winner will be chosen by members who attend the conference. At the end of the conference, the winner will be announced and will receive a \$250 Amazon gift certificate. After the winner is chosen, CSLA will become the sole and exclusive owner of the logo.

Please submit your design to Judy Janzen at CSLA@worldaccessnet.com.



Specifications:

- The artwork should be reproducible in color and black and white.
- The design must be 100% your own work. No copyrighted or trademarked material included.
- More than one entry may be submitted.
- Logo design should be uploaded as a JPEG or GIF file.



The Kent State University Museum contains one of the finest period costume collections in the U.S.

2016 CSLA conference

Kent: A personal perspective

BY MARY LOU HENNEMAN

Our annual CSLA conference chairs, Meghan Harper and Ralph Hartsock, have been busy planning for the big event at Kent State University in Kent, Ohio, this July.

I am a member of the Northeastern Ohio chapter, but despite living only an hour away in Youngstown, Ohio, I don't get a chance to travel to the campus often. I have attended lectures (Elie Wiesel) and seen theatre performances and toured the fashion design exhibits at the University Museum.

When Marcia Trauernicht and Meghan invited Connie Altomare and me to tour the newly renovated 12-story library, I was astonished. The rooms for workshops have updated technology, the exhibits and silent auction areas are ample and inviting, and the setup for the meals is professional.

The children's book collection is impressive, but equally impressive was the friendliness of all the staff with whom we talked during our tour. I sensed that everyone we met loved



The Cohn Jewish Student Center (Hillel) serves 1,500 Jewish students at Kent State and the University of Akron.

their jobs and knew how to make our group feel welcome.

Kent State University has many treasures you won't want to miss, such as the performing arts library, the fashion design library and gallery, and the Cohn Jewish Student Center (Hillel).

Whether you are from New York, Texas, California or any state in between, come to Kent this summer to experience great workshops and exhibits and enjoy the opportunity to reconnect with old friends, meet new ones and share ideas.

See you this summer.



A Basic Media List for Church Libraries:

An Annotated Bibliography

by Ellen Bosman. (2015) Updated approach to Basic Books that utilizes all media that should be available in congregational libraries. Carefully selected by our new Media Review Editor. \$14/\$12 + S&H

CSLA BIBLIOGRAPHY



Classic Religious Books for Children:

An Annotated Bibliography

by Carol Campbell & Evelyn Pockrass. (2015) Completely redone from the previous edition. Carefully researched with helpful annotations and notes. Here are the very best children's religious books from several faith traditions. \$14/\$12 + S&H

CSLA BIBLIOGRAPHY

July 27-29 in Kent, Ohio



Courtyard meditation labyrinth from Southwest Penn Chapter.

SOUTHWEST PENNSYLVANIA CHAPTER

The Fall Workshop of the Southwest Pennsylvania Chapter occurred at the Westminster Presbyterian Church, Pittsburgh, on October 31, 2015. Hostess Mary Kay Mitchell shared information about the Westminster Labyrinth and led a tour of the church's library. The program started with Sue Parry and Carol Meisinger sharing ideas from the 2015 conference. Then, Tom Sanders led a discussion on places for congregational libraries to purchase books and what the future is for books and libraries. Book talks by John and Gayle Stahlman from Fellowship Bookstore, featuring items brought for display and sale, concluded the program.



**Marcia Trauernicht,
Chapters Coordinator**

VIRTUAL CHAPTER

A variety of topics were covered at the November 6, 2015 Virtual Chapter meeting. Discussions started with the question, "What should be included in budget planning for your library?" The attendees provided a wide range of answers: materials (of course), programming such as summer reading programs, professional dues, licensing for videos, periodical subscriptions, software, office supplies, computer equipment and furniture. Not everyone's budget can accommodate many of those items, but it always is good to have a wish list!

The next topic was "how do you handle periodicals?" For larger libraries, vendors such as EBSCO (one company arranging subscriptions for all desired journals) have been used. Pros and cons of using such a vendor vs. ordering directly from publishers were discussed. Other libraries provide periodicals to their congregations by relying upon donations from their church/synagogue or groups within those entities. Cataloging practices varied also, from doing no cataloging to full cataloging with a library online system. Everyone circulated their issues, formally or on an honor system. Here is one idea for increasing use of periodicals: place them on a book truck and park the book truck in a high-traffic area such as the vestibule or narthex.

Fundraising ideas for the library was the final topic of the day. While some congregations do not allow internal fundraising (always know your congregation's policy), others conduct annual book sales with very low prices,

often combining the sale with an event such as a festival sponsored by the congregation. From the 2015 conference, an idea provided by Jeri Baker: Newly purchased books are displayed at a teacher appreciation banquet with cards that show half the publisher's list price of the book. Attendees may honor their favorite teacher by filling out the card with "given by" and "in honor of" information and pay the amount shown on the card directly to the library volunteer staffing the tables. One advantage is that donors can actually see the book they are "giving." This method can be adapted for use at any congregational gathering.



Book fairs like this one from Scholastic make great library fundraisers.

FYI—did you know that the American Association of School Librarians (AASL) presents free webinars? Anyone can view one of its webinars as it occurs, but you do have to be an AASL member to view the webinar recordings. Go to <http://www.ala.org/aasl/ecollab/upcoming> for future offerings.

SAN JOSE- BAY AREA CHAPTER

The San Jose-Bay Area Chapter met on January 11 at the Sunnyvale Presbyterian Church in Sunnyvale, California. Hostess Julie Reilly provided tips on the following topics:

- ▶How to generate paper inserts for CD and CDC cases.
- ▶How to customize WebOPAC search pages.

Discussions were held on the following topics: the use of WorldCat, free e-book resources, helpful websites to find Dewey numbers, CSLA Promotional Kit, and where to shelve books on topics such as racism, women in the Bible, homosexuality, human trafficking and dementia. What a full and interesting program!

Shopping at



A percentage of the profit from any orders placed with Amazon during this visit goes to CSLA.

Use **CSLA's website** as your portal and a percentage of the profit goes to CSLA!

It's as easy as 1, 2, 3

1 Go to cslainfo.org.

2 Type your search word or phrase into the Amazon search box.

3 Click on GO



Will you join us?

Your membership renewal and donations help us provide the latest information to assist you in your library ministry. *Congregational Libraries Today* is the best quarterly journal to help YOU as a congregational librarian with informative articles, media reviews, information about publishers, software, our excellent guides and bibliographies, as well as our annual conference. We have several of our guides and bibliographies in process of revision to make sure that you will have the latest and best information available.

CHURCH AND SYNAGOGUE LIBRARY ASSOCIATION

501(c) (3) Tax Deductible Organization

Membership Renewal Form for January 1, 2016 – December 31, 2016

Please send CSLA mail to: Home Congregation Resource Center

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip+4 _____

Congregation/Resource Ctr. _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip+4 _____

Phone: _____

Home

Library/Resource Center

Fax _____

E-mail _____

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Graduation Date _____

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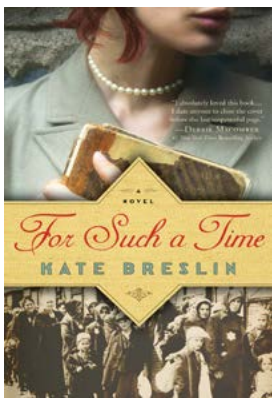
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FICTION

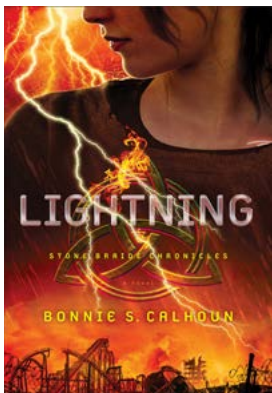


For Such a Time

Kate Breslin. Bethany House, 2014. 429p. \$15, paperback. ISBN: 9780764211607. Available as an e-book. www.bethanyhouse.com FIC World War, 1939-1945--Fiction. Holocaust--Jewish (1939-1945)--Fiction. Jews--Identity.

In this award-winning, debut novel, Hadassah is a young Jewish woman hiding behind false papers and the Christian name Stella, yet she finds herself facing a firing squad in Dachau.

