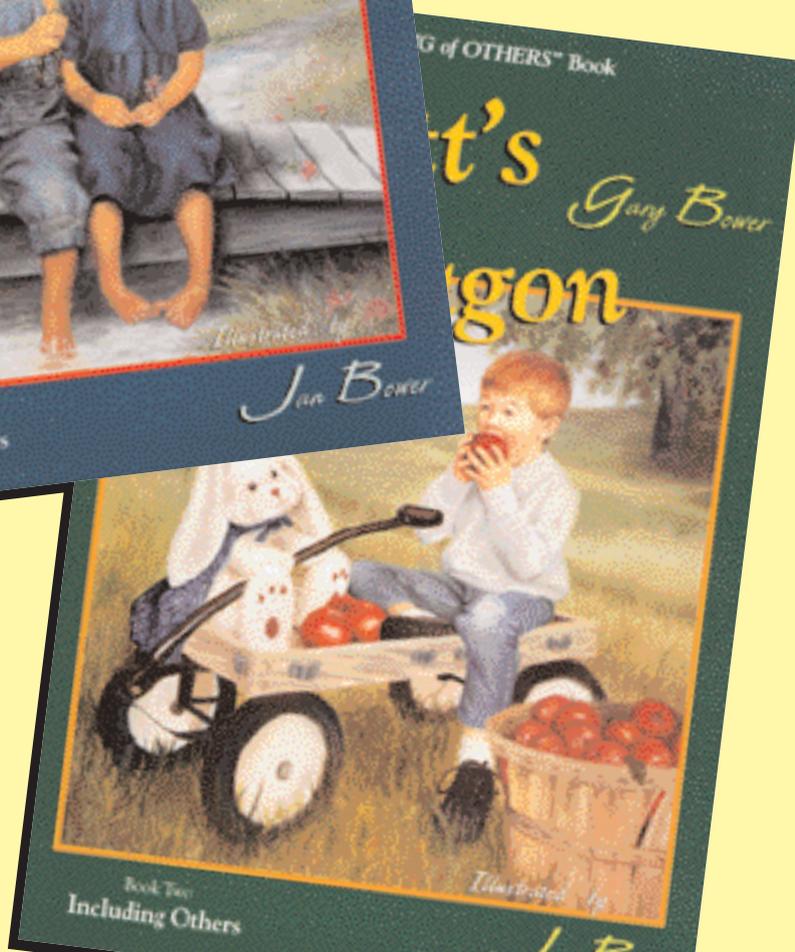
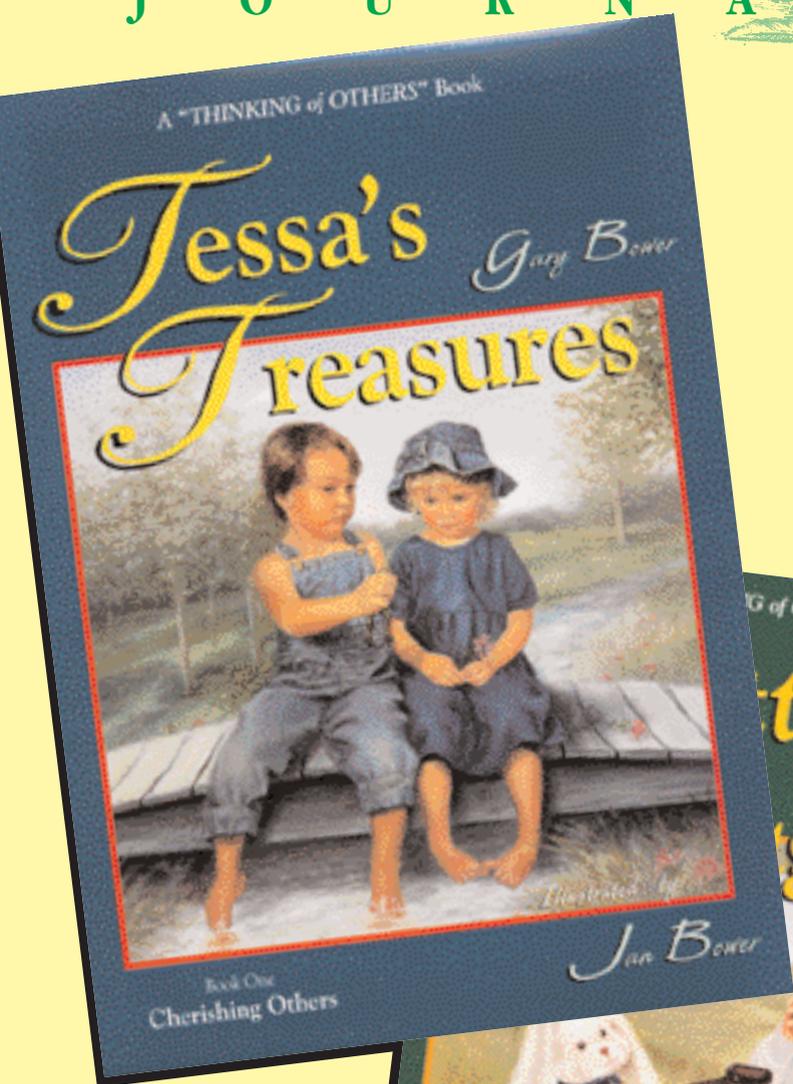
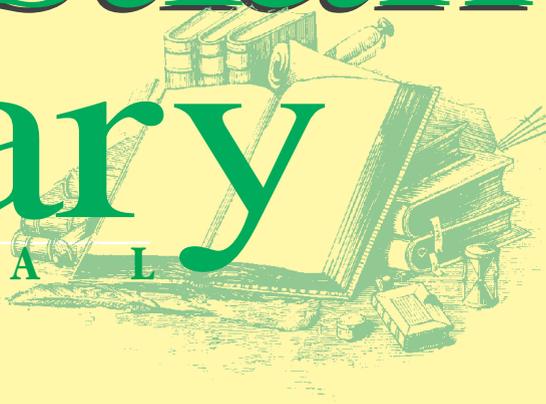


Christian Library

J O U R N A L



This issue Features:

- Nancy's Favorite New Fiction
- A Dilemma
- School Librarian's Corner:
C Major Thoughts
- A Fishing Contest of Another
Kind
- Rosalie's Precious Gift
- Great Books for Those Who
Grieve
- Cindy McCormick Martinusen:
Dreaming Big



A Letter from the Editor

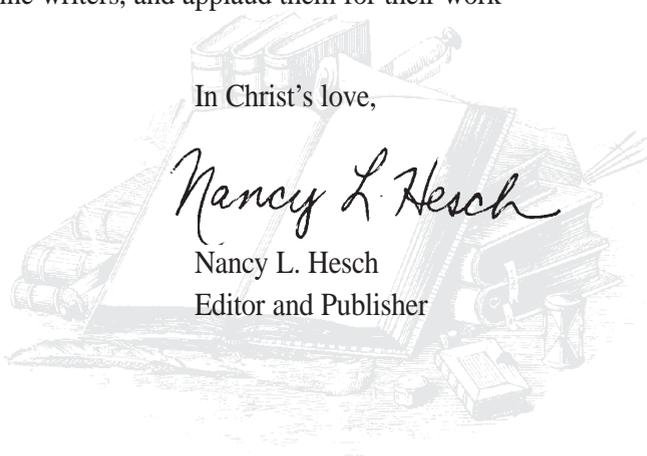
Dear Readers,

What a challenge these past two months have been, since we decided to put *CLJ* online, rather than discontinuing it. Taking one day at a time, three issues have now been formatted and placed online in that short period. You will notice in all three that the books reviewed are not terribly current. This is because finished material had been ready for some time, awaiting funds for printing and mailing. In our next issue, Winter 2002, you will see we have come a long ways towards being more up to date.

We thank God for you and your encouragement during this busy time. Many of you have written, giving thanks that we are continuing publication, and sharing your enthusiasm for what *CLJ* means to you and your library. We pray *CLJ* will continue to serve you, our readers.

This issue contains reviews to several extraordinary adult fiction books which I would like to call to your attention. John L. Moore's *The Breaking of Ezra Riley* (Broadman & Holman) is a gripping read, beautifully written. Thomas Williams' *The Devil's Mouth* (Word) is an excellent fantasy, full of God's truth. G.K. Belliveau's *Go Down to Silence* (Multnomah) is a tale of reconciliation. Dee Henderson's *O'Malley Series* (Multnomah) are romantic suspense tales with strong characterization. Jane Kirkpatrick's *No Eye Can See* (WaterBrook) continues her saga of the women only wagon train as they reach California and build new lives. Sharon Ewell Foster's *Passing by Samaria* (Multnomah) reminds us of the power of forgiveness. And my favorite of this fine bunch of stories, Vinita Hampton Wright's *Velma Still Cooks in Leeway* (Broadman & Holman) again dwells on forgiveness, written in the tradition of the best writers of the South, truly literary fiction. There are others as well. We thank God for raising up such fine writers, and applaud them for their work

In Christ's love,



Nancy L. Hesch

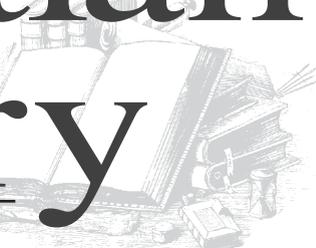
Nancy L. Hesch
Editor and Publisher

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Letter from the Editor

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Mary McKinney Editor: Adult Fiction,
Young Adult Nonfiction

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Published in the U.S.A.

