

congregational libraries *today*



SERVING CONGREGATIONAL LIBRARIES OF ALL FAITHS SINCE 1967

CSLAINFO.ORG | FOURTH ISSUE 2014

Inside this issue

President's Message: CSLA is my Library Land	2
Meghan Harper's first column is about site bookmarking	3
Chapter Chatter	4
Call for nominations for awards	4
Doing Dewey: Dewey classification numbers for philosophy and psychology	5
Library Limelights: Keeping yours in the center	6
A Rodda retrospective: Award created to honor first executive secretary	7
Program to educate congregation on customs, traditions successful	8
Preview of 2015 conference in Denton, Texas	9
Call for Nominations for 2015 Rodda Award	9
Fresh citations: new media for your library	10
CSLA is searching for a new Media Review Editor	25
Administrator's report: Time to renew your membership	26
CSLA committee chairs and other representatives	27

Harper will be regular columnist for CLT

IN REFERENCE TO...

Congregational Libraries Today welcomes Meghan Harper as a contributing author. Meghan will be writing a column addressing library reference topics, titled "In Reference To..."

For those of you who have not had the pleasure of meeting Meghan, here is a brief biographical sketch.

Meghan Harper is an Associate Professor at Kent State University in Kent, Ohio. She serves as the Coordinator of the School Library program and currently teaches four courses in the area of Youth Services in the School of Library and Information Science. Meghan is co-director of the Virginia Hamilton Multicultural Literature Conference, the longest-running national conference of its kind.

Meghan earned a Ph.D. in Curriculum and Instruction, a Master of Library Science, and a Bachelor of Science in Elementary Education from Kent State University. Meghan has held administrative positions of Assistant Curriculum Director, Director of Technology and Libraries, and as a school librarian at levels K-12.

Meghan pursues research interests in school library administration, facility design, multiliteracies and informational print and non-print resources, resulting in the publication of numerous articles, chapters, manuscripts, reviews and the CSLA guide *Helping Those Who Hurt*. She also devotes herself to a personal interest in church libraries. She has been a member of the Church and Synagogue Library Association (CSLA) since 2004, and she spearheaded an effort to create a student membership in 2011.

Meghan is the author of *Reference Sources and Services for Youth* (Neal-Schuman, 2011), the forthcoming *Cataloging for School Librarians* (ALA Editions, 2015), and *Guide to 21st Century Literacies* (Rowman & Littlefield, 2015). She has been an invited speaker at numerous state and national conferences and has spoken internationally.

Meghan is an avid gardener and enjoys hiking, cardio kickboxing and collecting quotes. She is a 2nd degree black belt in Tae Kwon Do and is pursuing a black belt in Muay Thai.



MEGHAN HARPER

MEGHAN'S FIRST COLUMN IS ON PAGE 3.



LIBRARY LAND—look for it in the heart of CSLA

CHERYL CUTCHIN
PRESIDENT, CSLA

Cheryl never liked typing and filing cards so she really appreciates today's electronic catalogs. For her, the real LIBRARY LAND is CSLA. Read on...

In times past the backlog of materials to be processed was always close to the height of the desk and frequently multiplied into several stacks. Hours were spent cataloging and typing catalog cards.

Most of you were probably more proficient at typing catalog cards than I could ever be. More time was spent correcting typographical errors than filing all of those Wite' Out splotted cards. How thankful I was when along came the technology to produce professional looking cards by entering the information into the software and printing out a beautiful set of cards. Admittedly, I didn't enjoy filing all the cards, but at least they looked nice.

For a number of years I was feeling pretty happy with beautiful catalog cards, but still struggling with Dewey numbers and the time involved with cataloging. Just when you think you have things figured out, along comes a new type of media that has to be described. Soon I began hearing about automated catalogs with no cards to be printed or filed. In "Library Land" that would be a dream come true!

When I received a letter inviting me to join the Church and Synagogue Library Association, my first thoughts were, "What is this? I've never heard of this group." After talking with a member and getting more information, I made the best decision ever for my congregational library. Sending the membership form and dues

to the national office was easy, and I started receiving the association journal, *Congregational Libraries Today*. It was amazing to find actual reviews on current congregational materials. The *CSLA Subject Headings in the Library Catalog* and *Cataloging and Classification* guides saved me!

Even though I am a professionally trained librarian, I found information I didn't have that was pertinent to a congregational library. I received much more from my CSLA membership than I ever thought possible. After using all of the wonderful resources, there was no doubt that my membership would be renewed.

Technology has come a long way. Now we have automated catalogs that are web based, and we have the capability to download MARC records from other libraries. Thanks to my CSLA friends that I have met at conferences, local chapter meetings, and in the virtual chapter, I have a network of like-minded librarians who help whether I need a Dewey number, technology answers, a website or the name of a book. The CSLA website is a 24/7 resource.

CSLA's four hundred-plus members have the same goal of having the best congregational library possible. I guess there really is a "Library Land," and it is found in the heart of CSLA. Now if we can just find the directions to that union catalog for congregational libraries...



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IN REFERENCE TO...

Site Bookmarking

BY MEGHAN HARPER, CONTRIBUTING AUTHOR



Autumn leaves signal the changing of the seasons, and I am inspired to start afresh with resolutions and begin new projects. I see the excitement of children returning to school with fresh backpacks and school supplies, and on the campus where I am employed, summer's slower pace is replaced with an energy that resonates with busyness and purpose as students hurry to their classes. I am spurred into action to get organized, manage my time, and work smart to meet teaching, writing and research obligations.

As a volunteer congregational librarian, I strive to successfully meet the varied tasks of running a church library efficiently and effectively.

Wearing two hats, those of college professor and church librarian, is a time-critical juggling act. I have found that taking time to get organized is paramount to saving time in the long run. As information overload is quite prevalent with more and more information available online via Internet, one can quickly become overwhelmed and desperate in separating the wheat from the chaff. Remembering details of information viewed, skimmed, and read can be challenging.

How many times have I asked myself, now what online site had the excellent example of a collection policy? Where was that awesome bulletin board site I found once while surfing for cataloging information? In all of these cases, *bookmarking* and *saving* the site location would have saved me time and energy and made me more efficient in retrieving and utilizing the information productively.

An electronic bookmark is much like a physical bookmark in a book; it serves as a *pointer* to mark a specific spot and to facilitate quick access to a specific part of the text. Bookmarks can be organized by topic and set up to enable you to keep track of the best sites on topics that interest you or to alert you when there is activity on the site.



This now static website is home of the **National Church Library Association**.

For example, as a congregational librarian I have several lists of bookmarks under the broader heading of collection development. I include review and publisher sites as well as vendor sites that enable me to keep ongoing wish lists of titles for purchase. I also mark cataloging reference sites that keep me updated on implementation of new RDA standards.

Bookmarks can be linked to your favorite web browser and, if you use several different browsers, can be shared between browsers. The following sites provide how-to information for learning about bookmarking. The sites also provide guidelines for instituting a framework for saving your bookmarks.

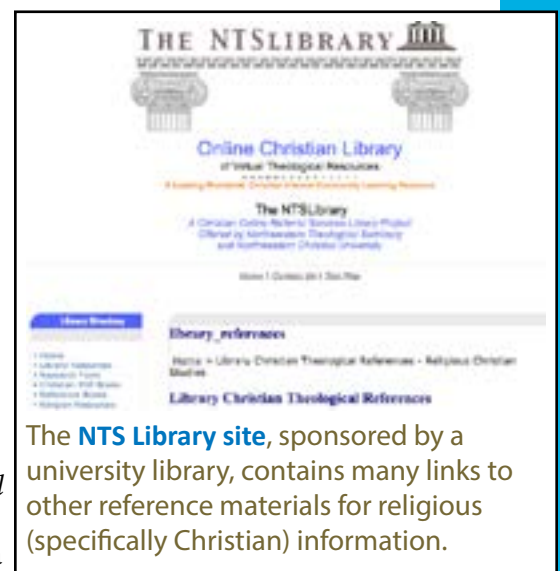
Using Bookmarks: an Instruction Guide (U.S. Dept. of Labor). This document is a guide to using bookmarks on multiple browsers. (This resource has text and illustration.)

Tuts+ Bookmarking Guide. This guide is a simpler, more basic guide (text and illustration). While Tuts+ is primarily a subscription-based website for tutorials, access to this particular guide is free.

How Do I Get Back Here? A Guide to Bookmarking Websites. This site (from Australia) provides a basic guide with step-by-step directions for those less familiar with computers.

CHOOSING YOUR BOOKMARKED SITES

One strategic method to begin organizing a wealth of helpful sites at your fingertips is to seek out sites that serve as a *directory* or *portal* to other sites. This is generally a shortcut to finding multiple sites on pertinent topics rather than surfing to



The **NTS Library** site, sponsored by a university library, contains many links to other reference materials for religious (specifically Christian) information.

>> *article continues on page 4*

find individual sites.

A portal is a website that functions as a gateway or entry point to the Internet and directs users to other sites. Portals are often quite dynamic, with new information being added and new links being referenced every day, or even every hour.

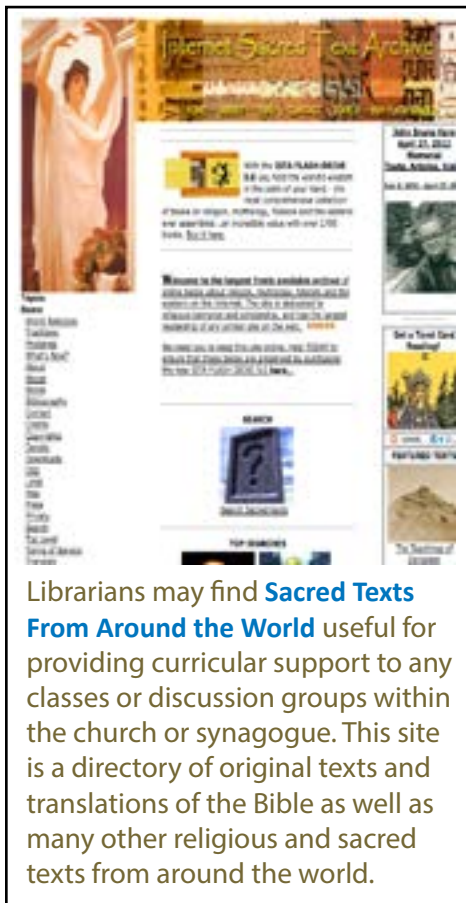
Yahoo is an example of a portal. A portal may contain a directory, but a directory cannot contain a portal. A directory is a database of selected websites, ordered in such a way as to facilitate browsing topically. Many directories are human-made (they look more like the physical directories we are used to seeing) which in turn serve as an excellent shortcut to finding useful and recommended sites.

The sites mentioned on this page are definitely worth bookmarking.

National Church Library Association.

This site may have been considered a portal at one time, and in some ways may still be. Although this organization is operational no longer (it closed its doors officially on December 31, 2012),

the site, now static, functions much more like a directory. As a portal, the site directs you to the [Catholic Library](#)



Librarians may find [Sacred Texts From Around the World](#) useful for providing curricular support to any classes or discussion groups within the church or synagogue. This site is a directory of original texts and translations of the Bible as well as many other religious and sacred texts from around the world.

Association. As a directory, this site contains multiple directories on various topics that librarians will find helpful as they manage the many aspects of running the library.

One of the most helpful directories is of [Christian booksellers](#) available from either the portal site or directly.

Another wonderful directory from this site is the [Books, Music & Video](#) supplier list.

[Religious Tolerance](#) contains a suggested booklist for adults, teens and children in addition to other religious reference materials including descriptions of other world religions.

All of these sites provide general information and resources to assist congregational librarians as they kick off another season supporting the mission of their religious institutions. To maximize use of the sites and mine the gems within, it is important to identify and bookmark the resources that address your informational needs. Bookmarking ensures that help and quality information is literally at your fingertips.

Begin bookmarking today with your favorite site, the [Church and Synagogue Library Association](#).

CHAPTER Chatter



Marcia Trauernicht,
Chapters Coordinator

SAN JOSE BAY AREA CHAPTER

St. Thomas Episcopal Church in Sunnyvale, California, was the location of the September 15 meeting of this busy chapter. The program featured Glenda Strombom and Carol Campbell presenting an overview of the 2014 CSLA conference, with descriptions of the tour of local libraries and selected workshops (the Lord's Prayer, social media, and teen books). In addition, information about the 2015 Annual Conference was provided. The chapter members concluded the meeting by discussing plans for the chapter's annual spring 2015 luncheon.

VIRTUAL CHAPTER

An in-person information meeting about the Virtual Chapter was held during the 2014 National Conference. More than 15 CSLA members attended with 10 being new to the Virtual Chapter. The purpose of the chapter, its communication vehicle and meeting format were discussed. It looks like an interesting year ahead, based on the enthusiasm of both current and new participants.