Aric, the camp commander at Theresienstadt, believes her improperly imprisoned and rescues her, bringing her to his home and nursing her back to health so she can serve as his secretary. Hadassah lives in close proximity to the oppressors of her people while fearing her masquerade will be discovered. She decides she must use her position to help her people, but the plan is risky and complicated by her feelings for Aric. How can she reconcile her feelings when he represents everything she despises? Will her true identity be revealed? Read this modern re-telling of the biblical story of Esther to find the answers to these questions.—*Ellen Bosman*



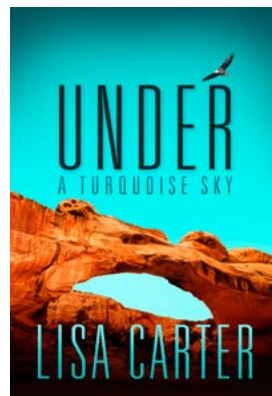
Lightning (Stone Braide Chronicles, Book 2)

Bonnie S. Calhoun. Revell, 2015. 403p. \$13, paperback. ISBN: 9780800723774. www.revellbooks.com FIC Science fiction. Dystopias – Fiction. Survival – Fiction.

The second book of this post-apocalyptic story, set in the United States 150 years after the Time of Sorrows, continues as young Selah Rishon has finally found her real father, but she

still doesn't know who she really is and what makes her different from the others in her community. As a

novarium, she possesses powers triggered by extreme emotions, but is unable to control them. It also is Selah's destiny to travel through the Mountain, eventually connecting with the Third Protocol and thus save her people. In the journey, she must locate her mother and brother before the Mountain traps them inside. Who are her true friends, and who is trying to steal her powers? This is not the end, but she must find the path to the West in order to fulfill her destiny. Young adult and adult fans of science fiction/fantasy will love this second installment filled with dynamic plot twists and action. Even though the series does not have an overt spiritual message, it would be good for a book discussion on how the characters could face their many challenges through faith.—*Mary Lou Henneman*



Under a Turquoise Sky

Lisa Carter. Abingdon Press, 2014. 319p. \$15, paperback. ISBN: 9781426758027. www.abingdonpress.com FIC Christian fiction. Suspense fiction. Navajo Indians—Fiction. United States. Federal Bureau of Investigation—Fiction. Witnesses—Protection—Fiction.

Kailyn Eudailey is a sophisticated, independent Southern girl whose life suddenly changes when she witnesses the Mob's execution

of her friend, and she is put into the government witness protection program. Aaron Yazzie (aka Rafael Chavez) is working undercover to infiltrate the Mexican drug cartel. When he is assigned to protect Kailyn from the bad guys, the safest place he can find is his

home on the Navajo reservation in New Mexico. This, of course, also is the place of his unpleasant memories of childhood physical abuse. His foster parents' values of God, country and family have set the groundwork for a faith that is still growing. Kailyn, who must pose as Aaron's new wife to meet his grandmother, finds common ground with the grandmother in their shared Christian faith. Fold into the mix a small, feisty rescue dog with the heart of a lion, a protective gentleness and the ability to give comfort to humans searching for spiritual peace. Recommended for readers of Christian romance and suspense.—*Mary Lou Henneman*



The Mistress of Tall Acree

Laura Frantz. Revell, 2015. 393p. \$15, paperback. ISBN: 9780800720445. Available as an e-book. www.revellbooks.com FIC Christian fiction. Historical fiction. Love stories. United States—Social Life and Customs—1783-1865--Fiction.

Popular Christian fiction writer Laura Frantz sweeps readers into post American Revolution times. As the new country seeks to return to normalcy after the war, tensions are still high

against those who supported the English king. Sophie Menzies, whose brother and father have abandoned her due to their allegiance to the English throne, struggles to keep her home when most properties owned by "traitors" are being seized by Patriots. General Seamus Ogilvie, a wounded war hero, has returned to his home at Tall Acres to raise his young daughter alone. The match between the couple seems obvious until a mysterious woman from the general's past comes back to haunt him. This book is highly recommended for fans of historical Christian fiction as Frantz captures the spirit of life in the 18th century with an intriguing plot and strong characters.—*Mary Lou Henneman*

Resources Manual for Congregational Libraries

An annotated bibliography by Ellen Bosman (2012).

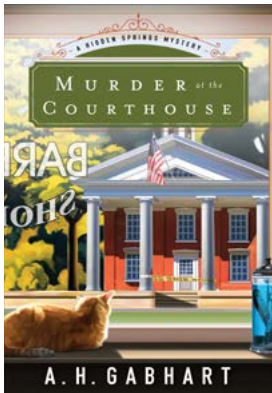
A new approach to resources for congregational libraries. Divided into two major sections: "Tools for librarians" and "Enrichment resources for library patrons." 50 pages \$12/\$14 + S&H



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Murder at the Courthouse (A Hidden Springs Mystery, #1)

A. H. Gabhart. Revell, 2015. 321p. \$13, paperback. ISBN: 9780800726768. www.revellbooks.com FIC Christian fiction. Detective and mystery stories. Kentucky—Social life and customs—Fiction.

Deputy sheriff Michael Keane has just moved back to his peaceful hometown in Hidden Springs, Kentucky, after only a few years working in the turmoil of a large city. But when upstanding citizen Miss Willadean walks into his office to complain about an inebriated, discourteous stranger passed out on the courthouse steps, Michael soon discovers the man is dead. Who is this person? Why was he murdered and how could any of the residents possibly have done this dastardly deed? Maybe it is Joe, the barber whose shop is across the street from the courthouse, or young Anthony who has had a few problems with the law after being abandoned by his mother. Will Michael's Aunt Lindy help him solve the mystery, and will his relationship with Pastor Karen develop into something more than friendship? Author Ann Gabhart's first book in the Hidden Springs Mystery series contains a well-constructed plot, humor and enough backstory for each character to set up future adventures. Recommended for Christian women's book discussions and all who enjoy a "cozy" small town mystery.— Mary Lou Henneman



Thin Ice (Men of Valor Series, Book #2)

Irene Hannon. Revell, 2016. 333 p. \$15, paperback. ISBN: 9780800724535. www.revellbooks.com FIC Christian Fiction. Romantic suspense fiction.

Christy Reed, a former ice skating champion, has faced too many tragedies in the last six months, including the death of her parents in a car accident and the death of her sister Ginny in a house fire. But when she suddenly receives a letter from Ginny two months later, questions arise as to who really died in the fire, as well as the identity of the person who kidnapped her sister. Who is trying to hurt Christy and why? Were her parents murdered? Getting answers will take the assistance of former Delta Force operative and new FBI Special Agent Lance McGregor, who has been assigned to reopen this mysterious case.

This second book in the *Men of Valor* series is another fast-paced thriller with plenty of romance and suspense. A variety of intriguing subplots include Lance's two brothers, their father's heart attack and much more.

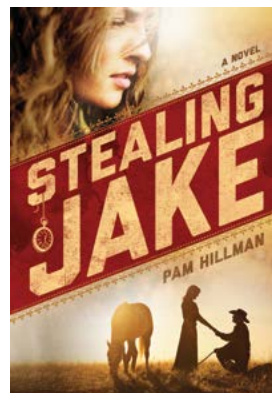
The strength of Irene Hannon's writing lies in how her characters handle difficult situations through their Christian faith. Highly recommended for Christian romance suspense fans.—Mary Lou Henneman



Vendetta (The Nikki Boyd Files, #1)

Lisa Harris. Revell, 2015. 288p. \$15. paperback. ISBN: 9780800724177. www.revellbooks.com FIC Christian Fiction. Romantic suspense--Fiction. Kidnapping—Fiction. Missing persons—Fiction. Tennessee—Fiction.

Nikki Boyd is the best investigator on the Tennessee Missing Persons Task Force. Her latest case involves a young teen who has been abducted, but there is more to the story. There is something hauntingly similar to the disappearance of her own sister ten years ago. The Polaroid picture of the victim and many other clues left at the scene resemble those of the Angel Abductor who has eluded capture and now has re-entered her life to bring back nightmares. Nikki is personally and professionally involved in this crime and it will take her faith, her friends, including Ryan and Tyler, as well as her task force team, to solve this mystery. The characters and plot are strong with enough clues to keep readers on the edge of their seats. Fans of the *Southern Crimes* series will not be disappointed in Lisa Harris's new venture. Highly recommended for readers who enjoy a good balance between suspense and romance.—Mary Lou Henneman

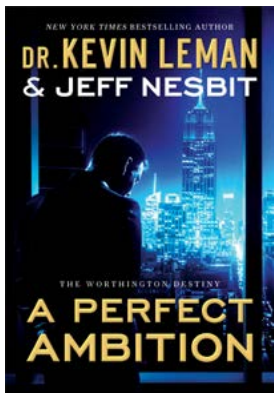


Stealing Jake

Pam Hillman. Tyndale, 2015. 379p. \$15, paperback. ISBN: 9781496401267. www.tyndale.com FIC Orphans-Fiction. Christian fiction. Romantic suspense - Fiction. Illinois – History – 19th century – Fiction.