CINDY McCORMICK MARTINUSEN: DREAMING BIG

by Cathy M. Elliott

When a small-town girl has a big-time dream to write novels, the goal can seem unattainable. In Cindy McCormick Martinusen's case, a rededication to Christ and His direction in return resulted in a spot on the finish line. Cindy's first novel for Tyndale House, *Winter Passing*, won a coveted place among the nominees for the 2001 Christy award for excellence in Christian fiction. Not bad for a small-town girl.

Cindy began her first novel when she was just twelve years of age. At eighteen, she sought God's guidance for her writing. She read books and enrolled in classes at the local community college to hone the craft. In 1994, she attended a Mount Hermon Writer's Conference and was encouraged by new friend, author Robin Jones Gunn. Friendships with both established and rookie writers ensued and Cindy founded a writer's group. She continued to write, linked with an agent, and began submitting her work in earnest. A pile of rejections mounted.

After hearing an author speak about fully committing to writing and accepting the call no matter the outcome, Cindy sensed this was the missing ingredient in her quest. She recommitted herself to the work she knew God Himself had given. But what exactly was God calling her to write?

Winter Passing was born from a fascination with the World War II era. Tatianna's tale, told in a prologue, sparked some interest. An editor wanted to see more. Cindy developed the story and added a young American woman, a dying grandmother, hidden treasure, and a case of mistaken identity which caused the heroine to travel to Austria to unravel the long buried mystery.

While writing *Winter Passing*, Cindy was burdened by the tragic truths of World War II. Keenly aware of the struggles of Holocaust survivors and their families, she wondered if she had the right to share their

story. It was not her heritage, after all, not her past. Through her desire to honor them with her writing, Cindy began a tradition. Before she put one word on the page, she lit a candle and dedicated the flame to the memory of the people who lost their dreams when they lost their lives.

Cindy remembered, "In moments of frustration and I admit there were many, I'd glance up and see that flickering candle. It brought me back to my purpose...." The practice served to remind her of those who lived through the war and of the One who healed wounds that are humanly impossible to mend. Throughout her next book, *Blue Night* (released in July 2001), and again during the third, *North of Tomorrow* (scheduled for release in the spring of 2002), Cindy continued to light the candle as a remembrance – a beacon of hope.

Studying the stories of real people reacting to the threat of evil in their midst not only gave Cindy a new vantage point from which to view history but caused her to question what her own response might be in a similar situation. She realized that all people have the capability to choose good or evil. One might become a Corrie ten Boom and a heroine of the faith or end up as a Nazi guard. The difference was not found in who the person was, rather, in who the person served. She discerned that compromising one's integrity led to destruction of the soul. Out of her understanding came a time of self-examination for Cindy. "What compromises have I made along the way and at what cost?" she wondered.

If the war torn Holocaust years served as a somber time frame for her novel, the opposite was true of her research of Austria. Cindy had long imagined herself traveling to Europe and suddenly she was writing about places of which she had only dreamed. She needed to give her book authenticity and so, like her protagonist, Darby Evans, Cindy trekked to Austria. But unlike Darby, she didn't go alone. Her husband, David,

accompanied her to a place that would call her back time and again.

At home in Cottonwood, California, she now recalls sitting on her special bench in Hallstatt, Austria, and praying for the readers of *Winter Passing* - her stranger-friends. She prayed they might find something in the writing that would minister to their hearts.

In spite of growing obligations as an author and ties to church, family, and friends, Cindy has managed to keep her focus. She and David are committed to the calls God has placed on their life together – to homeschool their three young children and to make Cindy's writing a priority.

"We consider my writing a family endeavor," she says. "It is so worth it when we read the author letters together." Cindy is grateful when something in her writing connects with a reader. A prayer answered. More than one reader has expressed, "I am one of your stranger friends! I'm one you prayed for." It has been satisfying beyond her expectations and given the family a shared purpose.

Writing still has its thrills – even after finishing three books. Cindy's favorite time is when she falls into the character's shoes. "That doesn't always happen. Sometimes it's a struggle. But it's wonderful to be swept into the story – I'm really there!"

"I love to come downstairs and my family will ask me, 'How was your afternoon?' I'll respond with, 'Well, today I've been to Austria and the weather was great!'" Cindy is delighted at what God has done through her obedience to His call to write. Each book has taught her dependence on Him in a new way. "I do a lot of praying."

Cindy routinely writes one evening a week and into the wee hours after the kids are in bed. She also catches valuable writing time the occasional Saturday morning. When her deadline is looming, she writes whenever

and wherever she's able.

"My husband, David, deserves a lot of credit," she says. "As I struggled against my deadline, he made the family's dinner for two full weeks."

After three contemporary books with connections to the World War II era, Cindy is working on a new novel with a different setting. She is excited about the project, as well as others that are yet in the dreaming state. Adult fiction is still her favorite genre and she is considering a children's book. Teaching more writing and a return to the WWII backdrop for a future book are balanced with a fierce need to protect precious time with her children. There are family dreams to experience and Cindy McCormick Martinusen doesn't want to miss them.

"I'll write as long as God has the door open," Cindy says. "What I've come to find is that God can do big things in your life – more than you can imagine. Growing up in a small town, I couldn't wait to get away and discover the world. But I've fallen in love with small town life and I'm exploring the world at the same time. If you seek Him and then follow His direction, God is anxious to do wonderful things for you."

Cathy M. Elliott is a freelance writer who lives in Northern California and works as a Library Information Technician at a local community college. She is currently working on her first novel – a cozy mystery.

A FISHING CONTEST OF ANOTHER KIND

by Ronica Stromberg

On one wall of the library, hundreds of brightly colored fish, each with a child's name on it, showed how many children spent at least two hours that season reading a book. Another wall showed the prizes they had earned for more hours: a pencil, a pencil topper, coins (to be exchanged for the chance to choose among prizes in a deep-sea treasure chest), and book certificates. Was this the outreach effort of an innovative Christian school?

No. But it could be!

Professional librarian Diane Chalfant-Drury saw this reading program, with fishing as the theme, at a public library. She notes how easily a Christian school could use the same theme: "Jesus had disciples who were fishermen. He fished with them often and some of his greatest miracles involve fishing—remember how he fed the five thousand and walked on water. Even the symbol of a Christian is a fish!"

School librarians need only stroll through a local Christian bookstore for prize ideas. Fish bumper stickers, magnets, and bookmarks would make inexpensive prizes.

"Kids in the reading program I saw were excited just to see their fish put up on the wall," Diane says. "The most expensive prize was the twenty-five dollar book certificates," she says, "but even those didn't cost the library anything because they were donated." A Christian school could seek similar donations. Diane suggests changing the theme and prizes from year to year. "Kids look forward to something different," she says.

Themes can be drawn from public libraries, as well as public schools. "So many themes for reading programs can be easily tied to the Bible," Diane says. "If you see something that works at a public library or school, maybe you can alter it a little and have the same success."

"One thing I've seen public libraries do and would recommend is awarding prizes based on hours spent reading rather than number of books read," Diane says. "You don't want to make kids feel bad just because they're slow readers."

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Diane Chalfant-Drury has worked in the Drake University Law Library in Des Moines, Iowa, and the Veterans Administration Medical Library in Kansas City, Missouri. She currently works in the Pleasant Hill Public Library in Pleasant Hill, Iowa, and volunteers in church libraries when she has spare time.

Ronica Stromberg is a freelance writer whose work has appeared in five books and numerous magazines, newspapers, and corporate newsletters.

Great Books for Those Who Grieve

by Dena J. Dyer

One out four of our pregnancies will end in miscarriage, according to most researchers. Other parents will experience stillbirth, infant crib death and even the violent deaths of their children. Spouses will lose their partners. People will lose their parents. These excellent resources have helped many through their grief processes:

Lord, Have You Forgotten Me? Thirty Devotionals to Encourage You When Life Lets You Down, by Judith Couchman (Word, 1992). This slim volume is full of hopeful meditations on God's goodness, faithfulness, and perfect sense of timing. She addresses unfulfilled dreams, shattered expectations, and grief with sensitivity, gentle humor, and down-to-earth advice. Each devotional includes a scripture from "God's perspective," space for a personal response, and probing questions to solidify the learning process.