CALL FOR AWARD NOMINATIONS!
Go to [cslainfo.org](#) for a nomination form and description of each of these award categories:

- Outstanding Congregational Library
- Outstanding Congregational Librarian
- Outstanding Contribution to Congregational Libraries
- Helen Keating Ott Award for Outstanding Contribution to Children's Literature
- Pat Tabler Memorial Scholarship Award

Deadline for submission is March 31, 2015.



DOING DEWEY

DEWEY CLASSIFICATION NUMBERS

FOR MATERIALS ON PHILOSOPHY AND PSYCHOLOGY

BY SUSAN SYNDER

ssnyder44147@gmail.com

Many congregational libraries include books related to the library's mission that do not deal with religion in the strictest sense. Books which deal with philosophy or psychology are classed in the 100s. These numbers changed little between 1997-2012, dates during which the 13th - 15th abridged editions of the Dewey Decimal classification and the 21st - 23rd unabridged editions were published. Below are the numbers for topics most frequently found in congregational libraries.

100

		Philosophy, psychology, etc.
110		Metaphysics
	113	Cosmology
	121	Theory of knowledge, including belief, faith, doubt
	128	Philosophy of humankind, including soul, mind, human nature, life and death
130		Paranormal phenomena, including parapsychology and occultism
140		Specific philosophical viewpoints
	146	Naturalism; related philosophical systems including materialism
150		Psychology
	152.4	Emotions and feelings
	155.4	Child psychology, including psychology of adopted children
	155.5	Adolescent psychology
	155.6	Adult psychology
	155.67	Psychology of late adulthood
	155.9	Environmental psychology, including psychology of death and dying
	158	Applied psychology, including interpersonal relationships, leadership, and means for achieving well-being, happiness and success
170		Ethics
	171	Ethical systems
	172	Political ethics, including ethics of international relations, war and peace, political activity, citizenship and public office

	173	Ethics of family relationships, including ethics of marriage, divorce, parent-child relationships and sibling relationships
	174	Occupational ethics
	174.2	Medical ethics
	174.4	Business ethics
	175	Ethics of recreation, leisure, public performances and communications, including fair play and sportsmanship
	176	Ethics of sex and reproduction, including ethics of premarital and extramarital sexual relationships, sexual orientation, birth control, promiscuity, chastity, prostitution and sexual explicitness in art and literature
	177	Ethics of social relationships, including friendship and discrimination
	178	Ethics of consumption, including temperance and intemperance
	179	Other ethical norms
	179.2	Ethics regarding treatment of children, including child abuse
	179.3	Ethics regarding treatment of animals
	179.5	Ethics regarding blasphemy, profanity or obscenity in speech
	179.7	Ethics of respect and disrespect for human life, including ethical aspects of capital punishment, homicide, genocide and suicide
	179.76	Ethics of abortion
180		Ancient, medieval and eastern philosophy
	189	Medieval western philosophy, including scholasticism

LIBRARY LIMELIGHTS



keeping yours in the center BY DOTTIE LEWIS

The great thing about autumn and early winter is that displays are easy to work up. At Thanksgiving, you can easily create a theme using media on being thankful, or on things and people for whom we have cause to be grateful. Be sure to use different media and slogans from those you have used in the past.

- Make your lettering and attention-grabbing titles memorable.
- When designing your display, make the material appropriate to the topic.

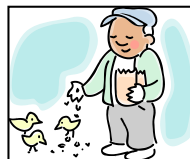
Experiment with various word

processing programs, like Microsoft Word, to find the right one for your signs and posters.

Moving on to the winter season, there are probably many notable events going on in your congregation that should spur ideas for the season. Hanukkah and Christmas are full of ready-made display ideas.

February is National Bird Feeding month. Remember the “Feed the Birds”

song in Walt Disney’s *Mary Poppins*? Use bird seed



letters made with a lot of seeds and a good deal of white glue to focus on almost any phrase from that song for a theme or title.

February is also Spiritual Teachers Month. Think of this as a golden opportunity to show off your collection of these greats. Angels and doves all around.



Ash Wednesday, February 18, begins the 40 days of Lent, so all of March will afford many opportunities for denominational media.

Stay Warm If you have a JANUARY Bible study, as many congregations do, you could use that for a theme for the month. You can feature Bibles, commentaries, study guides, etc., from your collection.

With Our Study of *Isaiah*

Reading is So Much Fun

In this display you can feature just about anything you like: books about winter, mysteries, biographies, and titles that contain the words snow, cold, or winter.

Dottie made the graphics of the Bible on a sled and the boy reading on a snowboard by imposing one graphic on top of another from the picture gallery of Word® because she could not find ones that suited her topic. You can almost always create something like this even when you cannot draw. Play around with the Picture Tools button in your word processor program.

USE MATERIAL APPROPRIATE TO THE TOPIC				
(Christmas candy in December, candy corn in October, pebbles for summer)				
card stock	poster board	foil	comics	wood cuts
sand paper	tissue paper	ribbon	glitter	vinyl letters
styrofoam	plastic wrap	yarn	markers	laminated fabric
gift wrap	foam paper	rope	pens	objects: candy
wall paper	cardboard	cork	crayons	beans, pebbles
newspaper	waffle paper	wood	paint	pasta, puzzle pieces, popcorn

Dottie typed “letters” from the clip art insert box of Word. These letters, which are images rather than fonts, make great “drop caps” to start a line of text.

SOME OF DOTTIE’S FAVORITE FONTS:

Bradley Hand *Curls* **ALGERIAN** *Monotype Corsiva* [I use this one a lot] **Akeem**
BALLOON EF DROP SHADOW *Blackadder* ITC **Billy** **Braddon**[another personal favorite]
BUMP **CLOWING WAY** **J B & D**[flowercaps] **Herman** **sublime**

Submit nominations for the 2015 Rodda Award by November 15, 2014. See the advertisement in this issue of CLT or the [Award page](#) of the CSLA website for submission details.

A Rodda retrospective: Award created to honor first executive secretary

BY BEVERLY ETZELMUELLER, RODDA AWARD COMMITTEE

As we embark on our efforts to nominate and finalize the 2015 Rodda Award Winner, let's review the history of the award and provide an example of a true winner.

The Rodda Award was established in 2005 to honor Dorothy Rodda Sargent, CSLA's first Executive Secretary. The award winner is chosen by a sub-group of the CSLA Awards Committee. At CSLA, we have a rich heritage and take pride in presenting this award to a highly qualified author. The committee strives to acknowledge superior literary quality combined with a positive spiritual message of interest to most congregations. Along with this, we set an example of excellent spiritual literary publication to encourage creativity in this genre.

The award is given to books for adults, young adults/teens, and children on a three-year rotation. By considering books that have been published within the past three years, no book misses the chance to be a winner simply because it was not published in the same year that the award is given to its age group. In 2015, the award will be given to an adult book

published in 2012, 2013, or 2014.

An excellent example of a winner was the 2013 Rodda Award, *With a Name Like Love*, by Tess Hilmo. Thirteen-year-old Olivene Love is the oldest daughter of the Reverend Everlasting Love. For as long as she can remember, her family has traveled through the South, staying in small towns for a few days to hold tent revival meetings. Upon arriving in Binder, Arkansas, Ollie soon discovers that this small town is a bit different than others she's been in. There is hatred and anger and cruelty, and Ollie can't figure out how she can solve the biggest problem she's ever seen. She prays that she can talk her father into staying longer to resolve some of the town's issues.

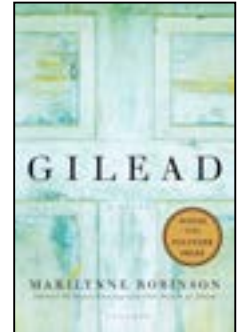
This story goes right to the heart of what the Rodda Award is all about. The book shows the power of kindness and combines good



humor with pure excitement. Even though the Love family is a preacher's family, this is not a book about a particular religion, nor is it didactic. It is about helping those who can't help themselves and caring when others don't care.

There are so many other titles that are equally inspiring, including the first winner in 2006 - *Gilead* by Marilynne Robinson, or *Sleep in Peace* in 2008 by Ingrid Hess. The award carries on its purpose of recognizing literary quality, readability, and a dynamic spiritual message that impacts the reader.

Your nominations are important. The award selection sends a strong message to congregational librarians, our library patrons and others. You may nominate up to three adult books that you wish to be considered for the 2015 Award. The Rodda committee will read each nomination and announce a winner in February, 2015.



CORRECTION: In the last issue of *Congregational Libraries Today* (3rd issue 2014), on page 4, Marcia Trauernicht authored the workshop summary for "Digital Repositories," not Susan Sponaas.

Helping Those Who Hurt

S. Meghan Harper. An annotated bibliography of print, non-print, and online resources divided into elementary and teenage 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.

CSLA BIBLIOGRAPHY



Cataloging & Classification

Susan E. Snyder. 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



Gabriella Veleba Bondy during her presentation of "Living the Catholic Faith in Slovakia"

Program to educate congregation on customs, traditions successful

BY MARIA ISABEL GARCIA
CSLA North Texas Chapter
National VP Membership



Have you ever noticed how many different ethnicities are represented among your congregation's members? I did, and I became very interested in creating a forum to educate the whole of my congregation about the religious customs and traditions of other countries.

"Living the Catholic Faith in... (fill in the country's name)" has become a very popular series offered one evening a month (except December, May, June, and July due to holidays and vacation time). The event has been taking place in the Parish Resource Library Lounge of the All Saints Catholic Church in Dallas, Texas, since March 2012.

The program consists of a presentation by a native of the selected country who shares church history as well as personal experiences related to his/her Catholic upbringing. Most presentations include a PowerPoint slide show and a display of artifacts for show and tell. Food of that country is prepared for the audience's enjoyment.

So far, 21 countries have been covered: Portugal, Vietnam, Mexico, Indonesia, India, Germany, Belgium, France, Philippines, China, Italy, Argentina, Scotland, Hungary, Peru, Spain, Ireland, Ivory Coast, England, Wales and

Slovakia. Planned for the future are: Canada, Saudi Arabia, Armenia, Poland, Nigeria, Cuba, Kenya and ...? When we run out of countries, we will do the U.S.A. with a big celebration.

Attendance varies from 22 to 42 people, and everyone looks forward to the next program. We have learned a lot and the library has become the favorite place to be on the third Sunday evening of the month.

There are probably enough ethnicities in your own congregation to attempt a similar forum, creating an opportunity for everyone to learn from each other and grow to appreciate your own as well as the religious experiences of others.

Try it. Everyone will like it.

Editor's note: If you like Maria's idea but your own congregation does not have a wide range of ethnicity, consider doing a similar program incorporating other congregations of the same faith, or congregations of varied faiths, in your area. A local synagogue may have strong ties to some eastern European countries, or a Coptic church may have emigrants from Egypt or Ethiopia. Look around!

Shopping at **amazon.com** ?

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 to the right of your screen
- 3** Click on GO

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

CSLA Conference 2015 — Denton, Texas WELCOME TO TEXAS!

BY RALPH HARSTOCK

Everyone is invited to the CSLA national conference next year, July 29-31, in Denton, Texas. Denton is near the Dallas/Fort Worth International Airport, and **public transportation** is readily available from there to the site of the conference, the **University of North Texas Libraries, Willis Library**.

All university facilities have Wi-Fi, and each room in the library is equipped for presentations. One room is also equipped with computers for more interactive presentations. The room previously used to house Music Special Collections is now a classroom that can be used for the CSLA Library School.

We are working on a program of

plenary sessions and meals, with our chapter's favorite book dealer telling us, as he does at the North Texas Chapter meetings, the latest news in religious publishing, who bought what, who merged with whom, and what new books are out this season. We are also working on a pre-dinner program of music, with a doctoral candidate to lead the lecture about music with ties to UNT. Selections from an Episcopalian composer and a Jewish composer will constitute a brief service in music.

Lodging for those who wish to stay



HARSTOCK



nearby will be at **Honors Hall**, a dorm facility. There are hotels within a few miles, with at least one offering free shuttle service to the university. For those who wish to venture into Dallas, there are **public transportation options** that make the ride much easier and less stressful.

We look forward to having you join us for fun, fellowship, and wonderful educational opportunities in Denton, Texas.



Calling For Nominations

2015 Rodda Award

The success of the 2015 Rodda Award depends upon YOUR NOMINATIONS. Without your book suggestions for this award, we may miss the best of the best.

Nominations for an adult book must include strong spiritual values, exemplify literary excellence, and contain strong spiritual content. Nominations can be fiction, non-fiction or poetry. Adult books with copyright 2012, 2013, 2014 are eligible.