The action in *Stealing Jake* takes place in Chestnut, Illinois, in 1874. The town is experiencing an influx of street kids from Chicago. When local businesses begin to be burglarized, owners assume that the ruffians are the culprits.

The other part of the plot involves the relationship between Livy O'Brien and the deputy sheriff, Jake Russell. She helps run an orphanage and her goal is to take in the street kids. She firmly believes they are not responsible for the burglaries. Jake believes just as firmly that they are, and he wants to arrest them. This causes problems for Jake and Livy as a romantic attraction increases between them. Hillman has created strong characters in the two protagonists.—Beverly M. Bixler



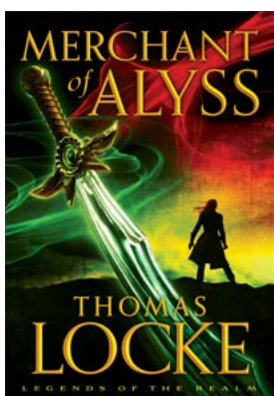
A Perfect Ambition (The Worthington Destiny Series, #1)

Kevin Leman & Jeff Nesbit. Revell, 2015 325p. \$15, paperback. ISBN: 9780800723323. www.revellbooks.com FIC Political fiction. Birth order – Fiction. Ambition—Fiction. United States – Politics and government – 2001- Fiction.

With a major national political election just months away, nothing can be better than a good novel about one man's

decision to run for public office. In the hands of Dr. Kevin Leman, a well-known psychologist, educator, and author of *The Birth Order Book*, as well as Jeff Nesbit whose credits include national journalist with Knight-Ridder, a position as communications director for former Vice President Dan Quayle and director of public affairs with two government agencies, the duo create a fascinating story.

William Jennings Worthington VI, the firstborn son of a powerful family, has a possible future in politics and is being groomed to become CEO of a large oil company. Meanwhile, his younger brother, Sean, finds his passion as an environmental activist and his youngest sibling, Sarah, a graduate of Harvard Law School, is interested in the Department of Justice's Criminal Division. With an oil spill in the Arctic, a bombing similar to that in the Boston Marathon tragedy and much more, this novel will be of interest to readers as it intertwines fictional political intrigue with the psychological theory of sibling birth order. In terms of faith, this book is perfect for discussions on the role faith has in making important decisions in our lives, especially in the hands of our country's leaders. —Mary Lou Henneman



Merchant of Alyss (Legends of the Realm, Book #2)

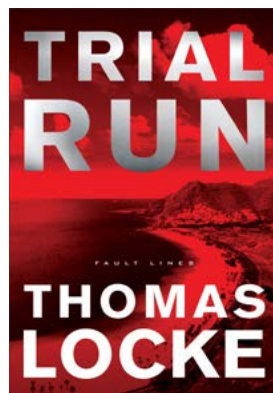
Thomas Locke. Revell, 2016. 384p. \$15, paperback. ISBN: 9780800723866. www.revellbooks.com FIC Fantasy fiction.

The journey Hyam began in *Emissary* continues as his life becomes even more complicated. He finds true happiness when he marries Joelle, but she is subjected to a magical spell and has been taken

from him. Is there another wanting to take her place in his life?

Unfortunately, Hyam has lost his magical powers, but now is developing his abilities to understand the written and spoken languages of various realms, including ancient scripts. Hyam finds a mysterious shipment of Milantian scrolls only he can see and read. Are the scrolls

the key to unifying the warring kingdoms by bringing together the reality of the present with the myths of the past? Hyam's quest to answer that question takes him through lands inhabited by dragons, sorcerers, elves and much more. Thomas Locke (a pen name of Davis Bunn) does not disappoint fantasy fans in the second installment of this carefully crafted, action-packed adventure. Each of the clues he leaves along the path is a perfect setup for the dramatic conclusion and also leaves the reader on the edge of the precipice for a dramatic conclusion in the last book of the trilogy. —Mary Lou Henneman



Trial Run (Fault Lines, Book #1)

Thomas Locke. Revell, 2015. 365p. \$15, paperback. ISBN: 9780800724337. www.revellbooks.com FIC Suspense fiction. Science fiction.

Thomas Locke (a pen name of Davis Bunn) weaves an interesting combination of ideas into his latest suspense techno thriller: three dimensional computing, interactive and parallel algorithms, Western

and Oriental holistic medicine, chaos theory, quantum theory, global data analysis and much more. When the experiments of lead scientist Dr. Gabriella Speciale, working on out-of-body travel, and Dr. Reese Clawson, whose focus is on controlling human consciousness, suddenly collide, the results can lead to disaster unless they can regain control of their research.

THIS ISSUE'S REVIEWERS

BEVERLY M. BIXLER

First Presbyterian Church
Ashland, Ohio

ELLEN BOSMAN

Mesilla Park Community
Church
Las Cruces, New Mexico

CAROLYN EGOLF

Lincolnshire Church of the
Brethren
Fort Wayne, Indiana

CARLOS R. FERNÁNDEZ

First Presbyterian Church
Hollywood, Florida

MARY LOU HENNEMAN

Boardman United Methodist
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DORA MORALES

St. Genevieve's Catholic
Church

Las Cruces, New Mexico

EVELYN POCKRASS

Indianapolis Hebrew
Congregation

Indianapolis, Indiana

VIRGINIA WEBB

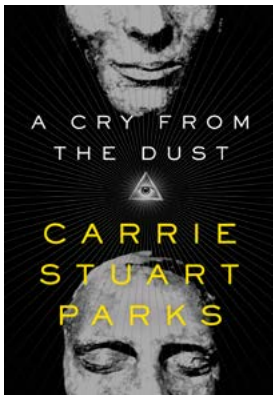
Church of the Good Samaritan
Paoli, Pennsylvania

PHYLLIS WENDORF

Mentor United Methodist
Church

Mentor, Ohio

This first book in the *Fault Lines* series provides much needed background information to understand the science in the story as well as the relationships between the main characters. It is the perfect setup for what is to follow in the trilogy. Even though the book is not overtly spiritual, there is much to discuss about the role of faith and belief in our constantly changing technical world. Rereading the first chapters a few times, as well as finding a copy of the prequel *Double Edge*, possibly would add more insight into the book.—*Mary Lou Henneman*



A Cry from the Dust

Carrie Stuart Parks. Thomas Nelson, 2014. 357p. \$16, paperback. ISBN: 9781401690434. www.thomasnelson.com FIC Christian fiction. Suspense fiction. Historical fiction. Mountain Meadows Massacre, Utah, 1857—Fiction. Mormons—Utah – Fiction.

Gwen Marcey has faced many personal challenges in her life including cancer, a divorce and a spirited teenage daughter. She has a chance at a new life

when she is offered a job at Utah's Mountain Meadows Interpretive Center, the site of the horrible 1857 massacre by the Avenging Angels, a group of militant Mormons. As a forensics artist, Gwen has been hired to reconstruct the skulls of some of the victims, a move which stirs protests from a variety of groups. When the

center is vandalized and a young college girl is found murdered in a ritualistic manner, Gwen is the one who can find the connection between the 19th century attack and the murder. What is happening in the Mormon Church and how does the church protect itself from a radical group? Author Carrie Stuart Parks effectively combines her own background as an FBI trained forensic artist and cancer survivor in this well-written debut novel. She successfully weaves together the private and professional lives of her characters with a solid faith-based story rich in excitement. Her research is solid in this Christian suspense thriller. —*Mary Lou Henneman*



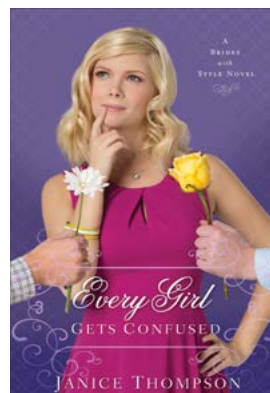
Every Bride Needs a Groom (Brides with Style, Book #1)

Janice Thompson. Revell, 2015. 362p. \$14, paperback. ISBN: 9780800723996. Available as an e-book. www.revellbooks.com FIC Brides-Fiction.

Kate Fisher, the protagonist of Janice Thompson's novel, has a problem. Although her boyfriend has yet to propose, she is so certain he will propose that she is consumed by plans for her

wedding. When Texas Bride magazine has a contest, Kate enters. The prize will be a designer wedding dress made at a bridal store in Dallas. On the day Kate learns that she has won, Casey calls to break off their relationship. Because there will be no wedding, Kate feels she cannot accept her prize. Unfortunately, it takes two hundred pages for Kate to reveal her decision to the store manager. Once, when an opportunity to tell him slips by, her comment is apropos: "I couldn't seem to get my brain and tongue to work in union."