A Severe Mercy, by Sheldon Vanauken (Harper and Row, 1987). In this lyrical, touching work, Vanauken, a personal friend of C. S. Lewis, shares his most intimate thoughts and poetry related to his wife's untimely death. He includes letters to and from Lewis, himself an expert on the grief that follows the loss of a loved one. *A Severe Mercy* won the National Religious Book Award and the Gold Medallion Award.

A Deeper Shade of Grace, by Bernadette Keaggy (Bethany House, 1993). A personal account of the author's struggle to conceive and carry a child to term after miscarrying five babies. *A Deeper Shade* is encouraging and full of hope—Keaggy and her husband eventually had three children. Phil Keaggy, the author's husband and a popular contemporary Christian musician, wrote the forward and included some of his song lyrics written during their struggle with loss and acceptance. A resource list in the back of

the book completes the volume.

The Ache for a Child, by Debra Bridwell (Victor Books, 1994), is a practical guide for grieving parents which focuses on the emotions, causes, and options of infertility. Bridwell went through six years of infertility before conceiving their son, Justin. Due to a later miscarriage, however, they also dealt with secondary infertility. The book is scripture based, with excellent questions for the reader at the end of each chapter. It also offers helpful back matter, including a handy index, resource list, and a bibliography.

When Empty Arms Become a Heavy Burden: Encouragement for Couples Facing Infertility, by Sandra Glahn and William Cutrer, M.D. (Broadman and Holman, 1997). Similar to Bridwell's book, except Glahn and Cutrer place more emphasis on the emotional, physical, and spiritual well-being of infertile couples. It includes many helpful resources and the only list the I have seen on what to do "When Everyone Says the Wrong Thing."

A Time to Be Born, by Julie Martin (Thomas Nelson, 1990). A volume of poems and journal entries from the author's experience with miscarriage and a second pregnancy, which she carried to term. Martin includes helpful scriptures and paraphrases of comforting passages.

I'll Hold You in Heaven: Healing and Hope for the Parent Who Has Lost a Child through Miscarriage, Stillbirth, Abortion or Early Infant Death, by Jack Hayford (Regal, 1990). Hayford offers comforting answers to theological questions such as "What happened to my baby after it died?" and "Will I ever see my baby again?" He does a good job of not going over readers' heads, and spends a lot of time on the dual issues of abortion and crisis pregnancy.

Tomorrow's Dream, by T. Davis Bunn and

Janette Oke (Bethany House, 1997). A lovely fictional account which follows a couple's journey through the chasm of grief following their baby's death due to a heart condition. Bunn's eye for detail and dialogue combine nicely with Oke's mastery of setting and spirituality.

A Path Through Suffering: Discovering the Relationship Between God's Mercy and Our Pain, by Elisabeth Elliot (Servant Publications, 1990). Elliot believes God allows his children to endure pain for four main reasons: for our own sake (that we may learn more of God), for the sake of God's people, for the world's sake (that they may see Christ in us) and for Christ's sake (that we may share His suffering and His glory). She uses the parable of a seed falling into the ground that it may bear much fruit to shed light on the correlation between death and life.

I'm Tired of Waiting, by Elisa Morgan (Victor Books, 1989). Morgan encourages readers to not postpone your life until you get what you want: "Life is now, as well as in the future. And God is in your wait as much as in your fulfillment." She addresses the wait for love, security, children, a new job, a second chance or a full life. In addition, she offers suggestions on how to make the most of the waiting time—by learning to trust, avoiding impatience and bitterness, becoming creative and allowing growth to occur.

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Rosalie's Precious Gift

by Lydia E. Harris

"For you created my inmost being; you knit me together in my mother's womb. I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made;...My frame was not hidden from you when I was made in the secret place. When I was woven together in the depths of the earth, your eyes saw my unformed body" (Psalm 139:13-15 NIV).

Rosalie Icenhower eagerly unwrapped her newborn bundle, expecting to see a rosy-cheeked cherub like her other three children. Instead, a small, round-faced baby with almond-shaped eyes peered out at her. Rosalie caught her breath, staring at her daughter in disbelief. She immediately recognized the features. Years earlier her forty-two-year-old mother had given birth to a baby girl with the same characteristics. Rosalie felt like someone had punched her in the stomach. "Why me, God?" she cried. Her new little treasure had Down syndrome.

Disappointment, dread, and denial engulfed thirty-four-year-old Rosalie. What did the future hold for her newborn? For the rest of her family? This was not the perfect baby she had prayed for. Yet, who was she to question God's plan?

Within minutes she laughed aloud, and her "Why me?" changed to "Why not me?" She didn't understand God's ways, but she cuddled her fragile baby and accepted Becky as a precious gift from Him.

Even though Rosalie accepted her Down syndrome daughter, she still prayed for a miracle. "God, please heal Becky," she begged many times. "Change her chromosomal makeup." She even bargained, "I'll give up my mental acuity for a normal baby." But God had His own plans for Becky. He hadn't made a mistake. Instead of healing Becky, God helped Rosalie overcome the hurdles of raising a disabled child. In time, she learned to trust and accept His ways. "God is sovereign," she said, "and we have to leave our loved ones in His

hands."

Now, thirty-six years later, Rosalie more fully understands God's sovereignty and His plan for Becky's life. She spoke with pride as we discussed Becky's achievements. "People are floored when they learn what Becky can accomplish with an IQ of only thirty-six," said Rosalie.

Becky moved to a group home in Lynden, Washington, at age nineteen and now lives in a supervised apartment with a Down syndrome roommate. She can read, write, and cook. She also attends church and works forty hours a week cleaning three Canadian border-crossing stations. Becky writes her own checks and keeps track of her money on the computer with Quicken, "which is more than some 'normal' people can do," Rosalie added with a smile.

Becky even saves money and travels abroad on supervised trips with other disabled adults. She has traveled to Scotland, England, and France, and is saving money for a trip to Denmark. "It's a pure gift from heaven that Becky takes adult responsibility for her work, money, home, and church," said Rosalie.

Even so, Rosalie admitted, "I wouldn't have chosen Becky. I would have chosen a perfect child." Then she quickly added, "But I would have missed the joy. There's a special joy, and I can't put my finger on it. But Becky lights up the room when she comes in." Becky loves life, giggles, and accepts everyone as her friends. She likes to play games, "but always changes the rules so she can win," added Rosalie with a chuckle.

As she spoke of Becky, Rosalie's brown eyes danced, her face often broke into a wide smile, and her comments were punctuated with frequent laughter. "I'm very enthusiastic about loving Becky," she said with no trace of self-pity. "In fact, I've always wondered why everybody isn't crazy about her." She laughed. "She's not

been a burden, she's been a joy." Even though Becky misbehaved, did childish things as all children do, and had upper respiratory health problems during her early years, that's not what Rosalie remembers most. She recalls the fun and joy Becky brought them and others. One time when Becky thought the family was acting too silly, she folded her arms, frowned, and asked, "Can't you people just act 'normal'?"

What has Rosalie learned from having a Down syndrome child? "To know and understand other people better and to consider those with handicaps as having the same worth as others," she said. "They are God's creation, and He sees them that way." Having a disabled child motivated Rosalie to return to college and study special education so she could teach others with developmental disabilities.

Because Rosalie and her family knew Becky was created in God's image, they weren't ashamed of her. "I loved her from the start, the same as my other children," said Rosalie. And Becky's siblings included her when they went to the movies, out for hamburgers, and even as a bridesmaid. Today, they continue to celebrate holidays together, and Becky buys gifts for all her little "matthews" (her word for nephews).

But Rosalie expressed concern that not everyone values individuals with Down syndrome and other disabilities. "They are becoming a vanishing breed or endangered species because mothers are aborting them," she said, her voice cracking. "They don't know the joy these children bring. Becky has been nothing but pure pleasure," she emphasized.

Now Rosalie has written a book she hopes will help others see the value of all life and prevent mothers from aborting their handicapped babies. Her new release, *Don't Sing Any Sad Songs: A Down Syndrome Daughter's Joyful Journey*, tells the story of Becky's life. Rosalie

dedicated the book "To all whose hopes and dreams are shattered by the birth of a handicapped child" and adds: "Remember that the quality of a musical score cannot be judged by the first note alone." Rosalie knows from experience.

Rosalie sees Becky's life as "an opus composed and orchestrated by our Father God alone." And "with such a director, how could anyone ... sing any sad songs?"

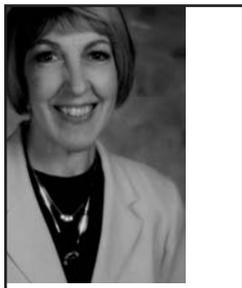
"But let all who take refuge in you be glad; let them ever sing for joy" (Psalm 5:11 NIV).