Nominations should be submitted by November 15, 2014, to:

Rodda Committee
c/o Judy Janzen
10157 SW Barbur Blvd., 102-C
Portland, OR 97219
Or email to
csla@worldaccessnet.com

Please include the following nomination information:

- Title of book
- Author's full name
- Publisher, publication date, ISBN
- Provide brief explanation of your choice
- Provide your name, address, phone number
- Provide e-mail and CSLA chapter (if applicable)



Oregon authors receive award

The CSLA conference attendees met several local Oregon authors during a tea on Wednesday afternoon which was sponsored by Book Systems. Two of the authors were Sherrie Ashcraft and Christina Tarabochia (mother and daughter). We just learned that they have been awarded the 2014 Cascade Award in the Published Contemporary Fiction category at the Oregon Christian Writers for their book *On the Threshold*. Congratulations, Sherrie and Christina.

fresh citations

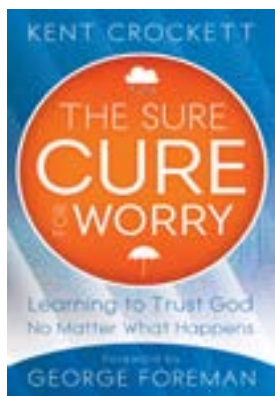
new media for your library



topics

LIVING IN FAITH ▶	10
THE BIBLE ▶	12
PERSONAL STORIES ▶	14
CLASSICS CORNER ▶	14
FAITH HISTORY ▶	16
CREATIVE CONNECTIONS ▶	17
FICTION ▶	19
FOR TWEENS and YAs ▶	23
FOR YOUNG CHILDREN ▶	25

LIVING IN FAITH



The Sure Cure for Worry: Learning to Trust God No Matter What Happens

Kent Crockett. Chosen (an imprint of Baker), 2013. 237p. \$13.99, paperback. ISBN: 978-0-8007-9553-5. Available as an ebook. www.chosenbooks.com 248.86 Trust in God—Christianity. Obedience—Religious aspects—Christianity. Worry—Religious aspects—Christianity.

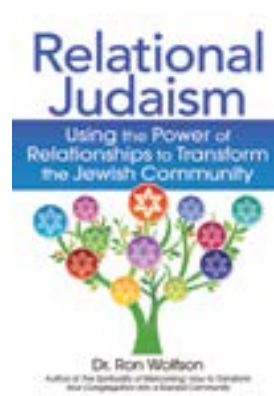
“Worry never trusts—and trust never worries.” Kent Crockett

defines worry as “fearful thoughts for the future,” and in the fifteen chapters of his book builds toward “the sure cure.” His text is divided into three main parts that define major themes: “Learning to Trust God,” “Deciding to Follow God,” and “Claiming God’s Promises.” Note the verbs. Crockett’s personal and scriptural examples validate his assertion that God actively guides lives, though persons receiving guidance and acting on it may only later realize the Holy Spirit’s work. Each chapter begins with scripture or a quotation and concludes with four questions on “Learning to Trust.” Charts show prophecies and fulfillments.

Crockett’s stance is conservative. Despite questioning a “sure cure,” the reader is compelled to keep reading by excellent organization, intriguing sidebars, and a realistic approach that keeps *The Sure Cure for Worry* from being a Pollyannaish script that promises too much.

A chapter on dreams includes powerful stories of the Pharaoh and Joseph from Genesis and of Paul from the New Testament. Crockett reminds readers to pay attention to dreams even though not all of them contain God’s guidance. The final chapter stresses discipline in one’s thought life, and the text concludes with the positive theme of joy. Read it for the “sure cure.”

Recommended for church libraries. —Carolyn Egolf



Relational Judaism: Using the Power of Relationships to Transform the Jewish Community

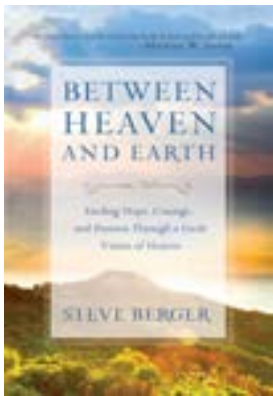
Ron Wolfson. Jewish Lights, 2013. 262p. \$24.99, hardcover. ISBN: 978-1-58023-666-9. Available as an ebook. www.jewishlights.com 296.67 Fellowship—Religious aspects—Judaism. Communities—Religious aspects—Judaism. Hospitality—Religious aspects—Judaism. Synagogues—United States—History—21st century. Judaism—United States—History—21st century. Jewish leadership—United States—History—21st century.

States—History—21st century.

Congregational life is changing. In the Jewish world, Ron Wolfson is one of the outstanding scholars offering practical advice on ways to transform and strengthen the community. One of his earlier books, *The Spirituality of Welcoming* (Jewish Lights, 2006) focused on creating welcoming congregations. *Relational Judaism* takes a more theological approach, suggesting that the heart of Jewish life lies in the multi-layered relationships we build—between people, within community, and with God.

Wolfson details nine levels of relationship that he believes stand at the heart of the Jewish experience. To his credit, he does not leave us to figure out how these impact the life of the community; he provides case studies illustrating his thesis. For readers who wish to pursue his prescription, Wolfson outlines twelve principles for enacting this model.

Unquestionably, there is a serious challenge ahead for the Jewish community. Patterns of affiliation are changing, and the major institutions of Jewish life—especially synagogues—must change to meet the challenge. *Relational Judaism* should be required reading for leaders of synagogues and other Jewish institutions. Wolfson’s approach will be of interest to anyone looking for a more engaging Jewish life. —Rabbi Louis A. Rieser



Between Heaven and Earth: Finding Hope, Courage, and Passion through a Fresh Vision of Heaven

Steve Berger. Bethany House (an imprint of Baker), 2014. 187p. \$14.99, paperback. ISBN: 978-0-7642-1167-6. Available as an ebook. www.bethanyhouse.com 236:24 Heaven—Christianity.

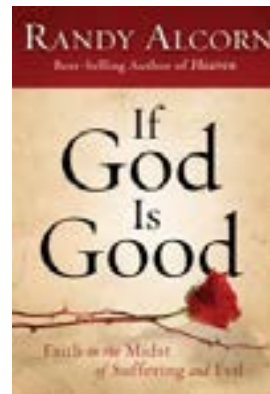
What is heaven like? How does a Christian's view of heaven affect the way he or she lives here on earth? Steve Berger, senior

pastor at Grace Chapel in Leipers Fork, Tennessee, faced questions that tested his faith when his nineteen-year-old son died in a one-car accident. Why was this young man, a strong believer who had always followed the teachings of Christ, taken at such a young age?

Through his personal experience and grief, Berger helps readers understand how to keep "heart in heaven" and "hand in the harvest." He discusses the need to put Christian beliefs into practice through actions. We long for heaven, but we need to be earthly emissaries of our faith. As Berger writes, "Your actions are the only Bible some

people are ever going to read." He uses the examples of Paul, Peter, and Jesus to guide Christians in balancing the profession of faith here on earth with the desire to be with God in heaven.

This is a powerful book for Christians who want to grow in faith. —*Mary Lou Henneman*



If God Is Good: Faith in the Midst of Suffering and Evil

Randy Alcorn. Multnomah (an imprint of Random House), 2014. 512p. \$17.99, paperback. ISBN: 978-1-60142-579-9. Available as an ebook. www.waterbrookmultnomah.com 231.8 Theodicy.

Christians and non-Christians alike are often fascinated by two topics included in the subtitle of Randy Alcorn's *If God Is Good*—suffering and evil. One should not let the book's number of

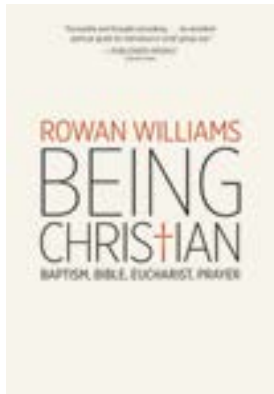
pages intimidate. Alcorn divides his book into eleven sections of two to six chapters. Each chapter is further divided, making it easy to select a particular aspect of evil or suffering that one is interested in. Another user-

this issue's reviews

Being Christian: Baptism, Bible, Eucharist, Prayer 12	For the Good of Mankind?: The Shameful History of Human Medical Experimentation 17	The Princess Within for Teens: Discovering Your Royal Inheritance 23
Between Heaven and Earth: Finding Hope, Courage, and Passion through a Fresh Vision of Heaven 11	A Guidebook to Prayer: Twenty-four Ways to Walk with God 17	The Psalms as Christian Lament: A Historical Commentary 13
Black Bottle Man: A Fable 23	Hacker 21	The Psalms as Christian Worship: A Historical Commentary 13
Blackfire: The Books of Bairnmoor, Volume 1 19	Hanukkah in America: A History 16	Relational Judaism: Using the Power of Relationships to Transform the Jewish Community 10
Blush: A Mennonite Girl Meets a Glittering World 15	Hero (DVD) 24	The Revealing: A Novel 20
The Boxer's Story: Fighting for My Life in the Nazi Camps 14	If God Is Good: Faith in the Midst of Suffering and Evil 11	Saint Nicholas and the Mouse of Myra 23
Brief Christian Histories: Getting a Sense of Our Long Story 16	A Less than Perfect Peace 24	Sincerely Yours: A Novella Collection 22
Bringing Bubbe Home: A Memoir of Letting Go Through Love and Death 14	Lessons from My Inner Teacher: Intuitive Journaling as a Tool for Growth 18	The Story Keeper 20
Broadway Musicals: A Jewish Legacy (DVD) 18	Let God (DVD) 22	The Story of the Holy Land: A Visual History 16
Chasing the Amish Dream: My Life as a Young Amish Bachelor 15	A Light in the Wilderness: A Novel 19	The Sure Cure for Worry: Learning to Trust God No Matter What Happens 10
The Controlling Husband: What Every Woman Needs to Know 12	The Lord's Prayer 14	Though Mountains Fall 20
Death Takes a Ride: A Novel 21	Love Comes Home: A Novel 22	Unlikely Loves: 43 Heartwarming True Stories from the Animal Kingdom . 19
Ellie 23	Making Sense of the Bible: How to Connect with God through His Word 12	Unscrolled: 54 Writers and Artists Wrestle with the Torah 13
Fatal Exchange: A Novel 21	Matzo Frogs 25	Water Walker 21
Fool Moon Rising 25	The Midwife 20	
	A Million Little Ways: Uncover the Art You Were Made to Live 17	
	Playing Before the Lord: The Life and Work of Joseph Haydn 18	

friendly characteristic of this book is its readable style. Alcorn's study may be scholarly, but it is never boring. Two chapters that will interest all readers are the ones devoted to heaven and hell.

If a person could read only one book on suffering and evil, he or she would be wise to select *If God Is Good*, which was first published in hardcover in 2009. In the chapter entitled "The God Who Brings Good Out of Bad," Alcorn writes, "Suffering will come whether we allow it to make us more Christlike or not—but if we don't our suffering is wasted." —*Beverly M. Bixler*



Being Christian: Baptism, Bible, Eucharist, Prayer

Rowan Williams. Eerdmans, 2014. 84p. \$10.00, paperback. ISBN: 978-0-8028-7197-8. Available as an ebook. www.eerdmans.com 283 Baptism. Bible. Lord's Supper. Prayer—Christianity. Anglican Communion—Doctrines. Church of England—Doctrines.

Despite the wide variety of beliefs and practices among followers of Jesus, there are four essential elements of Christian life:

baptism, the Bible, the Eucharist (or Holy Communion), and prayer. Rowan Williams, the former Archbishop of Canterbury, provides thoughtful examination of each in *Being Christian*.

Based on a series of Holy Week talks given in Canterbury Cathedral, this slender book looks at what each of the four elements says about being a Christian and being part of a Christian community. In baptism, the love of God claims us amid sin and disorder. In reading the Bible, Williams writes, we see and hear narratives of God's initiative and human response. (He cautions that just because something is in the Bible does not make it right.) The sharing of God's table reminds Christians that God wants the company of *everyone* there. In prayer, Jesus teaches us to draw close—with him—to "Our Father." The heart of prayer, Williams writes, is "getting over the idea that God is . . . a very, very long way off."

Each of the four sections closes with three questions for

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reflection or discussion. There is a brief list of suggested further reading. —*Monica Tenney*



The Controlling Husband: What Every Woman Needs to Know

Ron Welch. Revell (an imprint of Baker), 2014. 235p. \$13.99, paperback. ISBN: 978-0-8007-2230-2. Available as an ebook. www.revellbooks.com 248.8'435 Control (Psychology)—Religious aspects—Christianity. Husbands—Psychology. Marriage—Religious aspects—Christianity.

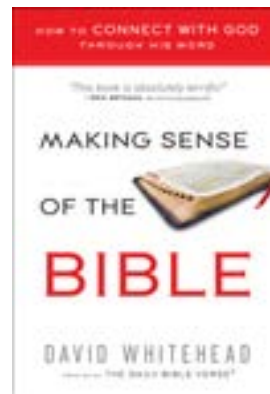
When two people marry, they hope for a relationship filled with perfect love and bliss. Then reality

sets in, and it often becomes clear that one or both of the partners brings troublesome emotional baggage to the union. Clinical psychologist Ron Welch, a faculty member at Denver Seminary who has experience in clinical counseling with couples and men, discusses the common problem of husbands who wish to control their wives.

Welch has written *The Controlling Husband* for women, but he believes that men should also read it to initiate change in their behavior and make their marriages stronger. The topics Welch discusses include why men feel the need to control situations, where men learn these behaviors, why women allow men to control them, and what men and women can do to change relationships in order to end a cycle of abuse.