Fortunately, in the last part of her novel, Thompson creates interest. Several situations develop that shake people up and cause them to make positive changes in their lives. Kate's love life? That will continue in the sequel. —*Beverly M. Bixler*



Every Girl Gets Confused (Brides with Style, Book #2)

Janice Thompson. Revell, 2015. 331p. \$14, paperback. ISBN: 9780800724009. Available as an e-book. www.revellbooks.com FIC Brides-Fiction

This is the sequel to *Every Bride Needs a Groom*. Although not much time has elapsed in the action between the two novels, Kate Fisher, the main character, seems to have matured. She now is a full-time employee of Cosmopolitan Bridal salon in



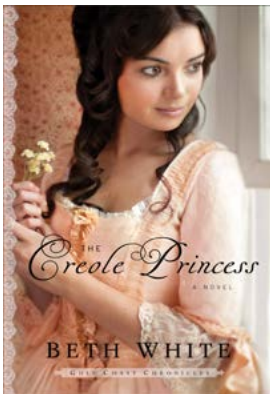
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Dallas. Her ex-boyfriend reenters the scene, and she has questions about her relationship with Brady James, the injured professional basketball player who is the interim manager of the salon.

Actually, Thompson's supporting characters are the most interesting and create the most appealing part of the plot. Queenie, Kate's grandmother, is one of them. A large part of the action revolves around the preparations for her second wedding at age 82. Queenie's and her sister Alva's reconciliation after a long estrangement provide more interest. Other salon employees also play unique roles in the action. Perhaps a third book in the series will solve Kate's romantic quandary. —*Beverly M. Bixler*



The Creole Princess

Beth White. Revell, 2015. 348p. \$15, paperback. ISBN: 9780800721985. Available as an e-book. www.revellbooks.com FIC United States – History – Revolution, 1775-1783 – Fiction. Mobile (Ala.) – History – Revolution, 1775-1783 – Fiction. Mobile (Ala.) – Race relations – History – 18th century – Fiction.

The Revolutionary War, slavery, discord within families and enmity between families of different nationalities provide

the struggles facing the characters in Beth White's *The Creole Princess*.

Mobile, Alabama, is still under British control in the late 1770's. Lyse Lanier is Creole but, as her last name suggests, she is of French heritage. She is free and her best friend is the daughter of the British officer in charge of the city. Lyse has a sister who is a slave for a couple who have a long-standing hatred of the Laniers. One day, when Lyse is down at the docks, a young Spanish merchant arrives just in time to prevent a sailor from assaulting her. Lyse and Rafael Gonzales are attracted to each other. The attraction is complicated by Spain's indecision about whether to aid

Helping Those Who Hurt.

by Sarah Meghan Harper. (2013) An annotated bibliography of print, non-print, and online resources divided into elementary and teen age groups. Designed for those working with children in congregational and pastoral care settings.



Carefully selected for the potential of facilitating discussion between and among children and adults. \$12/\$14 + S&H.

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the Americans in their struggle for independence or to remain neutral. Clandestine spying and Lyse's changing opinions regarding the war create lives filled with complications.—*Beverly M. Bixler*

CHILDREN AND YOUNG ADULTS



The Geese March in Step

Jean Francois Dumont. Eerdmans, 2014. 33p. \$16, hardback. ISBN: 9780802854438 www.eerdmans.com. [E] Individuality - Juvenile fiction. Imagination - Juvenile fiction. Geese - Juvenile fiction. Rhythm - Juvenile fiction.

Celebrate "marching to your own beat" with this delightful picture book for ages 4-8. Igor, who leads the geese, insists that they always march in a straight line to the pond. Little Zita tries

hard but just can't seem to get in step with the others. The other farm animals let Zita know in different ways that she is loved and appreciated for being the special goose she is. This book is a great teaching tool for parents and teachers as they work with young children to develop and celebrate self-acceptance, individuality, imagination and creative problem-solving. Read it aloud and enjoy the colorful animal illustrations accompanying the text. Recommended primarily for school and public libraries but could also be useful in a congregational library. —*Virginia Webb*



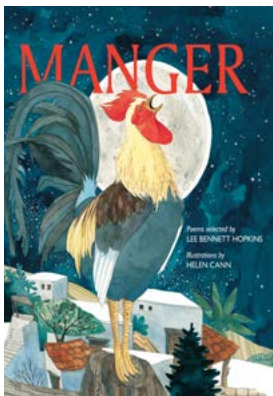
Anna's Heaven

Stian Hole, Translated by Don Bartlett, Eerdmans, 2014. 42p, \$17, hardcover. ISBN: 9780802854414. www.eerdmans.com. J Heaven-Juvenile fiction. Death-Juvenile fiction. Fathers and daughters-Juvenile fiction. Imagination-Juvenile fiction. Future life-Juvenile fiction. Grief - Juvenile fiction.

Heaven means many things to each of us. We can be refreshed, renewed and inspired by looking at heaven through the eyes and mind of a child. Meet

Anna, whose mother has recently passed away. She and her father embark on a magical journey through a hole in the sky toward heaven. There you can fly with the fish, soar through the Crab Nebula, help God in His garden or even visit with departed friends and family. Exquisite and striking illustrations follow the journey of father and daughter together as they grieve, heal and learn to live again. Suitable for children ages 6-12 and most effective if read aloud. Younger children may not

understand the text but would most likely be captivated by the colorful images. Suitable also for older children, it is recommended for congregational libraries that serve children of all ages. A possible resource for death, dying and grief collections, or for Sunday school teachers and church leaders ministering to children. Named by the *Spirituality and Practice* website as one of the 10 Best Spiritual Children's Books of 2014. —Virginia Webb

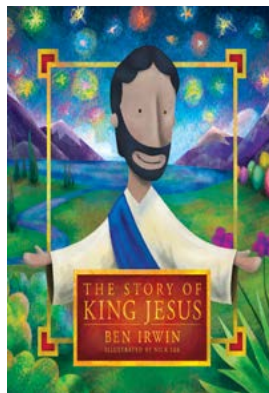


Manger

Poems selected by Lee Bennett Hopkins. Illustrated by Helen Cann, Eerdmans, 2014, 34p. \$16, hardcover. ISBN: 9780802854193 www.eerdmans.com 811.008'03823 Christian poetry, American. Children's poetry, American. Jesus Christ - Nativity—Poetry. Crèches (Nativity scenes)—Juvenile poetry.

According to legend, all creatures great and small are granted the gift of speech by God. This happens at midnight

on Christmas Eve but only for one hour. These poems are a joyful collection of familiar creatures (rooster, crow, cow, owl, etc.) heralding and trumpeting the impending birth of Baby Jesus. What do you think the animals would have said if they had been able to greet Jesus on the first Christmas Eve? Feel their sense of wonder, awe, tenderness and humility as you read each poem. Each of the poems has its own detailed colorful illustration done in watercolor and mixed media. This anthology of 14 new and previously printed poems has been specially selected by the noted children's poet and anthologist Lee Bennett Hopkins. Strongly recommended for congregational libraries and for children ages 4-8. Read it aloud to loved ones by your manger and start a new Christmas tradition.—Virginia Webb



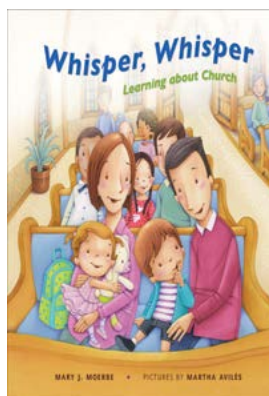
The Story of King Jesus

Ben Irwin. Illustrated by Nick Lee. David C. Cook, 2015. 48p. \$15, hardcover. ISBN: 9781434707727. Available as an e-book. www.davidcook.com 232.901 Jesus Christ – Juvenile literature. Bible stories, English – Juvenile literature.

This children's picture book begins with the creation of the world and progresses through Christ's resurrection and into the present. It relates the biblical story in an easy to read and

understandable narrative for children age 4-8. Nick Lee's rich illustrations engage the reader with bright colors and also employ darker pictures in appropriate places.

It includes "us" in the story by saying "everyone tried to do things their own way, from the very first people all the way to you and me." Although it states that the world is still broken, it ends in a very positive way saying Jesus is coming back and God will live with us forever. Children will enjoy this story and the illustrations. —Phyllis Wendorf



Whisper, Whisper: Learning About Church

Mary J. Moerbe. Illustrations by Martha Avilés. Concordia Publishing House, 2015. 32p. \$10, hardcover. ISBN: 9780758649010. www.cph.org [E] Stories in rhyme. Christian life – Juvenile literature. Church – Juvenile literature.

Author Moerbe begins *Whisper, Whisper* with a note to parents about using the book and general remarks on children in church services. The book con-

cludes with "In-sanctuary Tips" and "Teaching Moments" for parents to use.