"All the days ordained for me were written in your book before one of them came to be. How precious to me are your thoughts, O God! How vast is the sum of them!" (Psalm 139:16-17 NIV).

Order Rosalie Icenhower's book, *Don't Sing Any Sad Songs: A Down Syndrome Daughter's Joyful Journey*, through Barnes & Noble, online at www.amazon.com or call the publisher, AmErica House: 1-877-333-7422.

Lydia E. Harris is a freelance writer from Seattle, Washington. © 2001 Lydia E. Harris.

School Librarian's Corner



..... Welcome back to the School Library Corner of
Christian Library Journal.

.....
by Leslie Greaves Radloff

As I opened the mailbox today various guides to the new musical season fell out. We have two major orchestras, an opera company, chamber music society, and many popular music venues nearby. There seems to be something for everyone's taste. As I considered programs, I thought about the similarity between musical offerings and school libraries.

In the school library we have diverse clientele with varied interests. There are the solo performers, teachers who ask for materials but would rather use them without our help; ensemble players who prefer to team with the media specialist for teaching; beginning performers, students who are developing into proficient researchers and users of the library and technology, working alongside other students who are extremely capable; all needing materials for research, reports, and recreational reading along with guidance in how to use them, while we like the conductor, need to keep them together.

Musical scales are used to create pieces of music that can be played. We can compare running a media center to a C Major scale, one that has no sharps or flats. Doing so will help us progress through the school year without varying from our goal: Providing the best possible service and materials for our users while also providing context and framework for learning library skills, and teaching students how to choose materials for various reasons with different goals in mind.

With that comparison in mind, here are my C Major thoughts about our role as school

librarians or media specialists. Remember: C Major scales begin and end on C following the letters C, D, E, F, G, A, B, C with no sharps or flats.

C: Commitment. Commitment to the students and teachers of the school in which you are librarian. This means making choices for their good and working with them for optimum teaching and learning. It means commitment to doing the best job you can with the available resources, financing, and time. Commitment means looking at continuing education, not only more classes in library science, but perhaps computer and Internet classes along with workshops in children's literature.

D: Develop and dedication. Develop the collection to support the curriculum. Develop lessons plans around the materials in the collection. If your classroom teachers have extra teacher manuals ask to see the lists of resources found in them, and if your collection doesn't have the titles listed, either because they are too new or too old, find alternate titles in your collection and make the teachers aware of them. Then add some of the titles you've seen to your book consideration list. Develop media skills lessons for different grade levels that will build on what the classroom teacher has done. Better yet, work together to teach the lessons so the students see a reason for learning a particular skill. Dedicate yourself to doing the best job you can.

E: Eager and enthusiastic. Be eager to learn from the students as well as being able to teach them. Eagerly share your love of books and reading. Be eager to find materials for your teachers and to encourage them to use them and think outside the box.

Eagerly share your expertise with others. Put up new library displays to interest people in the materials in the library with enthusiasm so others catch your enthusiasm for literature. Let that same enthusiasm be heard in your voice as you read aloud and when you talk about the media center and its collection.

F: Fun. Have fun with the teachers and students who come into the media center. Plan special events to celebrate author's birthdays, May Day, Christmas, seasons, Children's Book Week, National Library Week, Poetry Month, Teen Read, International Literacy Day, Valentine's and St. Patrick's Day. More ideas to celebrate can be month in a teacher's day book, or Instructor magazine. Last spring we celebrated May Day with a May pole and read spring stories. We also read beach stories on beach blankets in the heart of our long, cold spell last winter. We dress up as favorite book characters and one day I donned a Ms Frizzle costume to read to lower grade classes. It was hard to say who had more fun, the kids or me.

G: Grants. Look into grant writing as a way to supplement your media center budget. There are a number of grant writing courses offered at local colleges and community education classes in our area. Most large metropolitan areas would have the same options. Search the net, contact businesses that have made a strong commitment to education and talk about your media center's goals and needs.

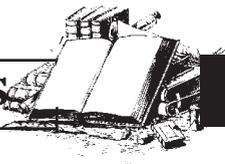
A: Authors. Arrange for local authors to come in and meet the students, have them read their work aloud in a comfy corner; ask them to autograph their books for the media

center. Seek out authors as they come to your area and ask them to autograph books from the school collection; then make a point of showing these to teachers and students. Focus on local and state authors along with children's and teachers' favorites. Highlight a new author whose books you like and whose style is worth noting. Remember the student authors and highlight their work too. Many classroom teachers would like an extra hand with Writer's Workshop, so volunteer to help. Many would also welcome a place to display students' works. What better place than the library? Finally, develop your own voice as a writer.

B: Books. Display new books and materials in the library media center attractively. Decorate a table, forget the rule about food and drink in the library and serve cookies and punch. Make a point to invite the principal to see what the library media center has to offer-remember media centers offer more than books. Keep a list of what kinds of books the teachers and principal enjoy, their favorite authors and genre, then when a new book comes in write a note on a post it attach to the book and put it in that person's mailbox. Promote what you have and don't fail to mention what you'd like to see in the center.

C: Curriculum. School libraries support school curriculum. Become a part of the teams that discuss curriculum. Know what's being taught in the various grade levels. Ask teachers and students what kinds of support and supplemental materials they would like to see in the collection, then make sure to buy some of the things suggested. Be sure to point them out to the people who suggested them when displaying new materials.

While I can't promise you a masterwork or a magnum opus if you use these ideas, I can guarantee a smoother school year. These ideas will help you keep your focus. Think of your own ideas for the scale, and then improvise on the theme. Your variations can tailor the idea for your special circumstances.



★

***A baby born in Bethlehem*, by Martha Whitmore Hickman. LCCN 9854354. Morton Grove, Illinois: Albert Whitman, 1999. ISBN 0807555223, HBB, \$15.95.**

E. Jesus Christ—Nativity. Bible Stories—N.T. unsp.

When the angel visits Mary to deliver the news of her coming son, he assures her he is from God and that she should not be afraid. As she and Joseph prepare for the child, they must travel to Bethlehem to be registered in the census. They search wearily for a room, but find they are filled for the night. One innkeeper offers his stable as at least a warm and dry, albeit meager, place. As Mary has been feeling, the baby comes that night. Upon hearing the news of His birth, shepherds journey to see the newborn king. Wise men also, who have studied the stars, note the bright new star. They travel to find Jesus, and bring Him gifts of praise.

This straightforward telling of the birth of Christ is true to scripture and well told by Martha Hickman. Giuliano Ferri has created an atmosphere of wonder and worship with his light, airy watercolor and pencil illustrations. For example, the awe in Mary's face when the angel visits her is unmistakable. The illumination of the scene with the angel is striking. This book is must have for those looking for a telling of the nativity that is scriptural and without bias.

Carol M. Jones, Librarian, South Side Elementary School and Marquette Pre-K Center, Champaign, Illinois

***Big Daddy, frog wrestler*, written by Maribeth Boelts; illustrated by Benrei Huang. LCCN 99016677. Morton Grove, Ill.: Albert Whitman, 2000. HBB, 0807507172, \$14.95.**

E. Wrestling—Fiction; Frogs—Fiction; Fathers and sons—Fiction. unsp.

Curtis, a young, muscular Iowan frog, wrestles with his father, Big Daddy, after work each night. They watch wrestling first and cheer for their favorite wrestlers, then try different moves on the living room floor. Big Daddy always compliments Curtis on his big muscles, emphasizing that he's the strongest little frog in town.

One day Curtis finds an old dusty box in the attic filled with his dad's wrestling trophies, medals, and ribbons, and realizes his father was once famous. Curtis can't help but spread the word around the neighborhood, and "Soon there were backyard wrestling matches every night. Big Daddy won every one with time on the clock to spare."

However, just before bed, Big Daddy does his favorite things; reads three books to Curtis,

scratches his back just right, and searches for monsters under his bed.

As the crowds fill the back yard a wrestling agent asks Big Daddy to go on a world tour. If Big Daddy goes, Curtis must stay with his Grandma. This is a difficult choice for all involved. Children will enjoy hearing the outcome of this warm, appealing story, which illustrates an ideal and loving relationship between father and son. Big Daddy is tough and strong to the world, yet gentle, kind and caring to his young son at home.

Huang's warmly drawn illustrations of Big Daddy and Curtis playing and sharing together strengthen this well-done story. The American Library Association chose *Big Daddy Frog Wrestler* as a Top 10 Youth Sports Book for ages four to eight, in the September 2000 issue of *Booklist* magazine.