One reason this book is so powerful is that Welch speaks from personal experience: he considers himself a recovering controlling husband. He explains his journey in clear terms and shows how Christian faith keeps him and his wife on the path to a better marriage. —*Mary Lou Henneman*

THE BIBLE



Making Sense of the Bible: How to Connect with God through His Word

David Whitehead. Bethany House (an imprint of Baker), 2014. 169p. \$12.99, paperback. ISBN: 978-0-7642-1214-7. Available as an ebook. www.bethanyhouse.com 220.61 Bible—Introductions. Bible—Criticism, interpretation, etc.

David Whitehead, the pastor who created the popular online devotional *The Daily Bible Verse*, offers in *Making Sense of the Bible*

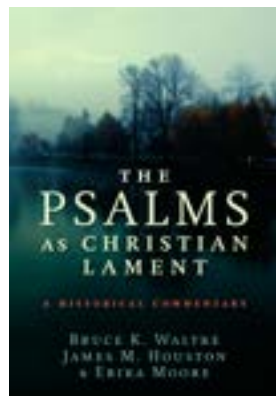
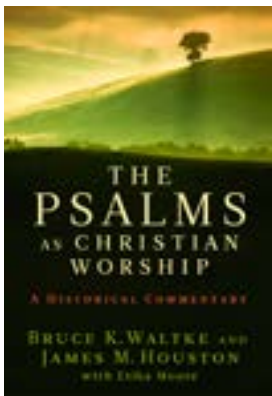
an excellent introduction for readers new to the Bible. In a dozen easy-to-read chapters, Whitehead explains the variety of Bible translations, the various styles of writing, and the Bible's major narratives and figures.

Whitehead's view that scripture amounts to the very word of God is unlikely to trouble readers who are inclined to view it as the words of God-inspired people. Whitehead is clear that modern readers must employ "cultural filters" to understand that the Bible sometimes seems to endorse ancient practices (slavery, for instance) that are anathema to us today.

This Christian author devotes a good portion of his text to the Old Testament, noting its foreshadowing of grace to come. He emphasizes that the goal is not just to read the Bible, it is to "get to know and interact with the God of the Bible."

End matter includes chapter notes, Whitehead's day-by-day plan for reading the Bible in one year, and a list of recommended further reading (most from evangelical authors and publishers). Recommended for all church libraries, this book will welcome new readers to the Bible.

—Monica Tenney



The Psalms as Christian Worship: A Historical Commentary

Bruce K. Waltke and James M. Houston. Eerdmans, 2010. 626p. \$35.00, paperback. ISBN: 978-0-8028-6374-4. Available as an ebook. www.eerdmans.com

The Psalms as Christian Lament: A Historical Commentary

Bruce K. Waltke, James M. Houston, and Erika Moore. Eerdmans, 2014. 312p. \$28.00, paperback. ISBN: 978-0-8028-6809-1. Available as an ebook. www.eerdmans.com 223:206 Bible. Psalms—Criticism, interpretation, etc. Laments in the Bible.

The Book of Psalms, that collection from the Hebrew Bible of hymns, laments, and songs of royal ceremony, is prominent in Christian worship and thinking. Two volumes from Eerdmans provide a wealth of information on the history of the psalms and the way they have enriched worship and comforted the faithful.

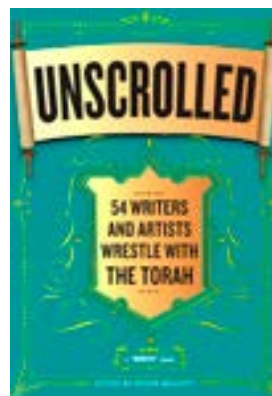
Bruce K. Waltke, a professor of Old Testament at Knox Theological Seminary in Florida, and James M. Houston, former chancellor of Regent College in Vancouver, collaborate on *The Psalms as Christian Worship*. For the companion volume, *The Psalms as Christian Lament*, they are joined by Erika Moore, who teaches Old Testament and Hebrew at Trinity School for Ministry in Ambridge,

Pennsylvania.

The first volume is broader in scope. It begins with a history of the interpretation of the psalms, both in Judaism and through successive eras of Christianity. Next begins an examination of selected psalms, among them the well-known 22nd, 23rd, and 51st. "Voice of the Church" sections discuss interpretation through the years by church fathers such as Augustine and reformers such as John Calvin and Martin Luther.

The structure of the second volume is similar. Following an initial chapter on "The Psalms as the Christian's Lament," chapters examine ten psalms of lament (5, 6, 7, 32, 38, 39, 44, 102, 130, and 143). These include six penitential psalms. The authors provide thorough coverage of early commentators and their interpretation; Jerome, Origen, Augustine, Gregory of Nyssa, St. John Chrysostom, and many others are included.

These volumes are rich in history of the psalms' meaning and use by Christians. Both books end with a glossary and are indexed by author, subject, and scripture reference. Pastors and seminarians will find these scholarly volumes to be valuable additions to their libraries. —Monica Tenney



Unscrolled: 54 Writers and Artists Wrestle with the Torah

Roger Bennett, ed. Workman, 2013. 375p. \$18.00, paperback. ISBN: 978-0-7611-6919-2. Available as an ebook. www.workman.com 222:106 Bible. Pentateuch—Criticism, interpretation, etc.

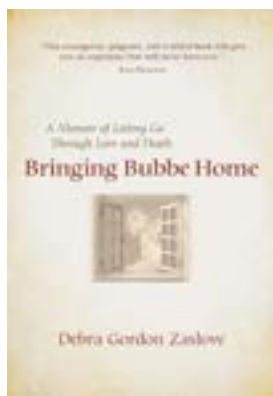
Every year we revisit the fifty-four portions of the Torah. The rabbinic sages taught that you should "turn it and turn it again because all is found in it." It is doubtful that the sages

anticipated this innovative new volume, a project of an organization called Reboot. The project was to engage "a creative cast of characters in a no-holds-barred conversation about how identity, community and meaning are changing."

Fifty-four writers each react to one Torah portion in whatever way they choose. There are scripts, poems, graphic stories, drawings, mock computer programs and more, each one opening up a verse or episode of the Torah in unique and wonderful ways.

You will not hear these tales in your local synagogue, but I hope you will find a place to read them alone or find friends with whom to share them. These authors make the words of Torah come alive in ways you could not have imagined. It is not necessary that readers agree with the interpretations presented (never the goal of biblical commentary), only that they see new possibilities emerging from the ancient text as it speaks to a new generation. Highly recommended. —Rabbi Louis A. Rieser

PERSONAL STORIES



Bringing Bubbe Home: A Memoir of Letting Go Through Love and Death

Debra Gordon Zaslow. White Cloud, 2014. 183p. \$16.95, paperback. ISBN: 978-1-940468-02-0. Available as an ebook. www.whitecloudpress.com 306.874'5 Granddaughters—United States—Biography. Caregivers—United States—Biography. Grandmothers—United States—Biography. Jews—United States—Biography. Grandparent and child—United States. Older people—Care—United States. Grandmothers—United States—Death. Death—Psycho-

logical aspects. Loss (Psychology).

In her memoir, professional storyteller Debra Gordon Zaslow relives the five-month period when her 103-year-old grandmother (*bubbe*, in Yiddish), lived with Zaslow's family in Ashland, Oregon. Zaslow undertook Bubbe's care thinking it would help her connect with the generations in her family. It did, but it also took a harsh toll; during the same period Zaslow, the wife of a rabbi, continued to manage her household, work outside the home, parent two teenagers, and oversee hired caregivers.

Zaslow observes that her grandmother "outlived her personality." Relatives disliked Bubbe and were surprised that Zaslow agreed to take her in, even after Bubbe had received questionable care in a nursing home. Yet Bubbe, frail and not in control of her bodily functions, displays wit and wisdom. When a caregiver prepares oatmeal, Bubbe comments in accented English, "It's good for me, but who wants it?"

In terms both tender and tough, Zaslow recalls the effect Bubbe had on her and her family. She reflects, "A soul can wake up another soul to show up for moments of grace. I am forever grateful to Bubbe for that."

Bringing Bubbe Home, written in the present tense, is intimate and powerful. Highly recommended. —*Evelyn Pockrass*



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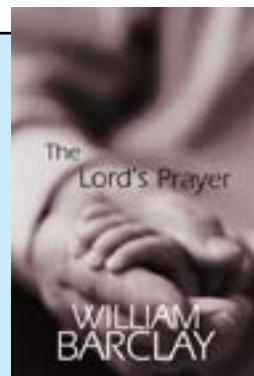
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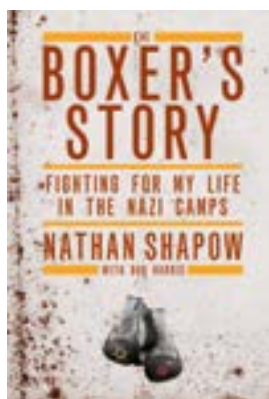
The Lord's Prayer

William Barclay. Westminster John Knox, 1998. 112p. \$15.00, paperback. ISBN: 978-0-664-25815-3. www.wjkbooks.com 226.96 Lord's Prayer. Series: The William Barclay Library



William Barclay, the 20th-century Scottish theologian and minister, dedicated his life to making Bible scholarship accessible to ordinary people. He succeeded with his Bible study series and other writings, including *The Lord's Prayer*. When first published in 1964 as *The Plain Man Looks at the Lord's Prayer*, it set a high standard for all later studies of the essential Christian prayer. Barclay begins by examining Jewish prayer tradition and demonstrates how the Lord's Prayer, given by a Jewish teacher to his followers, reflects Jewish thought and faith. Barclay proceeds through the prayer phrase-by-phrase, beginning with "Abba." He writes that "we hardly need to go any further," for this intimate form of address settles our relationship with God and therefore with other children of God. As he focuses on each of the prayer's phrases, Barclay provides thoughtful observations supported by references to scripture and scholarship. He closes with a brief epilogue on the doxology with which most Protestants end the prayer.

Barclay's studies, as several generations of Christians have found, can be a faith-enriching experience. Barclay's manner of expression is sometimes dated ("men" for "humanity," for instance), and the print in the book is regrettably small. These negatives are slight, however, compared to the welcome spiritual nourishment that Barclay's scholarship and insights bring to readers. —
Monica Tenney



The Boxer's Story: Fighting for My Life in the Nazi Camps

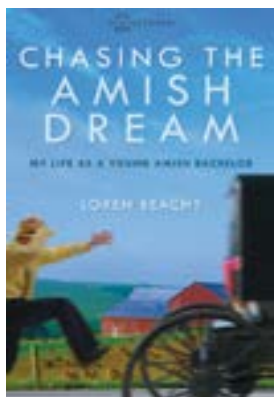
Nathan Shapow with Bob Harris. Robson, 2013. 246p. \$24.95, hardcover. ISBN: 978-1-84954-190-9. Available as an ebook. www.therobsonpress.com 940.53'18'092 Holocaust, 1939-1945—Latvia—Personal narratives. World War, 1939-1945—Personal narratives, Latvian. World War, 1939-1945—Prisoners and prisons, German. Prisoners of war—Latvia—Biography. Sapow, Nathan, 1921-

Every Holocaust memoir reveals a bit more of the nightmare that overtook the world eighty years ago. The story is all too familiar: the forced roundup of people, the inhumane conditions, the cold-blooded murder, and the mass slavery. If, however, we become desensitized to horrors and the particulars that distinguish this history, we risk homogenizing it and losing sight of individual stories. I

encourage you to read Nathan Shapow's tale of survival.

Shapow was a young man in Riga, Latvia, when he was caught in the Nazis' net. He survived in part by his physical prowess. Key to his story is a boxing match he won against all odds in the Riga ghetto; it becomes the symbol of all his other close calls and of his ultimate survival. Shapow's story carries us from his youth through the war, into the emerging State of Israel where he fought with the Irgun for the establishment of the state, and ultimately his immigration into the United States.

Holocaust tales reveal something of the human spirit, and I always wonder what I might have done had I faced such challenges. *The Boxer's Tale* reads quickly. The impression lasts longer. —*Rabbi Louis A. Rieser*



Chasing the Amish Dream: My Life as a Young Amish Bachelor

Loren Beachy. Herald, 2014. 191p. \$12.99, paperback. ISBN: 978-0-8361-9907-9. www.heraldpress.com 289.7092 Amish—Indiana—Goshen—Biography. Beachy, Loren, 1987. Series: Plainspoken

Born in Ohio but a resident of northern Indiana since childhood, Loren Beachy is the author of *Chasing the Amish Dream*. He is

Old Order Amish and resides in Goshen with his parents and eight siblings. A schoolteacher and professional auctioneer, he also writes a column for the local newspaper.