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The author has written this book in rhyming couplet for very young preschool children so they can understand what to expect in church. Alternating sentences begin with “whisper, whisper” and young children will love performing the accompanying hand motions, such as making a book with your hands. One hand motion, making the sign of the cross, may not appeal to some denominations. At the bottom of each page is a “Teaching Moment” for parents to share with their children.

Children will enjoy the bright, cheerful illustrations and the rhyming text in this well-written and illustrated book.
—Phyllis Wendorf



The Christmas Stick

Tim J. Myers, Illustrated by Necdet Yilmaz. Paraclete Press, 2014, 32p. \$14, paperback. ISBN: 9781612615714. www.paracletepress.com [E] Christmas stories. Christmas-Fiction. Gifts-Juvenile fiction. Grandmothers-Juvenile fiction. Princes-Juvenile fiction. Conduct of life – Juvenile fiction.

The spoiled young prince is used to receiving lavish gifts for Christmas. One year, his ailing grandmother surprises him with

the simple gift of a stick. He plays with his other gifts, and after a short while they are all broken, destroyed or he has tired of them. He finds the stick, and he ultimately receives many blessings in return. Find out how the stick works its magic and transforms the Prince into a generous, thankful and loving boy.

Illustrations by Necdet Yilmaz are large, bright and colorful. At times the text utilizes words some children might not understand, such as “broadsword” and “jousting.” When the prince is playing, there are references to wizards and magic. Where there are no objections to these caveats, parents would find this suitable for reading aloud to preschool or primary age children. Church teachers, leaders and parents could use this story to start a discussion about toys, gifts and the true meaning of Christmas. Recommended for church and school libraries.— Virginia Webb



The Adventures of Pajama Girl and the Coronation of the Cupcake Queen

Sandra Hagee Parker, Illustrated by Sarah Bussey, Worthy Kids, 2015. 32p. \$15, hardcover. ISBN: 9781617954726. www.worthypublishing.com [E]. Bedtime-Juvenile fiction. Dreams-Juvenile fiction. Christian life - Fiction. Stealing - Fiction. Cupcakes – Juvenile fiction.

This picture book teaches important values, virtues and life lessons based on Exodus

20:15 “Thou shalt not steal.” Meet Ellie (aka Pajama Girl) and her sister. Together they go off to a land chock-full of sweet treats. Adventure ensues when they try to help the Cupcake Queen find the missing sprinkles needed for her coronation. Recommended primarily for church libraries due to numerous New Testament references. Vivid, colorful illustrations and a text that can be read aloud make it a good choice for preschool and primary children (especially girls). It also may be a suitable for a private or Christian school library setting.—Virginia Webb



Storm Siren (Storm Siren Series, Book #1)

Mary Weber. Thomas Nelson, 2014. 333p. \$10, paperback. ISBN: 9781401690359. www.thomasnelson.com YA FIC Fantasy fiction. Magic – Fiction.

Seventeen-year-old Nym is lucky to be alive. Most Elementals are females and usually killed shortly after birth because their magical powers are feared. Set in the war-torn

kingdom of Faelen, young Nym is a slave and is on the auction block for the fifteenth time. Her handler is trying to mask her abilities, since she has destroyed all previous owners. When a court advisor gives her the choice to die or learn how to handle her powers to control storms, she soon realizes that it is her true destiny to save the kingdom. Will she learn how to control her abilities and emotions? First, Nym needs

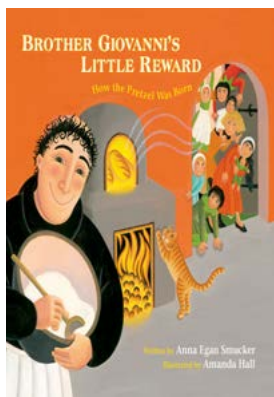


CSLA Promotional Kit [for public libraries].

The kit, delivered in a pamphlet shelf file box, may either be displayed as a set or shelved as individual items. The kit contains six CSLA guides: Cataloging and Classification, Developing An Effective Library (promotional), Fundamentals of Financing Your Congregational Library, Organizing a Library or Resource Center, Selecting a New Library Cataloging and Circulation Computer System and Subject Headings. \$65 + S&H.

CSLA GUIDE

to discover whom she can trust and how to discern what is good from evil in a community of deception. Filled with political intrigue and action, this first book in the *Storm Siren* series sets a solid base for future adventures in the trilogy. Recommended for teen/YA fantasy fans.— *Mary Lou Henneman*



Brother Giovanni's Little Reward: How the Pretzel was Born

Anna Egan Smucker. Illustrated by Amanda Hall. Eerdmans, 2015. 34p. hardcover \$17. ISBN: 9780802854209. www.eerdmans.com [E] Pretzels-Juvenile fiction. Bakers – Juvenile fiction. Monks-Juvenile fiction.

Brother Giovanni's Little Reward begins with a happy monk who loves to pray and sing. He also is the best baker

at the monastery. In preparation for the bishop's visit, the abbot tries unsuccessfully to encourage the children to learn their prayers. The abbot approaches Brother Giovanni and convinces him to try teaching

the children to pray. Brother Giovanni uses different approaches to teach the children. He tries singing, dancing and making silly faces, but the kids continue to be uninterested. After much prayer and worry, Brother Giovanni starts his morning preparing his bread dough and realizes that he can make tasty rewards shaped similar to arms crossed in prayer. Brother Giovanni encourages the children to mimic the *pretiolas* (pretzels) and pray before receiving the treat. After a few days, the prayers were both answered and learned. The bishop expressed his joy after hearing the children recite their prayers, and as a celebration, Brother Giovanni baked his wonderful little rewards.

Brother Giovanni's Little Reward is a lovely book that reminds readers to use the gifts God has given them. Filled with bright and amusing watercolor illustrations, it opens with a young Giovanni and a cat that appears by his side throughout the book. The illustrations continuously portray vibrant and happy children playing and praying. The last page includes a short note to the reader followed by a recipe for soft pretzels.

—*Dora Morales*

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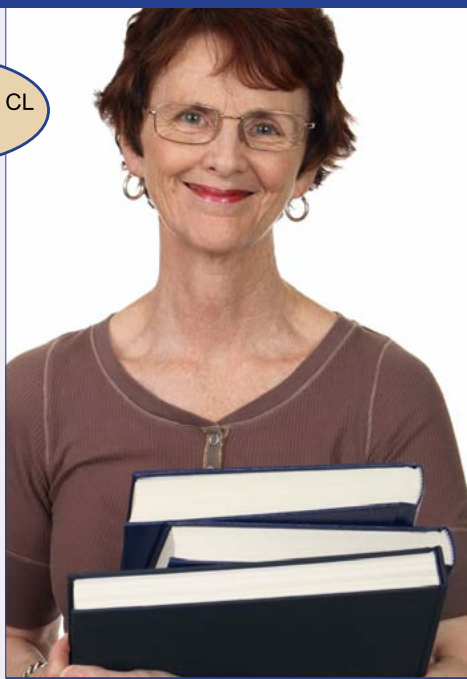


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THE CHURCH

Cursing the Church or Helping It? Exposing the Spirit of Balaam

Anna M. Aquino. Destiny Imagine, 2012. 208p. \$15, paperback. ISBN: 9780768440855. Available as an e-book. www.destinyimage.com 250 Christians – Conduct of life. Interpersonal relations.

Cursing the church. Too harsh? Some might say Aquino speaks too judgmentally of behaviors and attitudes in churches. Others will say, "Right on!" despite wishing her words regarding gossip, disunity and hypocrisy, real or perceived, were untrue.

The "Spirit of Balaam" refers to the Old Testament story of Balaam who was invited to curse the Israelites but at God's command blessed them. Later, his selfishness caused him to be judged negatively.

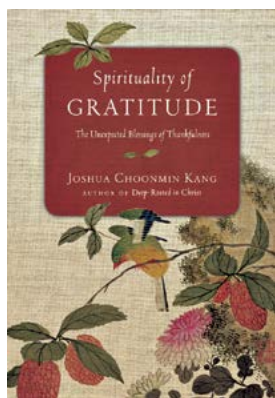
Much of the material in the eight chapters is autobiographical, with Aquino's experiences and opinions forming the bulk of the content. She quotes particularly appropriate selections of Scripture from *The Message*.

Pentecostal and Charismatic congregations will feel at home with the writing style and the terms used, while other readers may cringe at times or lack understanding of the terminology.

A challenging chapter is "I'll Trade You Two Fake Smiles for a Pretentious 'I'm Praying for You'" in which hypocrisy, intention versus reality and our need for each other are addressed. Other chapters challenge the power of words, selfishness and unity and disunity in God's family.