Gail Welborn, Freelance Writer/Reporter, Everett, Washington

***Bless this day : toddler prayers*, text by Anne E. Kitch; illustrated by Joni Oeltjenbruns; cover and page design by Annika L. Chiodi. LCCN 00710307. Harrisburg, Pa.: Morehouse, 2000. PBB, 0819218275, \$6.95.**

E. Children—Prayer-books and devotions; Prayers.

Bless This Day is a delightful collection of short prayers and an accompanying Bible verse. The illustrations are bright, colorful, and eye-catching. Pictures are of familiar objects/persons that may assist in teaching new words to toddlers. The combined prayer with a Bible verse is particularly well done in that the reader may instill God's word into the heart of the toddler in a fun and comfortable way.

Tammy Williams, Social Worker/Freelance Writer, Port Orchard, Washington

***A cat in the stable*, Troon Harrison; illustrated by Benrei Huang. LCCN 00054316. Minneapolis: Augsburg, Augsburg Fortress, 2001. HBB, 080664057X, \$17.99.**

E. Cats—Fiction; Christmas—Fiction; Christian life—Fiction. unsp.

Can warmth be found in a stable? In a Crèche? When five-year-old Sophie's cat, Muffin, dies, she prays that Muffin will come back to life again. Harrison weaves a story of the birth of Christ and the miracle that Sophie prays for. The surprise as the story develops brings both Sophie's hope alive and the wonders Christmas can make possible. The storyline keeps one reading as the surprise unfolds in an unexpected way.

Huang's multi-color, full-page illustrations convey both the inner spirit and the outward details that make up life. Parents and children are sure to delight in the inviting colors, and how easy it is to pick up the moods of the story characters.

This title is recommended for parents and children to read together, for Christian preschools and libraries.

Leroy Hommerding, Director, Fort Myers Beach P.L. District, Fort Myers, Florida

***Coyote and badger : desert hunters of the southwest*, Bruce Hiscock. LCCN 00102356. Honesdale, Pa.: Boyds Mills, 2001. HBB, 1563978482, \$15.95.**

E. Animals—Fiction. unsp.

Told in fictional form, but incorporating facts, *Coyote and Badger: Desert Hunters of the Southwest* tells the story of a unique animal partnership. These two animals hunt together for food one dry desert summer, helping each other feed and keeping nature in balance.

Coyote, an old hunter, and Badger, mother of two hungry pups, are both in need of more food as the rainless summer drags on in Chaco Canyon of New Mexico. Meeting one day, they quickly recognize the assistance they can provide each other in hunting. The partnership is successful with badger flushing the prey, usually rodents, out of the small holes and coyote making the kill. Soon after they must part, the rains come bringing fresh life to the parched canyon.

The story is well told, with aspects of natural life and death dealt with in a way that shows the reality without becoming unpleasant. Chaco Canyon, where the story is set, also contains the remains of Anasazi Indian dwellings, and this fact is touched on in the text. End material gives more facts about the coyote - badger partnership and about the Anasazi culture. The full-color pictures are nicely done and enhance the text. The book would be a good addition to any juvenile literature collection.

Betsy Ruffin, Librarian/Teacher, Cleburne, Texas

***Dirt boy*, by Erik Jon Slangerup; illustrated by John Manders. LCCN 99039124. Morton Grove, Ill.: Albert Whitman, 2000. HBB, 0807544248, \$15.95.**

E. Cleanliness—Fiction; Baths—Fiction; Runaways—Fiction; Giants—Fiction. unsp.

Wallowing in mud inspires and delights youngsters of all ages, but bath time often does not. This read-a-loud tale for primary grades, by Erik Jon Slangerup, tells the story of Fister who

becomes Dirt Boy when he runs away from home, bath time, and his "clean and mean mother." He escapes to the forest and unknowingly falls asleep in the belly button of Dirt Man, The Giant who hasn't had a bath in over a thousand years. When the giant awakes and sees how dirty Fister is, they become instant friends, enjoying the black dirt and squishy mud together. As Dirt Boy's hair becomes tangled with grime and mud, a bird makes a nest in the debris on the right side of his head, while country mice snuggle in on the other side. When purple mushrooms sprout up from between his toes and stray weeds curl from his nose, Dirt Boy begins to feel icky and slimy and starts to cry. Soon even the birds and mice complain and when Dirt Boy opens his mouth a thick, green cloud of smell comes forth. "Peeee yuuuu," say the mice. Dirt Man, The Giant sniffs and says "Delicious," and inhales as hard as he can, sucking in trees, boulders, rivers, and clouds. Dirt Boy's alarm turns to fear and he races home to his mother, who is watering the garden and doesn't recognize him. Is it Fister or isn't it?

This book is filled with sensory words and is an excellent tool to teach the concept of cleanliness. John Manders illustrates the story with hilarious paintings of mud, worms, giants, and a bedraggled Fister. The attractive book jacket features Fister with mice and birds nesting in his long, dirty hair. A fun-read for after bath time.

Gail Welborn, Freelance Writer/Reporter, Everett, Washington

Eagle boy : a Pacific Northwest tale, by Richard Lee Vaughan; illustrated by Lee Christiansen. LCCN 00029663. Seattle, Wash.: Sasquatch Books, 2000. HBB, 1570611718, \$16.95.

E. Indians of North America--Northwest, Pacific--Fiction; Eagles--Fiction; Northwest, Pacific--Fiction. unip.

Richard Lee Vaughan retells the legend of Eagle Boy. The tale is based on Pacific Northwest Coast Native American lore about an orphan boy, his tribe and his endearing friendship with Eagles. When Eagle Boy shares his daily catch of fish with majestic Eagles who soar overhead, villagers scorn him. He loves the majestic birds with snow-white heads, particularly when they glide over the sparkling Northwest waters only to suddenly dive into the deep waters and rise with a large, silver fish held tight in their talons. When food becomes scarce during the winter, the tribe decides to move to better fishing grounds and leave Eagle Boy behind. Eagle Boy stands alone on the beach and wonders if he will starve. Kwish-Kwish-ee, eldest daughter of the tribal chief mocks as the canoe pules from shore, "Let your friends the eagles feed you." However, Chuh-coo-duh-bee, her younger sister, "slipped Eagle Boy a piece of dried fish so he wouldn't go hungry."

Alone, he ate the dried fish, then curled up on the beach to the sound of waves caressing the

shore to dream of Eagles soaring in the sunshine, "swooping over huge piles of fish." In his dreams he flew with them. This must-finish story for youngsters is not one to leave until the next night as children eagerly learn what decisions Eagle Boy will make.

Lee Christiansen's well-drawn, bold illustrations bring form and substance to the story and enable ages four to eight to understand a different culture. They will learn how magnificent and powerful eagles are, and are sure to empathize with Eagle Boy. This enriching tale teaches the values of friendship, trust and forgiveness and will touch hearts of youngsters as Eagle Boy goes from outcast to hero.

Gail Welborn, Freelance Writer/Reporter, Everett, Washington

Elliot digs for treasure, written and illustrated by Andrea Beck.. (An Elliot Moose story..) LCCN C009328599. Toronto: Kids Can Press, Kids Can Press, 2001. HBB, 1550748068, \$12.95.

E. Buried treasure--Fiction; Moose--Fiction. 32 p.

Elliot Moose has found a treasure map with a large "X" marked on it in Elliot Digs For Treasure. And now he is digging for the wondrous treasure. As Elliot digs, his friends come by, one by one, and get into the hole to help him dig. The friends speculate about what marvelous things might be in the hole. Perhaps it is gold coins or jewels. Soon the hole is so deep that only Elliot's ears are visible. Angel comes along asking about the treasure and the map. When Elliot shows her the map, Angel recognizes it as a map of Lionel's garden and the "x" marks the spot for a tree - a very tiny tree. All the friends agree that at least the hole would help Lionel but then they all realize that the hole was so big they will not be able to climb out. Beaverton devises a truly ingenious way to get them out and everyone gets home in time for supper.

Andrea Beck founded her own plush toy company after graduating from college. The drawings for Elliot Digs For Treasure are wonderfully soft looking stuffed animals using pencil crayon colors in clear, but not too bright, tones. Treasure hunting is an activity that we all engage in, even as adults digging for information so the concept of a treasure hunt will capture imaginations young and old. Young children will appreciate the story built around familiar stuffed animals that have innocent adventures. This book would make a nice addition to collections about friendship and curiosity.

Barbara Anne Wall, School Librarian System, Orange Ulster BOCES, Monroe, New York

Emily and Alice baby-sit Burton, written by Joyce Champion; illustrated by Joan Parazette.. LCCN 99006187. New York: Harcourt, Harcourt, 2001. HBB, 0152021841, \$14.00.

E. Babysitters--Fiction; Dogs--Fiction. unip.

Emily and Alice stick together, written by Joyce Champion; illustrated by Suecie Stevenson.. LCCN 99006210. New York: Harcourt, Harcourt, 2001. PAP, 0152021892, \$5.95.