In an introductory statement, the publisher writes: "Now readers can learn what authentic Amish life looks and feels like—from the inside out." However, if one knew nothing about the Amish lifestyle, one could get the impression from Beachy's account that Amish young adults—women as well as men—spend most of their time playing practical jokes. Detailed descriptions of baseball games and auctions give a picture of two of the author's other activities. The publisher compares Beachy's humorous style to Garrison Keillor's, but it falls short of that comparison. Most interesting are Beachy's answers, at the end of his book, to frequently asked questions about aspects of Amish life and beliefs. —*Beverly M. Bixler*



Blush: A Mennonite Girl Meets a Glittering World

Shirley Hershey Showalter. Herald, 2013. 271p. \$15.99, paperback. ISBN: 978-0-8361-9626-9. Available as an ebook. www.heraldpress.com 289.7092 Mennonites—United States—Biography. Educators—United States—Biography. College presidents—United States—Biography. Showalter, Shirley Hershey, 1947- .

The rosy-cheeked girl Shirley Hershey grew up in Lancaster

County, Pennsylvania, in the 1950s, the eldest child in a Mennonite farm family. *Blush* is Shirley Hershey Showalter's absorbing account of her family, schooling, community, and early encounters with the wider world.

Showalter tells her parents' stories—and portions of her grandparents'—before recalling her own spirited childhood and teenage years. She captures the magic of being young in those years and in that setting, sharing stories of the "sweets and sour"—in food and in life. Black and white photos give readers a privileged peek at her family album. Showalter conveys both the security and the discomfiture that came with growing up Mennonite. After baptism at age twelve, Showalter, by pulling her hair back into a bun and pinning on a prayer covering, wore her religion for all to see.

Showalter's memoir ends with her departure for college. She barely mentions her achievements as an adult: earning a doctorate, becoming a professor of English and the president of Goshen College in Indiana, and serving as an executive of a philanthropic foundation. With *Blush*, Showalter honors her family and her "plain" beginnings. She ends her book with a glossary, a handful of recipes, and "Why I Am (Still!) a Mennonite." *Blush* is a pleasure to read. Highly recommended. —*Monica Tenney*

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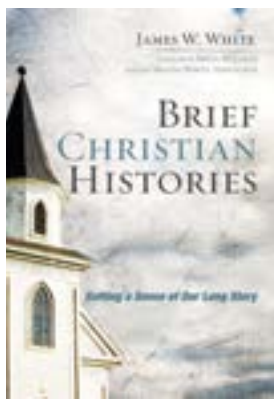
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FAITH HISTORY



Brief Christian Histories: Getting a Sense of Our Long Story

James W. White. Wipf and Stock, 2014. 230p. \$27.00, paperback. ISBN: 978-1-55635-243-0. Available as an ebook. www.wipfandstock.com 270 Church history.

In his introduction of *Brief Christian Histories*, James W. White writes that, as a pastor, he has wanted his congregation to “have a feel for the whole

Christian story,” including ecclesial history as well as biblical. That explains his reason for writing this book. White divides his content into four chapters: “The People of God,” “Christians’ Ethics,” “Practices and Pieties of the Pilgrimage,” and “Christ and Culture Interacting.” Each chapter treats the same time period, from 2000 BC through the present day, and presents the people, ideas, practices, and problems related to the chapter’s theme. Even for readers who are not history buffs, the third chapter will be especially interesting; White discusses Christian practices through the centuries and their relationship to current customs.

Brief Christian Histories has an extensive bibliography and three appendixes listing biblical and church titles and functions, church practices, and the author’s personal timeline for developing and writing his book. Longtime Christians as well as newer ones will find much of interest in this book. —*Beverly M. Bixler*



Hanukkah in America: A History

Dianne Ashton. New York University Press, 2013. 343p. \$29.95, hardcover. ISBN: 978-0-8147-0739-5. Available as an ebook. www.nyupress.org 296.4’350973 Hanukkah—United States. Judaism—United States.

I admit that I initially wondered how a history devoted to Hanukkah in America could hold my attention. Why should this minor holiday merit such

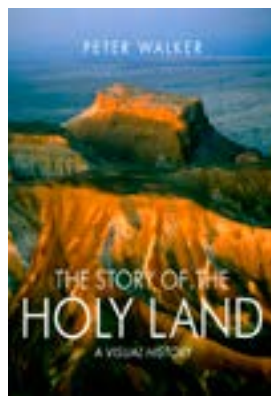
an extended exploration? I was wrong. Hanukkah has flexibility, and the changes in the way it has been observed from the mid-1700s until the present serve as a perfect vehicle for discussing the evolution of the American Jewish community.

Consider Hanukkah as a Rorschach test. It includes

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the heroic story of the Maccabees, the miraculous tale of the oil, the theme of religious freedom, and more. As Dianne Ashton chronicles the history of American Jewry, she shows how different ages emphasized different themes in order to address various stresses in communal life. Hanukkah offered a narrative that overlapped with the American narrative of freedom and individuality. It served as a counterweight to the appeal of Christmas with its illuminated trees and piles of presents. The tale Ashton tells, thankfully, is not simply of the holiday but also of the growth of the Jewish community in all its aspects from its earliest days on this continent.

Hanukkah in America is a cultural history worth reading. As any book on Hanukkah should be, this one is wonderfully enlightening. —*Rabbi Louis A. Rieser*



The Story of the Holy Land: A Visual History

Peter Walker. Lion (an imprint of Kregel), 2013. 173p. \$19.95, hardcover. ISBN: 978-0-7459-5582-7. www.kregel.com 933 Palestine—History. Israel—History.

The striking photographs in this concise and informative volume make it not only a history but also a visual tour of the Holy Land. Spanning over four thousand years beginning at 2000 BC, seven chapters focus on

key times, events, and people. Beginning with Abraham and the patriarchs in “Canaanites and Israelites,” Bible history unfolds through “Tribes and Kings” and “Refugees (Exile) and Greeks.”

The period from 40 BC to 70 AD is termed the “Crucial Century,” with Christ’s time on earth and the early church. “Romans and Byzantines,” “Muslims and Crusaders,” and “Ottomans and Westerners” bring readers to 1948 with the birth of modern Israel; a subsequent section looks at the years since then.

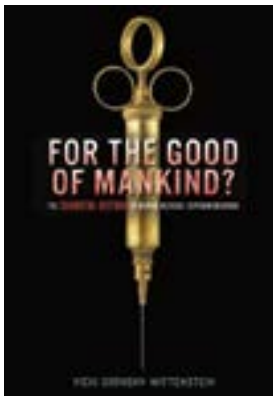
Scriptures speak of peace, and there have been times when “The land had rest,” but readers see that they have been rare. Peter Walker, blending biblical and cultural history, names many figures who influenced the history of the Holy Land but who are not mentioned in the Bible.

Home to Judaism, Christianity, and Islam, these lands are the locus of current events. Walker ends with the question, “How will the great, age-long story reach its end?” A map keyed to chapters and dates is helpful. Highly recommended. —*Carolyn Egolf*

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Bill Doole, edited by Jeri Zulli. Guides you through the process step-by-step to determine the best system tailored to your patrons’ needs. 20 p. \$12/\$14 +S&H



For the Good of Mankind?: The Shameful History of Human Medical Experimentation

Vicki Oransky Wittenstein. Twenty-first Century (an imprint of Lerner), 2013. 96p. \$35.93, hardcover. ISBN: 978-1-4677-0659-9. www.lernerbooks.com 174.2'8 Human experimentation in medicine—History. Medical sciences—Research—Methodology—History.

In 1946 a four-year-old boy living in Australia broke his leg, and his doctors discovered bone

cancer. They flew him to California for treatment and, without consent, administered radiation treatments to see how the child's body would react.

During the 1940s and 1950s, young boys in a care facility were given oatmeal sprinkled with radioactive iron and calcium. Their parents were told the food would improve their health. The world was rightly outraged to learn of Josef Mengele's horrific experiments on young concentration camp prisoners during World War II.

What about all the other experimentation on humans—performed with or without their knowledge—to find cures for disease? Do the ends justify the means? If scientists can find the cure for cancer, Alzheimer's disease, and other maladies by conducting tests on humans, does this mean the testing should continue?

For the Good of Mankind? succinctly outlines various cases throughout the 20th century. This short book can serve as the springboard for important discussions on topics of medical research, human experimentation, and the roles that ethics and faith play in the lives of God's people. The book contains a list of print and online sources for further study. —Mary Lou Henneman

CREATIVE CONNECTIONS



A Million Little Ways: Uncover the Art You Were Made to Live

Emily P. Freeman. Revell (an imprint of Baker), 2013. 218p. \$13.99, paperback. ISBN: 978-0-8007-2244-9. Available as an ebook. www.revellbooks.com 248.4 Creativity—Religious aspects. Christian life. Art and religion.

As image-bearers of God and God's handiwork, we are challenged to create in ways that make us feel alive and reflect God's glory. The title of each of

the twelve chapters in *A Million Little Ways* is a verb such as "Awake," "Wonder," or "Create." An opening quotation is followed with text featuring personal experiences, scripture, and citations. Emily P. Freeman's well-organized

text requires attention, as topics flow quickly between scripture, expression of feelings, and reality checks.

Freeman's observations on the challenges, necessary discipline, and fulfillment that come with creativity will resonate with readers who are interested in writing, art, and music. Her broad definition of creativity includes raising a family and tending a garden.

The chapter entitled "Wait" reminds us that God is at work even when we cannot see anything happening, and "Offer" admonishes us to offer our "Brave Yes and Strong No."

"God with us lives within us. And he will move out through us in a million little ways" summarizes, and an "Artist's Manifesto" provides a creed.

Recommended for church libraries, where it will interest serious readers with a creative bent. —Carolyn Egolf



A Guidebook to Prayer: Twenty-four Ways to Walk with God

MaryKate Morse. InterVarsity, 2013. 251p. \$18.00, paperback. ISBN: 978-0-8308-3578-2. Available as an ebook. www.ivpress.com 248.32 Prayer—Christianity.

If, as Dietrich Bonhoeffer claimed, "It is in fact the most normal thing in the common Christian life to pray together," then MaryKate Morse's *A Guidebook to Prayer* deserves a place in

church libraries. In twenty-four units, this compendium describes the value of traditional prayer practices such as *lectio divina*, breath prayer, and contemplative prayer, as well as new prayer ways that involve play, work, and conversation.

Each unit begins with a passage of scripture or other quotation (or both) and proceeds to commentary. Because prayer can be undertaken alone, in a group, or with a partner, Morse recommends exercises for each situation. She also provides suggestions for further reading.

There are guidelines for kinds of prayer focus. The variety of prayer experiences described attests to difficulties, surprises, and blessings of the various prayer methods and confirms the validity of Morse's suggestions. "Closing," the last chapter, speaks to the "dry well" that can become a reality even for experienced practitioners. Morse explains the phenomenon and provides assurance that we can come again to "living water."

An extensive notes section is helpful. This book's content is deep and rich; for readers willing to pace their reading, giving time and intention to new possibilities in prayer, blessings await. Highly recommended. —Carolyn Egolf

Lessons from My Inner Teacher: Intuitive Journaling as a Tool for Growth

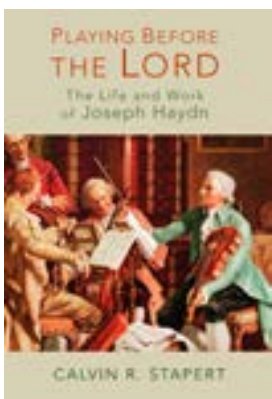
Sharon A. Brunink. Balboa (an imprint of Hay House), 2013. 239p. \$17.99, paperback. ISBN: 978-1-4525-8194-1. Available as an ebook. www.balboapress.com 158.1 Journals.

Sharon Brunink, a retired psychologist from Colorado, shares her practice of intuitive journaling in *Lessons from My Inner Teacher*. Intuitive journaling entails achieving a relaxed state, then recording thoughts and sensations that arise from one's "higher self." Brunink's book chronicles forty-eight of her own intuitive journaling sessions during a three-month period.

Brunink takes the reader through each session (for the first few she details preparatory steps including meditation and a prayer of protection), recording whatever lesson her inner teacher gives her that day. (She later added notes and personal reflections.)

Brunink occasionally expresses doubts about whether the sessions are "real," but she perseveres and gains insights in the process. She faces fears and sorrows, attunes more closely to nature, gains understanding of dreams, and loosens the grip of judgment.

Brunink's approach focuses on spiritual growth and psychological wellness without advocating particular religious beliefs or practices. Some readers undoubtedly will reject out of hand the idea of recording guidance from the inner self, but for those who are open to journaling and to unconventional methods for spiritual growth, this book will be helpful. End matter includes a discussion of "Resources Relating Concepts of Science and Metaphysics," a bibliography, and an index. —*Monica Tenney*



Playing Before the Lord: The Life and Work of Joseph Haydn

Calvin R. Stapert. Eerdmans, 2014. 282p. \$24.00, paperback. ISBN: 978-0-8028-6852-7. www.eerdmans.com 780.92 or B. Haydn, Joseph, 1732-1809. Composers—Austria—Biography.