Recommended for libraries in Pentecostal and Charismatic congregations and for those willing to be challenged by what may, but shouldn't, be happening in churches. —Carolyn Egolf

SPIRITUAL LIFE



Spirituality of Gratitude: The Unexpected Blessings of Thankfulness

Joshua Choonmin Kang. Intervarsity, 2015. 160p. \$16, paperback. ISBN: 9780830846030. Available as an e-book. www.ivpress.com 241.4 Gratitude-Religious aspects-Christianity. Spiritual life-Christianity.

If, as Jean Baptiste Massieu writes, "Gratitude is the memory of the heart," readers will find *Spirituality of Gratitude* rich in

memory prompts. The author wrote these 52 essays at a dark time in his life, and he attests to the strength, comfort and lessons he received from the writing. The essays are divided into five parts: "A Source of Grace,"

CLASSICS CORNER



Let Yourself be Loved: Transforming Fear into Hope

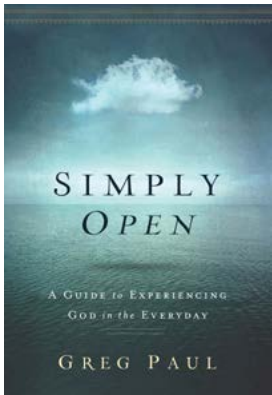
Phillip Bennett. Paulist Press, 2015. (Revised and expanded edition) 96p. \$13, paperback. ISBN: 9780809149186. Available as an e-book. www.paulistpress.com 231'6 God - Love. Fear. Spiritual life.

Let Yourself Be Loved is a slim book of spiritual psychology originally published more than 20 years ago. The au-

thor emphasizes God's love for us and asserts that the hurts and disappointments we experience often lead us to block God's love. Reverend Bennett points out nine different types of fears: fear of opening old wounds, fear of judgment, fear of intimacy, fear of anger, fear of loss, fear of loving ourselves, fear of joy, fear of doubt in darkness, and fear of aging and death. To address each of these fears, the author begins with a quote employing a variety of sources, from Bible verses to Aristotle. He continues with a short homily punctuated by anecdotes, scripture and theological wisdom, and ends each chapter with a simple prayer. The book concludes with an epilogue which uses dance as a metaphor for expressing the continuous cycle of love: the more we give love, the more we receive it, and the more we receive love, the more we give it. The revised edition includes a forward and additional chapters. A meditation on letting yourself be loved rounds out this little gem of a book which belongs in all church libraries.—Ellen Bosman

"What We are Grateful For," "The Power of Gratitude," "Spiritual Gifts of Gratitude" and "The Path to Gratitude." Topics range from uplifting ones about hope, time, prayer, beauty and the glory of God to those that speak to the realistic challenges of letting go, broken bridges, the mundane, tears and holy darkness.

Kang, author of 30 books, has a talent for packaging deep insights and quotes into brief essays that, in cultural parlance, "pack a punch." The two to three page essays can be read quickly but deserve time for careful thought. The book could be read over a year with one essay per week, read through in its entirety or used as a topical reference to address needs. Recommended for church libraries. Despite the numerous New Testament quotations, the universality of the theme also may lead libraries of other faiths to consider this book. —Carolyn Egolf

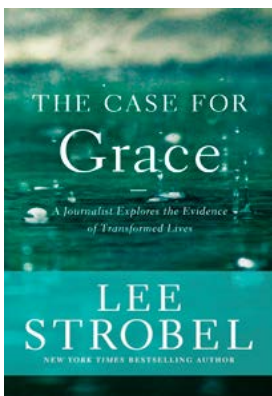


Simply Open: A Guide to Experiencing God in the Everyday

Greg Paul. Thomas Nelson Books, 2015. 223p. \$17, paperback. ISBN: 9781400206681. www.thomasnelson.com 248.4. Spiritual life – Christianity. Prayer.

Greg Paul's *Simply Open: A Guide to Experiencing God in the Everyday* is a book that is intended to help enrich one's

daily devotions and prayers. Paul provides his audience with vignettes that offer a look into his spiritual life and practices. These vignettes serve as invitations and guidance on how to pray and become more aware of God's presence in everyday life. No matter how busy one's life may be, Paul reminds us that one can be open to God through the five senses and through the mind and heart. Each chapter begins with a prayer inviting God to open a different part of ourselves (e.g., the mind) to God's presence. The chapter then proceeds to focus on how this part of our being can be used to understand God, oneself and others. Paul gives examples from his own life, the spiritual practices of other Christians throughout history and from scripture. Greg Paul's book can be read by the individual reader or by a small group.—*Carlos R. Fernandez*



The Case for Grace: A Journalist Explores the Evidence of Transformed Lives.

Lee Strobel. Zondervan, 2015. 240p. \$23, hardcover. ISBN: 9780310259176. Available as an e-book. www.zondervan.com 234 Grace (Theology). Christian life.

A Journalist Explores the Evidence, the subtitle for Strobel's book, sets the stage. A legal writer and former atheist, Strobel

is now an apologist for the Christian faith, looking at facts and changed lives like a lawyer examines evidence.

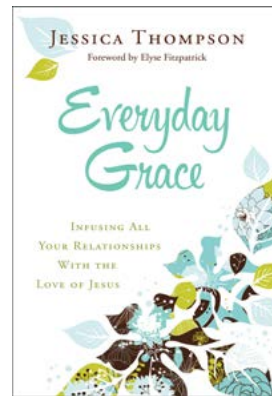
Grace—the idea of a loving and forgiving God—is a concept unique to Christianity, as explained in Chapter 4, in which Christianity is compared to other major religions.

Among the stories of lives changed by God's grace are "The Addict," "The Executioner," "The Homeless," "The Pastor" and "The Prodigal." Strobel's tone is not judgmental, and his own journey is shared as he identifies with the "once I was, now I am" theme. Stories are honest, but not always with fairy-tale endings. Repentance, change and new directions take time, and sin has its consequences.

While Strobel suggests this is not a Bible study, the

approximately 20 questions per chapter can function as a discussion guide, providing Scriptures and quotes to generate interaction. A "Listing of Scriptures on Grace" and "Helpful Books on Grace" add substance, while a "Notes" section offers more than resource references.

Highly recommended for church libraries and groups or individuals where grace is sought, needed or has been found.—*Carolyn Egolf*



Everyday Grace: Infusing All Your Relationships with the Love of Jesus

Jessica Thompson. Bethany House, 2015. 208p, \$15, paperback. ISBN: 9780764212994. Available as an e-book. www.bethanyhouse.com 248.4 Interpersonal relations-Religious aspects-Christianity. Love-Religious aspects-Christianity. Grace (Theology).

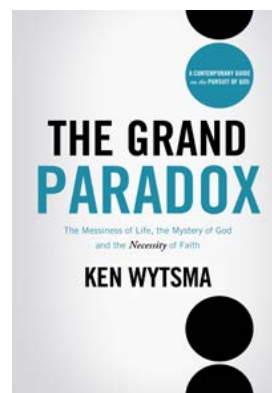
Webster's dictionary defines infusing as pouring in, filling or soaking. Thompson emphasizes

the importance of forgiveness as a tool for facilitating infusions of love.

The tone is strongly evangelical, and the blend of personal experience, Scriptures and quotes from Spurgeon, Winslow, Luther and others suggests Thompson is well-read and has the spiritual gift of evangelism. The richness of the offerings makes the reader want to pause and absorb them. The book presents a balanced view of God's provision coupled with the reality that in human relationships, repeated failures require forgiveness, and in some situations resolution will only come in eternity.

The chapter on friendship draws from John's gospel, and later the value of friendships is recommended as a method to have impact in our communities. The chapter on "The Holy Spirit and Our Relations with Difficult People" addresses how we relate to the "unlovable" and calls us to let the Holy Spirit speak through us to encourage, comfort and counsel those whose lives include suffering and continuing challenges.

Recommended for church libraries, particularly in evangelical, conservative congregations.—*Carolyn Egolf*



The Grand Paradox: The Messiness of Life, the Mystery of God, and the Necessity of Faith

Ken Wytsma. Thomas Nelson, 2015. 218p. \$23, hardcover. ISBN: 9780849964671. www.thomasnelson.com 248.4 Christian life. Life-Religious aspects-Christianity. Christianity-Philosophy.

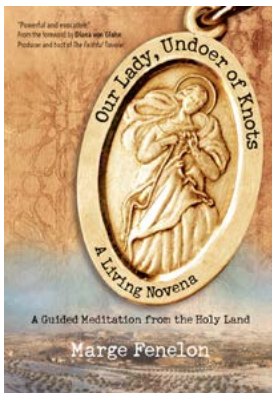
Paradox is defined as an "apparent contradiction," and

as a starter, we have “life is messy. God is mysterious.” This text offers numerous examples, including joy in trials. Having Jesus requires experiencing Jesus’ life and teaching as “upside down” to cultural values.