E. Best friends--Fiction. unip.

Emily and Alice, best friends, Joyce Champion; illustrated by Suecie Stevenson.. LCCN 99006209. New York: Harcourt, Harcourt, 2001. PAP, 0152021981, \$5.95.

E. Best friends--Fiction. unip.

Emily and her best friend, Alice, are eager to baby-sit. They gather business cards, a stroller, toys, and even peanut butter cookies. Their first baby turns out to be Burton the bulldog. The adventure that follows enables Emily and Alice to learn a lot about babysitting.

This is book three of the Emily and Alice series and can be read as a stand-alone title. With reinforced trade binding, the hardcover edition with withstand more wear and tear than the paperback editions of Emily and Alice Best Friends (1993; 2001) and Emily and Alice Stick Together (1995; 2001).

The stories offer children a chance to learn and laugh. The pen-and-ink and watercolor illustrations add delight and a fast pace.

Recommended for Christian school libraries, and for parents and children reading together.

Leroy Hommerding, Director, Fort Myers Beach P.L. District, Fort Myers, Florida

Emma Jo's song, by Faye Gibbons; illustrated by Sherry Meidel. LCCN 00101647. Honesdale, Pa.: Boyds Mills, 2001. HBB, 1563979357, \$15.95.

E. Singing--Fiction. unip.

Emma Jo and her family are going to the Puckett reunion. The Pucketts love to sing and make music and everyone is preparing to perform except Emma Jo, who "hasn't found her gift yet" according to Grandpa. The one who seems to enjoy her singing the most is Rip, the hound dog who howls every time she sings. Emma talks her parent into leaving Rip home because she is afraid that he will embarrass her.

At the reunion everyone has a fine time. There is plenty of fun, food, and music. The family gathers in the parlor to have a sing-a-long that is going very well and anyone who wants to gets to perform. Finally, Emma is asked to sing the last song. She timidly stands beside the piano to sing her favorite, "This Little Light of Mine." Even though her brother Tom is at the piano to help and encourage her, she is having a hard time until through the open window she hears a familiar howl.

Emma Jo's Song by Faye Gibbons is a delightful tale that will evoke memories of family and reunions in those who read it. The illustrations by Sherry Meidell are charming and colorful. Children will not only appreciate the lively pictures but will laugh at Emma Jo's dilemma and empathize with her desire to overcome her

shyness and share her talent. This is an especially sweet story for children who have grown up in a Christian home with its emphasis on the hymns and choruses that are a part of a Christian heritage.

Teresa O'Donley, *Library Media Specialist, Baymonte Christian School, Scotts Valley, California*

Four hungry kittens, Emily Arnold McCully. LCCN 99088779. New York: Dial Books for Young Readers, Penguin Putnam, 2001. HBB, 0803725051, \$15.99.

E. Cats--Fiction; Stories without words. unip. PB.

This wordless picture books was made for young animal lovers. In her usual warm style Emily Arnold McCully tells a story through illustration in her new book, *Four Hungry Kittens*. These young farm kittens try to patiently wait for their mama to return from her hunting, playing and scampering about in the barn as the farmer tends to his chores, getting into trouble in their mama's absence. It's a good thing the farm dog is keeping an eye on these precocious felines as they get into one adventure after another, being just one step from disaster.

Youngsters will no doubt relate to the difficulty of being still while waiting, as they follow the kittens to the satisfying conclusion. It's clear to see why McCully has been awarded so many honors. The sunny, witty drawings speak volumes on their own, allowing any young pre-reader to fill in the story. McCully fans will want to add this one to their collection, and it is a fine addition to any pre-schooler's library read list.

Pam Webb, *School Library Technician, Sandpoint, Idaho*

Franklin's Thanksgiving, story based on characters created by Paulette Bourgeois and Brenda Clark; illustrated by Brenda Clark.. LCCN C009333495. Toronto: Kids Can Press, Kids Can Press, 2001. HBB, 1550747983, \$10.95.

E. Thanksgiving--Fiction. 32 p.

Franklin's family is going to have a very different Thanksgiving this year. The family traditions are being broken because Grandma and Grandpa are not coming to visit. It just won't be the same with just the four of Franklin's immediate family. But, with all the jars of jams and preserves, Franklin's father notes that the family could feed the whole town! Franklin takes this to heart and invites Mr. Owl, his teacher, to Thanksgiving dinner. What Franklin does not know is that his Mother and Father are also inviting guests to Thanksgiving dinner.

Based on characters created by Paulette Bourgeois and illustrator Brenda Clark, author Sharon Jennings has created a warm story about friends, family, and sharing. Franklin's turtle family joins with friends and neighbors in the forest community to have a very special Thanksgiving celebration. Franklin's Thanksgiving offers positive reinforcement of the real meaning of this American holiday –

sharing and being with family and friends. Brenda Clark's illustrations enhance the warmth of the story. The colors used are vivid, bright and attractive. Children will be drawn to the details on each page. Franklin's Thanksgiving is a pleasant addition to the holiday genre.

Barbara Anne Wall, *School Librarian System, Orange Ulster BOCES, Monroe, New York*

Granny Mae's Christmas play, Bob Hartman; illustrated by Lynne Cravath.. LCCN 2001018195. Minneapolis: Augsburg, Augsburg Fortress, 2001. HBB, 0806640634, \$16.99.

E. Jesus Christ--Nativity--Fiction; Christmas--Fiction; Theater--Fiction; Family life--Fiction. unip.

Readers are treated to a do-it-yourself nativity pageant that the whole family is participating in. Sunday school classes will get ideas to do their own impromptu Christmas play. The story enables parents to share with children how something can be very special in the midst of everyday, ordinary life. What I find particularly inviting is how special Christmas becomes with Jesus as the center, but this happens without any preaching or being something that is out of the ordinary.

Cravath's colorful illustrations add color to the everyday items used in the pageant, and stimulate seeing more than is on the page. Children will pick up the book again just to linger through the illustrations.

This title is recommended for parents and children to read together, for Christian preschools and libraries.

Leroy Hommerding, *Director, Fort Myers Beach P.L. District, Fort Myers, Florida*

Hi, I'm Black Beary : the fruit of the Spirit is peace, by Melody Carlson; illustrations by Ben Mahan. (Beary patch bears.) Wheaton, Ill.: Crossway Books, Good News Publishers, 2000. PBB, 1581341822, \$7.99.

E. Bears--Fiction; Peace--Fiction. unip.

Hi, I'm Huckle Beary : the fruit of the Spirit is love, by Melody Carlson; illustrations by Ben Mahan. (Beary patch bears.) Wheaton, Ill.: Crossway Books, Good News Publishers, 2000. PBB, 1581341806, \$7.99.

E. Bears--Fiction; Love--Fiction. unip.

Hi, I'm Razz Beary : the fruit of the Spirit is joy, by Melody Carlson; illustrations by Ben Mahan. (Beary patch bears.) Wheaton, Ill.: Crossway Books, Good News Publishers, 2000. PBB, 1581341814, \$7.99.

E. Bears--Fiction; Joy--Fiction. unip.

Hi, I'm Blue Beary : the fruit of the Spirit is goodness, by Melody Carlson; illustrations by Ben Mahan. (Beary patch bears.) Wheaton, Ill.: Crossway Books, Good News Publishers, 2001. PBB, 1581342430, \$7.99.

E. Bears--Fiction; Goodness--Fiction. unip.

Hi, I'm Mull Beary : the fruit of the Spirit is patience, by Melody Carlson; illustrations by Ben Mahan. (Beary patch bears.) Wheaton, Ill.: Crossway Books, Good News Publishers, 2001. PBB, 1581342381, \$7.99.

E. Bears--Fiction; Patience--Fiction. unip.

A group of bears living in friendly woods gives an introduction to each of the fruits of the Spirit, as found in Galatians 5:22-23, in this series by Melody Carlson, a former pre-school teacher. In *Hi, I'm Razz Beary*, Razz Beary is not happy at first. Just the opposite, she is sad and complaining, but God puts joy into her heart. Her behavior is changed, and she encourages her friends and the reader to be joyful also. The other books in the series follow a similar pattern with the pre and post behavior illustrating the stated fruit of the Spirit.

These board books are illustrated by Ben Mahan with the humanized bears shown in full color drawings. They are good beginning books, sturdy in construction and appealing in presentation. The concepts are simply presented in ways most young readers or listeners will understand, and the short length and predictable text can help keep their attention. These are good books to use with pre-school children and groups.

Betsy Ruffin, *Librarian/Teacher, Cleburne, Texas*

Jesus, this is your life, edited by Jeff Kunkel. Minneapolis: Augsburg, Augsburg Fortress, 2001. HBB, 0806641657, \$12.99.