Joseph Haydn was a devout Christian, and Calvin R. Stapert shows in *Playing Before the Lord* how Haydn's faith manifested itself in his musical composi-

tions. Stapert's approach is different from the one taken by other musicologists. This is a listener's guide, arranged chronologically.

Haydn was one of the major composers of the Classical period, alongside Mozart. Although not a prodigy, Haydn was respected by contemporaries as a composer who established forms such as the symphony and string quartet. In this biography, Stapert keeps theoretical jargon to a minimum. Even for non-musicians, he effectively conveys the historical, geographical, musical, and spiritual influences upon Haydn.

Musicians and pastoral staff will appreciate Stapert's outline of the oratorio *The Creation*. A glossary and indexes enhance this well-written book's portrayal of Haydn's faith, its account of his life, and the discussion that focuses on several compositions.

Stapert, a professor emeritus of music at Calvin College in Michigan, has written several previous books that are suitable for congregational libraries. This is the first I have seen with examples in musical notation, although these do not begin until the fifth chapter.

Church musicians and other readers will appreciate *Playing Before the Lord*. —*Ralph Hartsock*

Broadway Musicals: A Jewish Legacy (DVD)

Michael Kantor. Seventh Art, 2013. 90 minutes. \$39.99, DVD. www.7thart.com 782.14 Musicals—United States—20th century. Musical theater—United States—History—20th century.

It is reported that Cole Porter, after three Broadway flops, finally ascertained the surefire way to success: "I'm going to write Jewish tunes." That could summarize this entertaining video about the history of Broadway musicals. It is a wonderful survey of the best of American musical theater, from Irving Berlin to Stephen Sondheim, from Yiddish theater of New York's Second Avenue to *Fiddler* and beyond.

Originally a PBS *Great Performances* offering, this documentary explores the role of Jewish composers and lyricists in the creation of the American musical. Interviews and clips featuring composers and writers, and in some instances their children or heirs, lend a personal feel.

There are surprising moments, as when we hear that the George Gershwin tune "It Ain't Necessarily So" from

THIS ISSUE'S REVIEWERS

BEVERLY BIXLER

First Presbyterian Church
Ashland, Ohio

CAROLYN EGOLF

Lincolnshire Church of the Brethren
Fort Wayne, Indiana

RALPH HARTSOCK

Trietsch Memorial United Methodist Church
Flower Mound, Texas

MARY LOU HENNEMAN

Boardman United Methodist Church
Boardman, Ohio

EVELYN POCKRASS

Indianapolis Hebrew Congregation
Indianapolis, Indiana

RABBI LOUIS A. RIESER

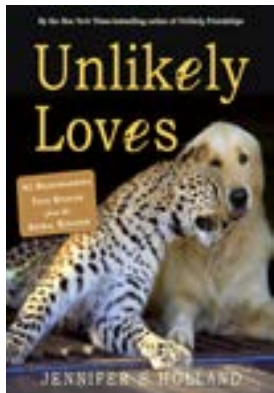
Boynton Beach, Florida

MONICA TENNEY, MEDIA REVIEW EDITOR

Maple Grove United Methodist Church
Columbus, Ohio

Porgy and Bess matches that of a synagogue prayer. The connections run deeper than the coincidental fact that so many Jewish individuals wrote for Broadway musicals. Composers brought their Jewish heritage with them and used it to create the universal stories that entertain us through musicals.

Broadway Musicals: A Jewish Legacy is worth seeing and will prompt much discussion. —*Rabbi Louis A. Rieser*



Unlikely Loves: 43 Heartwarming True Stories from the Animal Kingdom

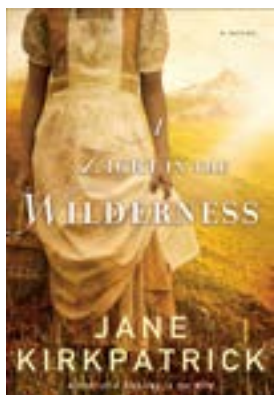
Jennifer S. Holland. Workman, 2013. 224p. \$13.95, paperback. ISBN: 978-0-7611-7442-4. Available as an ebook. www.workman.com 591.5 Emotions in animals—Anecdotes. Love. Social behavior in animals. Animal communication. Animal psychology.

“The wolf will live with the lamb, the leopard will lie down with the goat, the calf and

the lion and the yearling together.” (Isaiah 11:6, NIV). What about the Great Dane and the fawn? How about the giraffe and the goat, the fox and the hound, the puppy and the lion cub, and other unlikely twosomes? Jennifer S. Holland has gathered another fascinating book of charming anecdotes and photographs of surprising pairs of animals, both domestic and wild, as they show affection and caring for each other. Each of the forty-three short entries is accompanied by a beautiful photo. Even though *Unlikely Loves* does not have an overtly religious theme, the underlying message is apparent—that we need to care for each other as God cares for all creation.

Unlikely Loves follows Holland’s similar *Unlikely Friendships: 47 Remarkable Stories from the Animal Kingdom* (Workman, 2011). —*Mary Lou Henneman*

FICTION



A Light in the Wilderness: A Novel

Jane Kirkpatrick. Revell (an imprint of Baker), 2014. 314. \$14.99, paperback. ISBN: 978-0-8007-2231-9. Available as an ebook. www.revellbooks.com Fiction Freedmen—Fiction. Oregon Territory—History—Fiction. United States—Social life and customs—1775-1865—Fiction. United States—History—1815-1861—Fiction. African-American women—West (U.S.)—Fiction.

In an author’s note, Jane Kirkpatrick provides detailed

information about the actual people and situations from 1840s and 1850s on which she bases her novel *A Light in the Wilderness*.

Racial prejudice, including the law against interracial marriage, the westward movement to the Oregon Territory, illness, and death are just a few of the problems faced by Letitia, a freed slave who continues to work for the Bowman family when they move from Kentucky to Platte County, Missouri, in 1843. The next year, when the Bowmans prepare to move west with many of the other residents, Letitia decides not to go. She has papers drawn up by the Bowmans attesting to the fact that they have freed her. Letitia and the Hawkins family have become friends, so they are disappointed with her decision.

Later, the ex-slave has second thoughts and goes with Davey Carson, an Irish immigrant who becomes her common-law husband. Finally reaching their destination, they build a home and have two children. Nancy Hawkins, whose husband was the victim of an attack by Indians during their journey, is her neighbor. With the death of Davey, Letitia faces severe problems but seeks justice, wins her court cases, and moves on with her life. —*Beverly M. Bixler*



Blackfire: The Books of Bairnmoor, Volume 1

James Daniel Eckblad. Resource (an imprint of Wipf and Stock), 2014. 268p. \$30.00, paperback. ISBN: 978-1-61097-936-8. Available as an ebook. www.wipfandstock.com Fiction Good and evil—Fiction. Fantasy fiction.

Unlikely heroes can make excellent protagonists, especially in the realm of fantasy fiction. Fourteen-year-old Elli Adams loves books and, when she visits her

local library to find a book of poems, learns from the new librarian that books have been taken to the basement to make room for new technology. Undaunted, Elli descends the stairs to continue her search; thus begins her journey to an alternate universe, where she is challenged to save others. Companions of Elli’s face their own challenges—blindness, Down’s syndrome, and crippling lack of self-confidence. It becomes their task to rescue good Queen Taralina, who has been held captive in her own castle. Along the way, they encounter a variety of mythical creatures, good and bad.

The first few chapters of *Blackfire* build slowly, but as the story progresses, character development provides increasing drama. The spiritual discussions throughout the story take this novel to a higher level. Author James Daniel Eckblad, a trial attorney and pastor, addresses not only good and evil but also fear and courage and how these affect our decision-making.

This is a perfect book for congregational book clubs and interfaith groups engaging in discussions on various spiritual levels. —*Mary Lou Henneman*



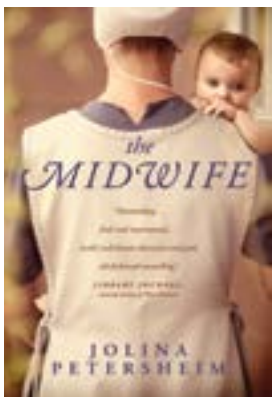
The Revealing: A Novel

Suzanne Woods Fisher. Revell (an imprint of Baker), 2014. 324p. \$14.99, paperback. ISBN: 978-0-8007-2095-7. www.revellbooks.com Fiction Amish—Fiction. Mennonites—Fiction. Bed-and-breakfast accommodations—Fiction. Series: The Inn at Eagle Hill.

Suzanne Woods Fisher's series The Inn at Eagle Hill concludes with *The Revealing*. Deception, mysterious identities, secrets, and romance abound, providing

reasons to keep reading even to those who are unfamiliar with the previous novels in the series.

The Schrocks are still coping with the death of Dean, owner of the Schrock Investments, and the incarceration of his son, Tobe, in connection with the scandal that caused the firm's failure. Rose, Dean's widow, runs a bed-and-breakfast. She worries not only about her children's and stepchildren's problems but also with her own incipient romantic situation. Unexpectedly complicating the family's situation is the arrival of a young woman, unknown by any of them, who has surprising news about Tobe. Just when the reader questions how a solution for any of these problems can be found, Fisher accomplishes the task. —*Beverly M. Bixler*



The Midwife

Jolina Petersheim. Tyndale House, 2014. 383p. \$14.99, paperback. ISBN: 978-1-4143-7935-7. Available in hardcover, ebook, and audiobook. www.tyndale.com Fiction Midwives—Fiction. Mennonites—Fiction. Single women—Fiction.

Jolina Petersheim narrates *The Midwife* from dual perspectives of her two main protagonists. Beth Winslow begins the story in 1995, when she is a graduate student at a college in New England.

She agrees to serve as surrogate mother for the baby of one her professors. When it appears that the fetus may have an abnormality, the professor and his wife want the pregnancy terminated. Although Beth undertook this as a business deal, her feelings have now changed, and she wants to save the baby she now considers hers. She flees the campus and goes to a Mennonite home for unwed mothers in a remote area of Tennessee.

In addition to relating details of her life for the two years after arrival at Hopen Haus, she also tells about her life there, where in subsequent years she is known as Rhoda, the head midwife.

In 2014, Amelia Walker arrives to take refuge at the Hopen Haus. Something about the teenage girl has an unsettling effect on Rhoda. Finally, when everyone's secrets unravel and are revealed, forgiveness and accep-

tance can begin the process of healing troubled emotional lives and relationships. —*Beverly M. Bixler*



The Story Keeper

Lisa Wingate. Tyndale House, 2014. 438p. \$14.99, paperback. ISBN: 978-1-4143-8689-8. Available as an ebook. www.tyndale.com Fiction Unfinished books—Fiction. Authorship—Fiction. Memories—Fiction. Women editors—Fiction. Blue Ridge Mountains—Fiction.

Stories can offer comfort and meaning as they help us understand how to resolve internal and external conflicts. In *The Story Keeper*, author Lisa Wingate

masterfully weaves together two stories—present and past—to find hope in the midst of prejudice and conflict.

When Jen Gibbs, a girl from the hills of North Carolina, finally lands a job as an editor at prestigious Vida House Publishing in New York, it seems she is living a dream life. One day, a few chapters of a manuscript mysteriously land on Jen's desk. It is the story of Sarra, a Melungeon (mixed race) girl in Appalachia during the early 1900s. Jen is drawn into the story of harsh treatment by both nature and people. After a few more chapters come to Jen, her search for the rest of the story and her obsession to know the author's identity take her back to the Blue Ridge Mountains of her youth. She thought she had left all the problems there behind. But as Jen states, "Even when we are lost, God has not lost us."

The Story Keeper will mesmerize readers with its strong characters and a story packed with emotion and sensitivity. I now consider it one of my top-ten favorites. Highly recommended. —*Mary Lou Henneman*



Through Mountains Fall

Dale Cramer. Bethany House (an imprint of Baker), 2013. 342p. \$14.99, paperback. ISBN: 978-0-7642-0840-9. Available as an ebook. www.bethanyhouse.com Fiction Amish—Fiction. Series: The Daughters of Caleb Bender

In the 1920s, Caleb Bender, his family, and several other families moved from Ohio to northern Mexico and established a successful Amish community in Paradise Valley. Now, four

years later, problems beset both Caleb's family and the settlement as a whole.

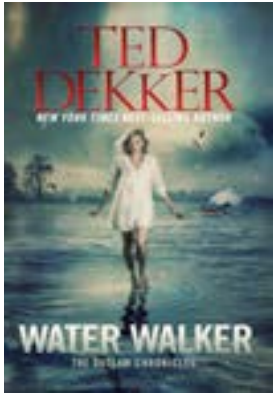
The Benders had twin sons. One died in the influenza epidemic of 1918; the other was murdered by bandits. The bandits are menacing the entire community. Federal troops arrive, but their behavior is worse than that of the bandits.

Miriam, one of the older Bender daughters, marries

a Mexican. Marrying outside the church requires that the offending church member be banned. This brings another problem to the forefront. The Amish in Paradise Valley have no bishop; therefore, in effect they have no church.