Doubt is the focus of one chapter, and readers are directed to the Psalms. Faith is named as the answer to doubt, and seeking community and the discipline of remembrance are recommended. Another chapter, which will resonate with many readers, is titled “Spiritual Fatigue (or The Dark Night of the Soul).” Themes of lament, suffering and endurance are balanced with Corrie ten Boom’s words “Joy runs deeper than despair.”

A quote from G. K. Chesterton, though presented at the beginning of the book, may mean more as a summary: “Paradox simply means a certain defiant joy which belongs to belief.”

The material is well organized in 16 chapters, each beginning with a quote and ending with a scripture verse. A notes section offers more than references, and study group materials are available online. Rich in scripture, quotes and realistic questions and observations, the book deserves study rather than simple reading. Highly recommended for church libraries and personal or group study.—*Carolyn Egolf*



Our Lady, Undoer of Knots: A Living Novena

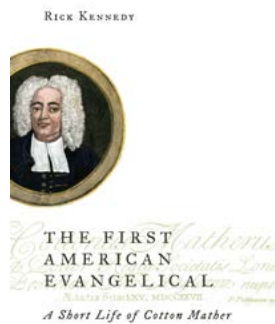
Marge Fenelon. Ave Maria Press, 2015. 160p. paperback, \$15. ISBN: 9781594716300. www.ave mariapress.com 232.91 Mary, Blessed Virgin, Saint-Prayers and Devotions. Francis, Pope, 1936-Travel-Palestine-Meditations. Papal visits – Palestine. Catholic Church-Prayers and Devotions. Undoer of Knots, Our Lady.

Ms. Fenelon’s account leads the reader on a nine day guided pilgrimage to the Holy Land,

following the same steps Pope Francis took in 2014. Fenelon speaks of the moments Pope Francis prayed on the very spots where Jesus had been. With descriptive detail, she puts readers in the respective location to begin a novena. Each chapter highlights knots common throughout the world and in one’s own life. The chapters conclude with meditations and a special prayer to Our Lady. Fenelon reminds us that, although we live in difficult times, daily prayer, devotion and trust in God and Our Lady are very powerful.

Readers of Marge Fenelon’s book will realize the calling from the blessed mother to reinforce one’s trust in her to untangle the tightest knots in life. Follow the novena and consider passing this little book and the prayer to Our Lady along to family and friends. This book is appropriate for all Catholic parish libraries.—*Dora Morales*

MEMOIR



The First American Evangelical: A Short Life of Cotton Mather

Rick Kennedy. Eerdmans, 2015. 162p. \$17, paperback. ISBN: 9780802872111. www.eerdmans.com B Mather, Cotton, 1662-1728. Puritans – Massachusetts - Biography. Evangelicalism - United States - History.

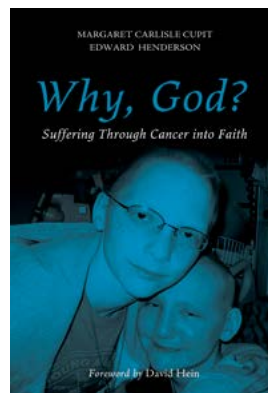
Do you remember reading about Cotton Mather in American history class only because his first name was

unusual and the reading was boring? If so, Rick Kennedy’s *The First American Evangelical* will be a revelation.

This spritely biography, brief but detailed, presents a vivid picture of the Colonial period in New England, the evolving religious, political and intellectual life, as well as such situations as the Salem witch trials and epidemics of smallpox and measles which devastated many families.

Kennedy’s chapters also paint a portrait of a fascinating man: a lifelong preacher, writer, scholar in many fields and a disappointed aspirant to the presidency of Harvard. Cotton Mather was also a devoted family man whose life often was touched by tragedy. Twice a widower, his third marriage was not completely happy. He fathered 15 children but only two survived him. The last years of his life were financially troubled.

The book concludes with an extensive bibliography, an illustrated description of the Cotton Mather Trail and a walking tour of the Trail through central Boston and the city’s North End.—*Beverly M. Bixler*



Why, God?: Suffering Through Cancer into Faith

Margaret Carlisle Cupit and Edward Henderson. Resource Publications, 2015. 146p. \$20, paperback. ISBN: 9781625644787. www.wipfandstock.com 231.8 Theodicy. Cancer—Religious aspects.

At 19 years old, Mary Carlisle Cupit had a bright future as a chemistry major at Rhodes College. When she received an opportunity to do summer research at St. Jude Children’s Hospital, Mary never imagined she would become a patient there after being diagnosed with Ewing Sarcoma, the second most common bone cancer in children. Based on real life experiences, this book is a compilation of her journal entries during that year as she underwent chemotherapy and surgery. But there is more to her story.

Mary shared her journal entries with Edward Anderson, her grandfather and a former philosophy professor. Her book contains dual entries as each speaks of faith and coming to a better understanding of their relationship with God. They tackle some tough questions, such as when people ask Mary what she has done wrong, tell her that the cancer is part of God's plan, or that they believe innocent children die because God needs another angel in heaven. The dialogue between the two is honest and insightful. Today Mary is a cancer survivor and is studying to be a physician.

Highly recommended for anyone who has experienced chemotherapy, those who care for cancer patients or those who would like to gain a better understanding of cancer patients. Both authors mention their Christian faith, but this book may be considered appropriate in any congregational library.—*Mary Lou Henneman*

God's Inner Circle: The Radical Devotion of Elie Wiesel to Faith: A Seeker's Sourcebook of Quotations

Michael Ritzen. KTAV Publishing House, 2012. 127p, \$17, paperback. ISBN: 9781602802117. www.ktav.com 296.31174 Wiesel, Elie, 1928-, Quotations. Faith (Judaism)-Quotations, maxims, etc. Holocaust-Jewish (1939-1945)-Moral and ethical aspects-Quotations, maxims, etc.

"How can you still believe in God after the Holocaust?" is a question frequently asked of Elie Wiesel and other Holocaust and World War II survivors. In response, Wiesel says he may wrestle and argue with God, but he has never lost his faith in God.

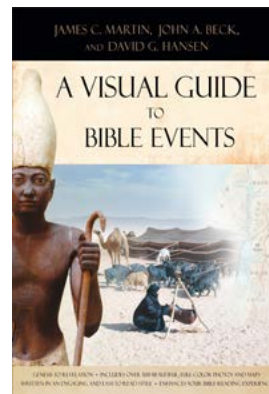
Michael Ritzen, a retired English professor, has compiled and written commentary on many of Wiesel's noteworthy quotations found in writings, speeches and interviews. Wiesel, the 1986 recipient of the Nobel Peace Prize, writes that "despite the difficulties and obstacles, I have never abandoned God. I had tremendous problems with God ... Therefore, I protest against God ... Nevertheless, everything I do is done within faith, and not from outside."

Wiesel believes you can be religious or come from a religious background and protest against God, but you cannot be or live without God. In a public prayer, which Ritzen analyzes in depth, Wiesel starts by saying, "I no longer ask You for either happiness or paradise; all I ask of You is to listen and let me be aware of Your listening." Wiesel sums up his relationship with God by saying that

it is because he still believes in God that he can argue with God. Wiesel recognizes that faith, the theme of this volume, is the theme of his life, but all answers remain open.

Those who feel that Elie Wiesel speaks to them through the heart will be inspired to read this slim volume with passion. For others, Ritzen's presentation and analysis will provide an entrée into a sad yet inspiring world. Profound questions and issues are raised as each one of us struggles to find answers. Recommended.—*Evelyn Pockrass*

REFERENCE



A Visual Guide to Bible Events: Fascinating Insights into Where They Happened and Why

James C. Martin, John A. Beck, David G. Hansen. Baker Books, 2015. 271p. \$20, paperback. ISBN: 9780801017278. bakerpublishinggroup.com 220.9'1. Bible—Geography. Bible stories, English. Bible—Criticism, interpretation, etc.

A Visual Guide to Bible Events: Fascinating Insights into Where They Happened and Why is a

guide to the people, places, and events depicted in the Bible. Authors Martin, Beck, and Hansen present readers with a multitude of maps, color photographs and charts to help with a better understanding of the people and the cultures of the ancient Near East and Israel. In my opinion as a seminary graduate, this book is written specifically for individuals who believe in biblical inerrancy. For example, in a caption to a photograph of a mud-brick pyramid (p. 26), the authors state that Joseph built the surrounding structures as granaries. They do not cite any archaeological evidence or research to validate this statement. For individuals and congregations who have a belief in the inerrancy of the Bible, this book is a decent companion to their Bible studies. Individuals and congregations from other Christian denominations may consider selecting other works of Biblical scholarship for their libraries, such as the works of Walter Bruggemann, Phyllis Trible, and N. T. Wright.—*Carlos R. Fernandez*

Subject Headings in the Library Catalog.