E. Jesus Christ--Biography.

Kunkel, as an artist and minister, invited forty children from age five to twelve, and from diverse ethnic, religious and social backgrounds, to write a biblical story in their own words and then draw or paint the story as they imagined it. The result is *Jesus, This is Your Life*. Kunkel has added the biblical reference for each of the twenty stories.

The unique perspectives of children and the uncanny adaptations of the stories make this an adventure. The four-color illustrated stories come alive in both print and color. This title is recommended for Christian preschools, for Christian home reading, and for Christian school libraries.

Leroy Hommerding, *Director, Fort Myers Beach P.L. District, Fort Myers, Florida*

Just in case you ever wonder, Max Lucado; illustrated by Rosanne Kaloustian. LCCN 00066854. Nashville: T. Nelson, Thomas Nelson, 2001. HBB, 084997612X, \$15.99.

E. Parent and child--Fiction; Christian life--Fiction. unip.

If there is one thing that children can never get enough of, it's assurances from their parents about their love for them. It's important to share with them who made them and why, what it is about them that makes them so special, and that

we will always be with them, whether here on earth, or in His presence with them in Heaven.

Just In Case You Ever Wonder by Max Lucado grew out of eight years of bedtime promises made to his three daughters. Max Lucado takes the basic premise of what we like best about our children, and flourishes that notion to the specific feelings he has for and about his children. Parents of kids of all ages will appreciate this simple approach to how to share with our children thoughts and feelings that we take for granted they already know and believe. The illustrations are drawn by Toni Goffe, and while they may not always follow the storyline directly, each page provides the parents with pictures that can lead to very open discussions detailing how the parents feel about their child, and what they want them to always remember.

Rick Estep, Media Director, HeavenBound Media Center

Little Badger, terror of the seven seas, written by Eve Bunting; illustrated by LeUyen Pham. LCCN 0008451. San Diego: Harcourt, 2001. HBB, 015202395X, \$15.00.

E. Pirates--Fiction; Imagination--Fiction; Badgers--Fiction. unp.

Little Badger sets out for adventure on the high seas. As he waddles through the forest, he imagines himself a pirate balancing on the deck of his ship as it is tossed to and fro. His forest friends ask him why he is walking so strangely and laugh when Little Badger announces his new identity. But the teasing doesn't bother him for he has a secret. Old Badger has told Little Badger that he can be or do anything he wishes in his imagination - just as long as he is home in time for supper.

Eve Bunting's whimsical tale, *Little Badger, Terror of the Seven Seas*, is a charmer. The text contains just the right amount of pirate personality to encourage the parent or teacher to take dramatic liberty in the reading. Little Badger is a confident character with enough pluck to withstand the taunts of his good-natured fellows in the forest. He knows something that gives him freedom within his boundaries. Little Badger marches on, using his fertile imagination to turn a frog into a colorful parrot, a field of bluebells into a raging sea, and an old hollow log into a fierce pirate ship.

A perfect marriage of author and illustrator abilities is found within the book's covers. LeUyen Pham's delightful illustrations convey the character's persona exactly as the text communicates. Pham has successfully given playful human traits to the animals that will make every reader smile. Careful attention to detail on pages bursting with color provides new discoveries at each read. Especially interesting is the illustrator's technique of adding an opaque, phantom-like depiction of an imaginary hat, eye-patch, or accessory needed to complete Little Badger's pirate apparel. An adventure for the imagination that is recommended reading.

Cathy M. Elliott, Freelance Writer, Anderson, California

Mama's way, by Helen Ketteman; pictures by Mary Whyte. LCCN 00022929. New York: Dial Books for Young Readers, Penguin Putnam, 2001. HBB, 0803724136, \$15.99.

E. Clothing and dress--Fiction; Mothers and daughters--Fiction. unp.

Mama's Way centers on Wyonna who desires a beautiful white graduation dress, only times are tough in her household these days, and it's clear she is going to have to make do with a hand-me-down from a friend. Her selfish outbursts put even more burden on her overworked mother, and in the end when the means for Wyonna to get what she so desired become available she not only regrets her angry words she realizes what sacrifice is all about.

This touching story touches on the age-old theme of desire, regret, and realization. It has an old-fashioned feel to it; however, the expressive watercolor illustrations of Mary Whyte place the story in a modern day setting, which is somewhat disconcerting. Another concern not readily explained is the absence of Wyonna's father, and how a mother of three could support the family with just income from cleaning houses and sewing. These minor concerns do not take away from the warm, thought-provoking, timeless lesson of love and sacrifice.

Pam Webb, School Library Technician, Sandpoint, Idaho

Max cleans up, by Rosemary Wells. LCCN 99462098. New York: Viking, Penguin Putnam, 2000. HBB, 0670892181, \$15.99.

E. Orderliness--Fiction; Brothers and sisters--Fiction; Toddlers--Fiction; Rabbits--Fiction. unp.

Max is an adorable, cuddly bunny with a big problem. His room is a mess! There's a popsicle in his shoe and sand all over the floor from his dump truck. Ruby, Max's sister, tries to help him tidy up the clutter, but discovers that Max has a plan, and mind, of his own. Rosemary Wells, charmingly simple story follows the sibling rabbits as they approach the task from two very different perspectives.

Max Cleans Up is a wonderful book for young children. The uncomplicated plot allows young listeners to easily follow the action, and Wells, delightfully accessible characters will capture their interest. Her illustrations clearly depict the building suspense and will remind children of their own reactions to being told to clean their rooms. A three dimensional effect is added through Wells, use of string, rubber ants, bird gravel, and other items in her artwork. Max's room looks really messy! The familiarity of Max and Ruby's differing viewpoints will provide parents and teachers with a springboard from which to discuss the importance of taking care of ones belongings and the value of keeping things in order.

Lillian Heytvelt, Librarian, Pomeroy, Washington

Mirette and Bellini cross Niagara Falls, by Emily Arnold McCully. LCCN 99029307. New York: Putnam, Penguin Putnam, 2000. HBB, 0399233482, \$15.99.

E. Aerialists--Fiction; Immigrants--Fiction. unp.

Readers will welcome back Mirette and Bellini, the world famous wire walkers from Emily Arnold McCully's Caldecott Award-winning *Mirette on the High Wire*. This time the daredevil duo sail to America where they have accepted an invitation to cross Niagara Falls. During the passage across the Atlantic, Emily and Bellini practice on deck. Far down below, in the steerage section of the ship, Emily notices a young boy watching. He appears again the next day and the two develop a friendship. Emily learns that Jakob is Polish, an orphan, and on his way to New York to meet his Uncle.

Upon reaching America, Mirette and Bellini take responsibility for Jakob when no one comes to meet him. He accompanies them to Niagara Falls where they discover that a man named Mr. Patch has challenged them. He claims he will perform a feat that no one has ever attempted on the high wire. Jakob is suspicious of Patch and on the day of the crossing positions himself where he can watch closely. Sure enough, Patch is a cheat and a crook, but before Jakob can warn Bellini and Mirette, they already start across the wire.

Despite a few very perilous moments, all ends well however, and the newspapers carry pictures of the event and of Jakob. His uncle, Menachem, who had waited and waited at the wrong boat, recognizes the pictures of Jacob and is reunited with his nephew.

McCully has successfully woven many threads together in this story. The reader is engaged not only by the challenge of tight-rope walking across Niagara Falls, but also by the subplot of Jakob and the ordeal that many immigrants faced upon reaching America. McCully was inspired to create the character of Bellini by the real life nineteenth-century wire-walker named Blondin, who had to deal not only with an impostor, but with sabotage as well, when he crossed Niagara Falls. McCully's wonderful water color illustrations vividly portray the nineteenth-century world in which the story is set and the challenges Mirette and Bellini face.

Lillian Heytvelt, Librarian, Pomeroy, Washington

On a wintry morning, by Doris Chaconas; illustrated by Stephen Johnson. LCCN 99089535. New York: Viking, Penguin Putnam, 2000. HBB, 0670892349, \$15.99.

E. Fathers and daughters--Fiction; Sleighing--Fiction; Stories in rhyme. unp.

Dori Chaconas writes a charming father-daughter story of a morning sleigh ride in rhyme for ages one to four. For example, "Daddy, take the baby out, Take your bonny baby out, Show the baby all about, On a wintry morning." The easy rhythm of the words will enchant youngsters of all ages. Stephen T. Johnson, award-winning illustrator of the Caldecott

Honor book, *Alphabet City*, draws Baby with realism and charm. The sparkling blue eyes and four baby teeth framed in Baby's dimpled smile as she waves goodbye will enchant and delight the reader and children being read to. His graphic illustrations bring warm memories of a child's patience when anticipating a wonderful event. Colorful images of Daddy and Baby sledding down the hillside with Baby's arms outstretched in glee make a delightful picture enhanced by words in rhyme. Then Baby is entranced by her own shadow while looking for bunny tracks in the snow before harnessing the horse. All the pictures are wonderful, but one of the best portrays Daddy and Baby making angels in the snow with arms outstretched. You see their pleasure and share their love for one another as they stare warmly into each other's eyes. This enchanting picture-story depicts the warmth and love between a father and daughter. Its charm is enhanced by vivid and beautifully drawn illustrations that portray the rhyming story and bring it to life. This book is an excellent bedtime book to cuddle up to.