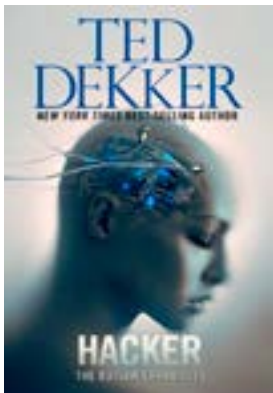
Emotional, philosophical, and religious questions still plague Caleb after he returns to Ohio. Readers will question how he will solve them. In *Though Mountains Fall*, the third installment in the series *The Daughters of Caleb Bender*, Cramer has created strong characters who react credibly to the situations that confront them.

—Beverly M. Bixler



Water Walker

Ted Dekker. Worthy, 2014. 310p. \$14.99, paperback. ISBN: 978-1-61795-274-6. Available as an ebook. www.worthy-publishing.com Fiction Families—Fiction. Forgiveness—Fiction. Series: The Outlaw Chronicles



Hacker

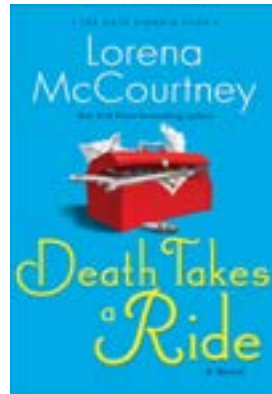
Ted Dekker. Worthy, 2014. 266p. \$14.99, paperback. ISBN: 978-1-61795-527-3. Available as an ebook. www.worthy-publishing.com Fiction Hackers—Fiction. Series: The Outlaw Chronicles

The second and third books in Ted Dekker's Outlaw Chronicles series are powerful psychological thrillers that will keep readers thinking long after they finish the last chapters.

In *Water Walker*, Alice Ringwald is a thirteen-year-old orphan living happily with her adopted family. Suddenly she finds herself taken away by a man claiming to be her father to live with her mother and brother in a remote swamp area. Her new "mother" believes Alice is the answer to the family's problems and must raise her in purity with strict rules. But who is controlling the mother? Who is the man at the head of Alice's new family? How does forgiveness fit into the storyline?

In *Hacker*, seventeen-year-old Nyah Parks is a brilliant, genius-level girl whose mother is dying. Nyah needs to earn money for the expensive experimental treatments that can keep her mother alive, but even the money she earns as a hired computer hacker is not enough. How can she attract the attention of someone who has the resources that can help her mom? Should she play God no matter what the cost to others or herself? Nyah makes choices based on logical information, but circumstances and outlook change with each person she approaches.

Dekker fans will not be disappointed. The character of Stephen is the thread connecting each book of the Outlaw Chronicles, and enough is revealed about him to leave readers waiting for another book of the series. These are good crossover books that will prompt discussion for young adults and adults. —Mary Lou Henneman



Death Takes a Ride: A Novel

Lorena McCourtney. Revell (an imprint of Baker), 2014. 331p. \$14.99, paperback. ISBN: 978-0-8007-2160-2. Available as an ebook. www.revellbooks.com Fiction Private investigators—Fiction. Series: The Cate Kinkaid Files

In this third installment of the Cate Kinkaid series, Cate is working as an assistant private investigator and hopes to soon earn her license and the right to carry a gun. When she stops at

the H&B Classic Auto Restorations shop to give a friend a ride to the church for the Fit, Fabulous and Faith-filled Class, she finds trouble. One man is dead, one is injured, and one is holding a smoking gun. It appears to be an obvious case of self-defense, but Cate sees more.

Cate works hard to untangle a plot involving bikers, drugs, and gambling. There is the added complication of Clancy, the big, slobbery dog belonging to the injured victim. And will Cate's cat forgive her for befriending Clancy?

Will Cate's relationship with Mitch make a difference, or will job opportunities entice him to leave? This is a fun-filled read with enough mystery and wit to keep Cate's fans wanting more. Issues of faith are ever-present for these characters, making this a good book for Christian libraries. —Mary Lou Henneman



Fatal Exchange: A Novel

Lisa Harris. Revell (an imprint of Baker), 2014. 313p. \$14.99, paperback. ISBN: 978-0-8007-2191-6. Available as an ebook. www.revellbooks.com Fiction Women teachers—Fiction. Students—Fiction. Drug traffic—Fiction. Southern states—Fiction. Series: Southern Crimes

Leslie Hunt has the passion to be a high school teacher. She does not think she has the strength to serve on the police force, as others in her family do.

Mason Taylor is an undercover cop who wrestles with issues related to his job and the Hunt family. Suddenly the two are thrown into a volatile situation when Rafael Cerda, a student Leslie has been working with at school, holds Leslie and her class hostage at gunpoint. This is just the start as Lisa Harris weaves an intriguing web of kidnapping, drugs, and murder in this second book of

the Southern Crimes series. *Fatal Exchange* is not just a great thriller; it is a good Christian romance. Leslie and Mason rely on their faith as they solve crime and develop their relationship. Recommended for both young adults and adults. —*Mary Lou Henneman*

Let God (DVD)

William Parker. Elevation Pictures, 2013. Distributed by Word Films. 91 minutes. \$12.99, DVD. www.wordfilms.com Fiction Courage—Fiction. Overland journeys to the Pacific—Fiction. United States—History—1845-1853—Fiction.

The year is 1848, and Amelia is a young bride whose husband hears rumors of gold discovered in California. Wanting to escape their indebtedness, they quietly leave their home and families behind and join the last wagon train leaving this season. The journey is arduous, and a violent attack leaves Amelia as the sole survivor. She is able to carry few supplies and grows increasingly weak. She soon encounters a mysterious young boy, and together they begin their journey for survival.

Let God tells a simple story through flashbacks focusing on courage, faith, and caring for one another. The dynamic cinematography captures the harshness of travel along the Oregon Trail. The characters of Amelia, played by Jasmin Jandreau, and the boy, played by Shannon Brown, gain strength and forge a solid bond as they confront a variety of dangers, making the scripture from Romans 5:3 cited at the film's end especially apt: "Let us rejoice in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, and endurance produces character, and character produces hope."

Teenaged and adult viewers of this film will find much to discuss. —*Mary Lou Henneman*



Love Comes Home: A Novel

Ann H. Gabhart. Revell (an imprint of Baker), 2014. 377p. \$14.99, paperback. ISBN: 978-0-8007-2185-5. Available as an ebook. www.revellbooks.com Fiction Small cities—Fiction. United States—History—1945-1953—Fiction. United States—Social life and customs—1945-1970—Fiction.

Ann H. Gabhart, author of *Angel Sister* and *Small Town Girl* (both from Revell), takes her readers back to Rosey Corner. With Japan's surrender, World War II has

ended, and the men are returning home. Still living with the effects of the war, the Merritt family, especially the sisters, begin to struggle with reconciling their dreams for the future with their present lives. It is a struggle filled with both joy and sorrow.

Evangeline is unhappy when she becomes pregnant. Her husband Mike, changed by the war, does not want to continue as a pastor. Kate is ecstatic with husband Jay's return, and she is eager to begin a family. Victoria's husband died a prisoner of war, and she is still grieving.

The Merritt family has adopted (informally but not legally) Lorena, who ten years before was left on the church steps. Now a teenager, Lorena begins to be curious about her birth family.

Gabhart creates credible characters, both major and minor. —*Beverly M. Bixler*



Sincerely Yours: A Novella Collection

Jane Kirkpatrick, Amanda Cabot, Laurie Alice Eakes, and Ann Shorey. Revell (an imprint of Baker), 2014. 378p. \$14.99, paperback. ISBN: 978-0-8007-2204-3. Available as an ebook. www.revellbooks.com Fiction United States—History—19th century—Fiction. United States—History—20th century—Fiction. United States—Social life and customs—1783-1865—Fiction. United States—Social life and customs—1865-1918—Fiction.

In each of the four novellas in *Sincerely Yours*, life changes for a young woman when she receives a letter. Each story, set in the nineteenth or early twentieth century, is from a popular author of Christian fiction.

"Midnight Promise," by Laurie Alice Eakes, has Englishwoman Camilla Renfrew escaping false accusations of theft by removing to New York, where she plans to meet friends and attend the official opening of the Erie Canal. Missed connections and unplanned boat rides bring Camilla romance.

Ann Shorey writes in "Lessons in Love" of Merrie Bently, who signs her articles about marriage for a weekly paper with her initials. Her editor assumes she is a man, and when he requests a meeting with "Mr. Bently," Merrie's continued attempts to deceive go temporarily awry.

In Amanda Cabot's "One Little Word," Lorraine Caldwell hears from her brother for the first time in two years. Her trip to see him brings questions about her own future, in particular the identity of the man she will marry.

"A Saving Grace," by Jane Kirkpatrick, is set in the town of Olalla, Washington, where a disreputable sanitarium treats patients for illnesses they do not have. Grace Hathaway faces huge obstacles as she tries to rescue her friend who is a victim of these terrible practices. —*Beverly M. Bixler*

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by Rusty Tryon. Assists congregational librarians in making audio-visual resources an integral part of their library collections.

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CSLA GUIDE

FOR TWEENS and YAs



Black Bottle Man: A Fable

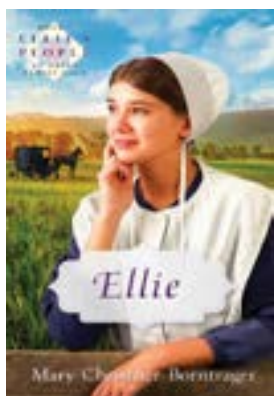
Craig Russell. Great Plains Teen Fiction (an imprint of Great Plains Fiction), 2010. 176p. \$14.95, paperback. ISBN: 978-1-894283-99-1. Available as an ebook. www.greatplains.mb.ca Fiction Good and evil—Fiction. Fables.

In the tiny community of Three Farms, there is just one child—Rembrandt. One day, a friendly stranger arrives. He wears a black coat and carries a magic bottle, and he offers a deal. The deal

stipulates that in exchange for solving a certain problem, Rembrandt, along with his father and uncle, must move every twelve days. If they do not, something terrible will happen.

What if it turns out the pact was made with the devil? This intriguing fable, set in the 1920s and 1930s and viewed from the perspective both of young Rembrandt and his recollection seventy years later.

Black Bottle Man won the 2011 Moonbeam Children's Book Award in the category of fantasy and science fiction for young adults. It can be used in congregations to promote discussion of decision-making and distinguishing between good and evil. This is a good book for adult discussion groups as well. —*Mary Lou Henneman*



Ellie

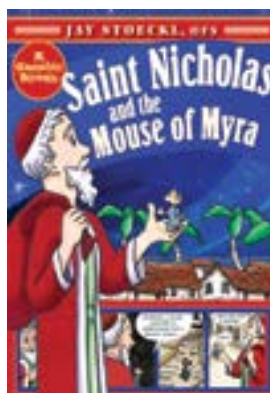
Mary Christner Borntreger. Herald, 2014. 193p. \$8.99, paperback. ISBN: 978-0-8361-3468-1. Available as an ebook. www.mennomedia.org Fiction Amish—Fiction. Series: Ellie's People: An Amish Family Saga

Out of print for years, Mary Christner Borntreger's series of novels for young readers is being published once again by Herald Press. *Ellie* is the first of ten books in the Ellie's People: An Amish

Family Saga series.

The twenty-two brief chapters of *Ellie* present vignettes of individual days and events in the Old Order life of Ellie Maust from about the age of seven through her wedding day and beyond. There is no indication of the passage of years in each chapter until Borntreger tells the reader Ellie's age. In the last chapter, Ellie, her husband, and their four children have moved to the farm where she grew up. They are discussing plans to build an addition to their house. It will be the *dawdy haus* for Ellie's mother and youngest sister.

Ellie gives readers aged 10 and up a picture of what Amish life is like. —*Beverly M. Bixler*



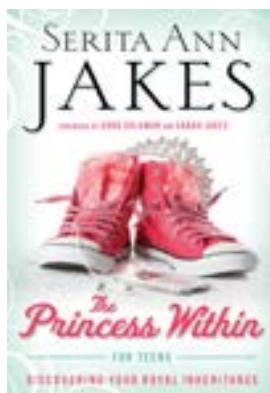
Saint Nicholas and the Mouse of Myra

Jay Stoeckl. Paraclete, 2014. 120p. \$15.99, paperback. ISBN: 978-1-61261-470-0. www.paracletepress.com 270.2092 Nicholas, Saint, Bishop of Myra—Juvenile literature.

Was there a real Saint Nicholas? Is he more than the character seen in malls during the Christmas season? Children in elementary and middle school will delight in discovering that

the beloved figure was a real person who lived in the late third and early fourth centuries. He was a man of faith who learned that a spirit of generosity and caring is part of being a faithful Christian. Jay Stoeckl has skillfully written and illustrated his graphic novel in chapter-book form. He even gives Nicholas a friendly companion—Cicero, the philosopher-mouse. Cicero, dressed in a tiny Greek toga, helps his friend through his journey from young lad to priest and defender of the faith.