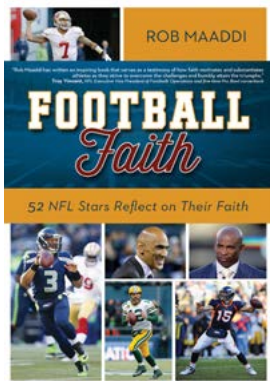
by Dorothy G. Lewis (2007). This guide will help the beginning or experienced librarian identify the subject of a book and choose the most useful subject heading. \$10/\$12 + S&H.



CSLA GUIDE

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SPORTS



Football Faith: 52 NFL Stars Reflect on Their Faith

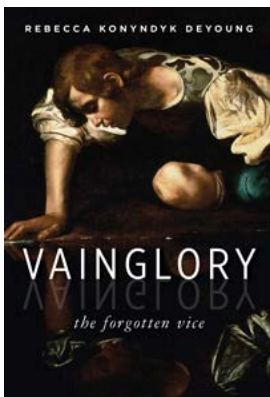
Rob Maadi. Shiloh Run Press, 2015. 224p. \$17, paperback. ISBN: 9781634092227. www.shilohrunpress.com 248.0922
Football players – Religious life. Christian life. Football – Religious aspects.

Fifty-two National Football League athletes talk about how their faith and relationship with God affect their lives and motivate them both on the field

and in their personal lives.

Each four-page chapter includes a picture of the player, a Bible verse that the player lives by along with the player's explanation of why this verse is important to him, statistical information on the player and an "Extra Point," which is a unique fact about the player along with information on his career. An interesting, easily readable book for football fans.—*Phyllis Wendorf*

THEOLOGY



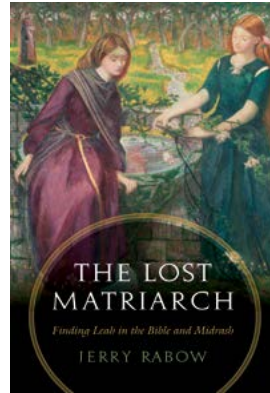
Vainglory: The Forgotten Vice

Rebecca Konyndyk DeYoung. Eerdmans, 2014. 157p. \$14, paperback. ISBN: 9780802871299. www.eerdmans.com 241'.3. Pride and Vanity. Deadly Sins.

Rebecca Konyndyk DeYoung's *Vainglory: The Forgotten Vice*, is a thorough academic examination of vainglory, the chief of the seven cardinal sins, which she prefers to call the seven capital vices. Supporting her arguments

and analysis with passages from scripture, Augustine, Thomas Aquinas and C. S. Lewis, DeYoung asserts that vainglory, unlike other vices, creates a boundary that keeps one from drawing closer to God. Seeking fame and praise from one's peers and society not only places oneself and one's accomplishments before the needs of others, it places them ahead of God, to whom all glory is due. Though this work is highly academic in its scope and depth, DeYoung has written a book that is accessible to most readers and may be of interest to individuals interested in Christian philosophy and to church book groups.—*Carlos R. Fernández*

TEXTS AND TRADITIONS



The Lost Matriarch: Finding Leah in the Bible and Midrash

Jerry Rabow. Jewish Publication Society, 2014. 242p. \$23, paperback. ISBN: 9780827612075. Available as an e-book. www.jps.org 222'.11092 Leah (Biblical matriarch). Leah (Biblical matriarch)- In rabbinical literature. Jacob (Biblical patriarch).

Of the matriarchs in the Hebrew Bible, Leah is probably the one we know least about. Physically, the only translated

description of her in Genesis 29 is that she has "weak" or "tender" eyes. In addition to announcing the birth of her six sons and one daughter, she barely says more than a few sentences. Given the complex circumstances of her marriage to Jacob and his additional marriage to her sister Rachel, there is a great deal of speculation about Leah in rabbinic and scholarly literature. Leah had seven children, while Rachel was barren for many years before she had Joseph. There were understandable tensions between the two sisters.

Interestingly, some ancient rabbis thought Rachel and Leah were twins. They raised the issue of how Jacob could be married to both sisters when there was a prohibition about marrying sisters at the same time. Apparently, the prohibition applied to the Holy Land, but Jacob's marriages took place in Haran, and Rachel died before the family returned to Canaan. Leah tried to satisfy Jacob, but his true love was Rachel; on the other hand, he is buried next to Leah but not near Rachel. Leah is the constant, patient wife who accepts adversity and moves on.

Jerry Rabow, a retired lawyer, methodically explores the verses in Genesis, rabbinic commentaries (midrash) and contemporary writings to portray Leah as a matriarch and a heroine. Each interchange between Jacob, Leah, Rachel, Laban (their father) and the sisters' handmaidens is carefully analyzed in this intelligent, readable work.

A glossary, notes, bibliography and index are provided. Recommended for individual and study group reading.—*Evelyn Pockrass*



Media for the Teen and Young Adult Reader.

Selected and annotated by Mary Lou Henneman. (2013) This guide is meant more to offer suggestions on a variety of books for

congregational libraries than a definitive bibliography directed toward the interests and needs of teens and young adults. \$12/\$14 + postage.

CSLA BIBLIOGRAPHY

Happy New Year!

Renew membership, annual conference, logo contest

BY JUDY JANZEN, Administrator

I trust you had a great holiday season and are now ready to get back to your regular schedule. Have you renewed your CSLA membership for 2016? If not, I hope you will do that soon. YOU are



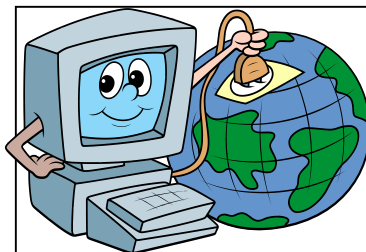
very important to us and we don't want you to miss all the good things we have planned for you this year.

Be sure to put the 49th Annual Conference dates on your calendar It

will be held on the campus of Kent State University, Kent, Ohio, on July 27-29, 2016. The committee has been working hard to bring you a great conference. Its theme will be "Telling Your Story-CSLA's Story."

CSLA's 50th year of helping congregational librarians will be celebrated in 2017. We are sponsoring a special logo contest as part of the festivities. The logo can be designed by CSLA members or their friends. All entries will be on display during the 2016 conference and attendees will vote for the best logo for use throughout 2017. Design a logo and be a part of the fun! Details regarding this contest are located elsewhere in this issue and will be posted on our website. A \$250 Amazon gift card will be awarded to the winning designer.

Looking forward to receiving your 2016 CSLA membership.



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Award for archivists available from SAA: deadline Feb. 28

Archivists and librarians have a lot in common. Some of our CSLA members fill both roles for their congregations. If your congregation has an active archival committee, you may want to pass this announcement from the Society of American Archivists to them. This is an annual award, so even if you get this announcement too late for 2016, keep next year in mind. — CSLA Publications Committee

The Society of American Archivists' Awards Committee is seeking nominations for the **Sister M. Claude Lane, O.P., Memorial Award**. This award recognizes individuals who have made a significant contribution to the field of religious archives. Criteria for nomination include:

- Involvement and work in the Archivists of Religious Collections Section (ARCS) of the Society of American Archivists.
- Contributions to archival literature that relates to religious archives.
- Participation and leadership in religious archives organizations.
- Evidence of leadership in specific religious archives.

Only individual archivists are eligible for nomination. The award is sponsored by the Society of Southwest Archivists, in conjunction with Society of American Archivists. It is named in honor of Sister M. Claude Lane, the first professionally trained archivist at the Catholic Archives of Texas in Austin, who served there from 1960 until her death in 1974. The award finalist is recognized with a certificate from SAA and a \$300 cash prize provided by the Society of Southwest Archivists at the annual Society of American Archivists meeting.

For more information on the Lane Award, including past winners, see: <http://www2.archivists.org/governance/handbook/section12-lane>

To nominate an archivist for the Lane Award please follow the guidelines provided in the Nomination Form via the link on that page.

All nominations shall be submitted to the Awards Committee by February 28, 2016.

If you have any questions, contact:

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Planning a Congregational Archives Center. by Curtis D. Howard, PhD. (2011). This is a great reference book on processing, preserving, storing and exhibiting your archives. It offers tips on what to include in your archives and discusses their importance to your congregation. \$12/\$14 + S&H.

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