A scripture verse for each chapter focuses on the main lessons Nicholas learns along the way. *Saint Nicholas and the Mouse of Myra* is an excellent graphic novel for Christian youth. —*Mary Lou Henneman*



The Princess Within for Teens: Discovering Your Royal Inheritance

Serita Ann Jakes. Bethany House (an imprint of Baker) 2014. 206p. \$14.99, paperback. ISBN: 978-0-7642-1204-8. www.bethanyhouse.com 248.8'33 Teenage girls—Religious life. Teenage girls—Conduct of life. Christian teenagers—Religious life. Christian teenagers—Conduct of life.

How do teenagers see themselves? They get competing self-images from YouTube,

Facebook, and Instagram, and from their Christian faith. They may sometimes feel that in their world, being connected to social media is the only way to be accepted. Serita Ann Jakes, a Christian mother, grandmother, and the wife of Bishop T. D. Jakes, shows teenaged girls how important they really are when they see themselves through the eyes of God.

Jakes uses the analogy of the fairy tale Cinderella and a variety of scenarios to guide young girls in making correct decisions in their lives. Each chapter of *The Princess Within for Teens* contains a quiz on how girls might react in given situations, a discussion of those situations, a "my story" example written by other teens, a selection of scripture verses, and questions for personal journaling. Jakes lets young girls know they can go to God with their innermost fears and know that their faith will give them the strength to be true Christian princesses.

This is a good book for helping girls develop a positive self-image and make smart decisions based on their Christian beliefs. —*Mary Lou Henneman*



A Less than Perfect Peace

Jacqueline Levering Sullivan. Eerdmans, 2014. 209p. \$8.50, paperback. ISBN: 978-0-8028-5431-5. www.eerdmans.com Fiction Family life—Washington (State)—Fiction. Refugees—Fiction. Veterans—Fiction. Cold War—Fiction. Washington (State)—History—20th century—Fiction.

For young Annie Leigh Howard, life in the 1950s is a series of challenges. Her father is back from serving in World War II and must learn to cope with being

blind. Annie's mother now must work in her beauty shop. There are new arrivals in town: twins Emily and Johannes VanderVelde, refugees from Holland. Each of the characters copes not only with the Cold War but also with an actual blizzard that hits their town of Tacoma, Washington.

In this sequel to *Annie's War*, author Jacqueline Levering Sullivan shows the frustration of her father dealing with blindness as he and his wife face difficulties in their marriage. Sullivan also lets readers learn what life was

like for two young people who had lived through the Nazis' crimes in Europe.

A Less Than Perfect Peace is a good historical novel and coming-of-age story for tweens and young teens. Parents and teachers can use it as they encourage young people to make right choices based on their faith. —*Mary Lou Henneman*



Hero (DVD)

Advent Film Group and Brightline Pictures, 2014. 94 minutes. \$19.96, DVD. www.adventfilmgroup.com Fiction Baseball—Fiction. Fathers and sons—Fiction.

Seven years ago, Joe Finn left Miller's Gap to make his fortune and was an absentee father to son David. When Joe learns that David's mother is dying he returns, but it seems his relationship with David is broken beyond repair. A former winning

Little League coach, Joe joins his son—in spite of the continuing anger that David can barely contain—in coaching a team. Joe has strong ideas about baseball, and in protest of the restrictive rules imposed by the regular league, starts a new league. The "Gappers," whose dads are for various reasons absent or inattentive, must

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overcome all manner of obstacles before they come together as a team. They ultimately do so with the support of the dads who finally come around. The climax comes in a battle on the diamond between the Gappers and their rivals from the old league.

This DVD provides worthwhile if predictable lessons about father-son bonds, acknowledging mistakes, forgiving, and re-building relationships. Except for a few wife and mother characters and the female fans in the stands, this is an all-male movie. Boys with an interest in team sports and who appreciate father-and-son stories will enjoy *Hero*. —*Monica Tenney*

FOR YOUNG CHILDREN

Matzo Frogs

Sally Rosenthal. Illustrated by David Sheldon. New South, 2014. 32p. \$17.95, hardcover. ISBN: 978-1-58838-302-0. Available as an ebook. www.newsouthbooks.com [E] Frogs—Juvenile fiction. Cooking—Juvenile fiction. Kindness—Juvenile fiction. Judaism—Customs and practices—Juvenile fiction. Jews—United States—Juvenile fiction.

You may never have thought you would want a frog in your soup, but Sally Rosenthal's delightful story of frogs making matzo ball soup may start you thinking otherwise.

Minnie is having her cousins over for a Friday night Shabbat dinner. She starts preparing the soup early that morning, but the pot spills. After she cleans up the mess, Minnie has to take care of a friend and has no time to start cooking again. Her neighbors, six lively Jewish frogs, decide to come to her rescue, and when Minnie returns home the soup and matzo balls are simmering on the stove. Surprised, Minnie sees a clue that helps her realize

who her benefactors are, and she responds with an act of kindness.

In *Matzo Frogs* Rosenthal depicts frogs who are true friends, and David Sheldon's art adds to the whimsical features of the tale. Good deeds and cooperation are emphasized in this story for preschoolers.

Recommended. —*Evelyn Pockrass*



Fool Moon Rising

Kristi Fluharty. Illustrated by T. Lively Fluharty. Crossway, 2009. 36p. \$15.99, hardcover. ISBN: 978-1-4335-0682-6. www.crossway.org [E] Moon—Juvenile fiction. Pride and vanity—Juvenile fiction. Christian life—Juvenile fiction. Stories in rhyme.

The moon is full of himself. He thinks the light that shines from him is his own, and he is quite proud. He sings all the songs that praise him, and he magically changes his shape and sometimes disappears entirely. Astronauts have visited him, and he makes the earthly tides ebb and flow. One day, however, he realizes with a shock that the light is not his own—it comes from a much bigger source. Now he knows. "Reflecting light with all his might / The Sun is now his boast!"

This text of this charming book opens with 1 Corinthians 4:7. The rhyming text by Kristi Fluharty ends with a little boy's bedtime prayer for the grace to focus on God. On the final two pages, a handful of questions help children and their parents talk about the moon's foolishness and what he learns, and another handful of fun facts about the moon adds interest. T. Lively Fluharty's illustrations are playful. Recommended for children in preschool and early elementary grades. —*Monica Tenney*



By the fall of 2015 there will be a staff opening for **CSLA MEDIA REVIEW EDITOR**

Monica Tenney, our devoted Media Review Editor since the fall of 2003, will retire during 2015. CSLA seeks a book-loving, detail-oriented member to edit reviews for the CSLA quarterly journal, *Congregational Libraries Today*. Annual stipend provided.

Please submit cover letter and resumé by April 1, 2015, to Evelyn Pockrass, CSLA Personnel Chair
3850 Glenview Dr, Indianapolis, IN 46240, or epockrass@iquest.net.

For questions and additional details, contact Evelyn, 317-842-7382, or Personnel Committee members: [Cheryl Cutchin](#), [Susan Sponaas](#), [Marcia Trauernicht](#)

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Presents workshops, if requested, at annual conference.

Prepares written reports for CSLA mid-winter and annual Board meetings.



Time to renew memberships—and to think about next year's conference in Texas

BY JUDY JANZEN, *Administrator*

I hope your fall has been as nice as it has been in the Great Northwest. Our summer was very pleasant and fall has been equally nice.

Now that summer is over and you are back into the swing of things, please complete and mail your 2015 CSLA membership form. Your dues help us to continue to serve your needs as a congregational librarian.

We have launched our new "Friends of CSLA" contributing member program and do hope that you will

consider CSLA when you give your end-of-year donations.

We are in need of several people to fill some vacant spots on the Board. We need a Finance chair, First Vice President/President, and Treasurer. Being a part of the Board is work, but it is also fun. Your expertise on the Board will benefit every member of CSLA. We have the winter Board meetings via phone calls and then, because you will not want to miss the annual conference, you will already

be in place to attend the face-to-face Board meetings just before the conference starts.

Be sure to put the [48th Annual Conference in Denton, Texas, July 29-31, 2015 on the campus of North Texas University, on your calendar NOW](#) and plan to be a part of the fellowship, tours, workshops and speakers. I guarantee that you will go home renewed and excited to put your new knowledge to work in your library.

MEDIA FOR THE TEEN & YOUNG ADULT READER



Media for the Teen and Young Adult Reader:

selected and annotated by Mary Lou Henneman. This guide is meant more to offer suggestions on a variety of books for congregational libraries than as a definitive bibliography directed toward the interests and needs of teens and young adults. \$12/\$14 +S&H.

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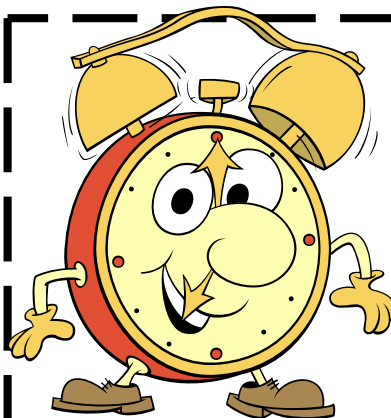
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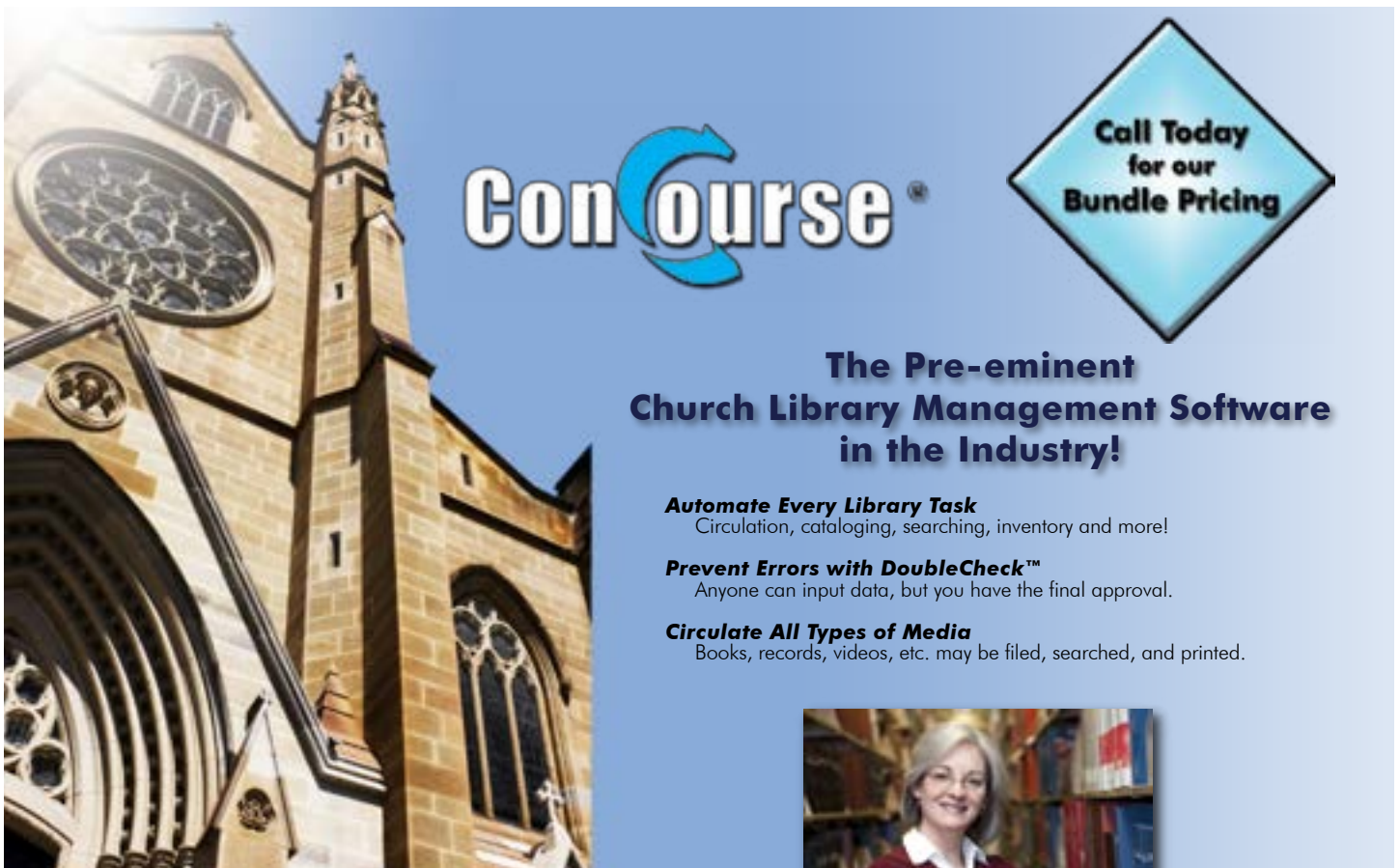
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