Gail Welborn, Reporter/freelance Writer, Everett, Washington

Poppleton has fun, by Cynthia Rylant; illustrated by Mark Teague. LCCN 99029039. New York: Blue Sky Press, Scholastic, 2000. HBB, 0590848399, \$15.95.

E. Pigs--Fiction; Animals--Fiction; Friendship--Fiction; Quilts--Fiction. 52 p.

Poppleton Has Fun is the seventh book in Cynthia Rylant's latest series for beginning readers. Also the author of the Henry and Mudge, and Mr. Putter series, Rylant has created another engaging character in Poppleton. He is a dapper pig, often dressed in a sport coat and bow tie, who has a number of adventures with his neighbor, a llama named Cherry Sue. This time, in the first chapter, Poppleton decides to see a movie but can find no one to go with him. He goes anyway, but discovers that it isn't nearly as much fun without someone to share the experience. After relating it all to Cherry Sue, he vows never to go to a movie alone again.

In chapter two Poppleton and Cherry Sue visit a fair and are fascinated by the quilts they see there. They decide to get together with their friends Hudson and Fillmore and make their own. Each one brings something unique to contribute. As they sew, they tell stories. Cherry Sue tells about the time she dyed her hair green! At the end of the day the four friends are proud of the beautiful quilt they have created and decide to take turns keeping it. In the last chapter Poppleton shares how his favorite thing to do is soak in the tub, preferably a tub scented with good bath stuff. One day he runs out of his favorite stuff and asks Cherry Sue if he can borrow some of hers. He is astounded to learn that she doesn't soak, she showers. She offers him blueberries, cinnamon, and vanilla, all of which make him hungry. He is inspired to do

without a soak, and instead, invites Cherry Sue out for a banana split.

Mark Teague's artwork adds to the fun. He brings each character to life with marvelous expressions and his engaging illustrations take up most of each page. The simple language and humorous, everyday experiences in this book will keep beginning readers turning the pages and asking for more Poppleton.

Lillian Heytvelt, School Librarian/Teacher, Pomeroy, Washington

The prayer chain, Kimberly Williams Shaw; illustrated by Richard Stergulz. LCCN 00044267. Colorado Springs: Faith Kids, Cook Communications, 2000. HBB, 0781434246, \$14.99.

E. Prayer--Fiction; Mothers and daughters--Fiction; Christmas--Fiction.

Eight-year-old Jessie watches the last piece of wood burn in the fireplace and worries that it will be even colder tomorrow on Christmas day. Although she is excited to open the lone package nestled beneath the sparsely decorated tree, Jessie is unable to keep her misgivings about their lack of firewood from overtaking her thoughts.

Jessie and Mother give thanks after receiving good news from a member of the church prayer chain. Jessie writes the answer to the prayer on a slip of paper and adds it to the glass jar already full of answered prayers.

When it begins to snow, Jessie's concern grows and she prays with Mother, asking for help. On Christmas morning, Jessie finds that God has answered their prayer with a huge load of wood. She then has a bright idea that turns their Christmas from barren to beautiful.

Readers will appreciate this sweet, sincere story by Kimberly Williams Shaw. Rather than depicting a picture-perfect family, it features a widowed mom and her child struggling to meet their basic needs. Tucked into the story is the joy of caring for the needs of others even while casting one's cares on God. Central to the book is the theme – God answers prayer.

Richard Stergulz's expressive illustrations not only show the spartan nature of the little family's life, they reveal the various emotions Jessie endures through the tale. Directions for making your own prayer chain are at the end of the book, as well as a helpful Faith Parenting Guide. These added activities will benefit the homeschool mom and teacher of young children. *The Prayer Chain* is a Christmas book with lessons that may be learned all year long.

Cathy M. Elliott, Freelance Writer, Anderson, CA

The scarecrow's hat, written and illustrated by Ken Brown.. LCCN 00046957. Atlanta, Ga.: Peachtree, Peachtree, 2001. HBB, 1561452408, \$15.95.

E. Chickens--Fiction; Scarecrows--Fiction; Nest building--Fiction; Barter--Fiction. unpag.

Chicken admires the hat that Scarecrow wears. Scarecrow likes it too, but he would much rather have a walking stick. As Chicken begins his quest to find Scarecrow a walking stick, he soon encounters a variety of other animals that make this a delightful journey. Each animal that Chicken visits has a different item that they would like before they will offer their item for exchange. In the end, everyone is happy, even Chicken in the lovely straw hat.

The Scarecrow's Hat by Ken Brown is a wonderfully illustrated children's book. Ken Brown's illustrations capture the story as the reader turns each page, providing the young reader the independence to read this book on their own. Mr. Brown draws the pictures with such accurate detail and care, the pictures almost tell the story themselves. The storyline as Chicken encounters each new animal brings to mind a repetitive pattern that young children can hold onto and eventually repeat on their own.

Rick Estep, Media Director, HeavenBound Media Center, Middleburg, Florida

Stella's dancing days, Sandy Asher; illustrated by Kathryn Brown. LCCN 00008302. San Diego: Harcourt, 2001. HBB, 0152016139, \$16.00.

E. Cats--Fiction. 32 p.

Stella is a kitten who loves to dance. She dances everywhere she goes and for everyone in the family – Tall One, Gentle One, Little One, and even Fuzzy One. But as Stella grows older she becomes busy with older cat adventures and no longer dances for her friends. One day Stella hides under a bed and the children have a surprise in store. Now they will have six kittenish dancers!

Stella's Dancing Days is a sweet and gentle story for young readers by Sandy Asher. The lovely illustrations by Kathryn Brown are endearing and well portray the lilted spirit of the story. Small children will be able to identify with the idea that Stella changes as she ages and that her activities also change. A beautiful book for any young child.

Teresa O'Donley, Library Media Specialist, Baymonte Christian School, Scotts Valley, California

Teddy Bear, Piglet, Kitten and Me, Catherine Maccabe; illustrated by Clive Scruton. Minneapolis: Augsburg Fortress, 2001. HBB, 80664148, \$16.99.

E. Toys--Fiction; Christmas--Fiction. unpag.

Maccabe, in her first picture book, offers a seasonal journey and Christmas story that captures the feeling of being inconsequential as a child, and the wonder of God noticing us all the while. A small child and her toys explore the big, wide world, feeling quite small in many respects. They make their way to a church nativity scene where they meet the infant Jesus in the manger. It doesn't take long and they realize no one is insignificant in God's eyes. The story is sure to delight and give extra meaning to

the nativity of Jesus for children and parents alike.

Maccabe has a divinity degree while Scruton holds a degree in illustration. Scruton's illustrations convey a glorious sense of proportion, which adds a lot to the story, and includes details in the pictures that are sure to help children linger on the pages.

This title is recommended for Christian preschools, for Christian home reading, and for Christian school libraries.

Leroy Hommerding, Director, Fort Myers Beach P.L. District, Fort Myers, Florida

***Tessa's treasures*, written by Gary Bower; illustrated by Jan Bower. (A thinking of others book; 2.) LCCN 00192257. Traverse City, MI: Storybook Meadow Publishing, 2000. HBB, 0970462107, \$16.95.**

E. Friendship--Fiction; Values--Fiction. unip.

***Wyatt's wagon*, written by Gary Bower; illustrated by Jan Bower. (A thinking of others book; 2.) LCCN 2001118176. Traverse City, MI: Storybook Meadow Publishing, 2001. HBB, 0970462115, \$16.95.**

E. Sharing--Fiction; Values--Fiction. unip.

Tessa's Treasures by Gary Bower, illustrated by Jan Bower, is as warm as cocoa on a rainy day. The theme of friendship is set off by its luminescent illustrations. First in the Thinking of Others series, the Bowers have caught the innocence and intensity of childhood well, weaving in the gentle message of how valuable and precious friendship truly is. The author states: "My goal in writing *Tessa's Treasures* was to emphasize this basic truth: people are more precious than things." This goal is achieved. As Tessa discovers this very truth with joy and delight, readers will also realize the importance and value of friendship.

In *Wyatt's Wagon* the theme of including others is treated with the same amount of warmth and innocence as Wyatt demonstrates gallantly through his wagon and his grandfather's generosity that there is always a way to make room.

The Bowers combine their talents successfully with Jan's paintings complementing Gary's text. Adults will undoubtedly be asked to read the Bowers' books again and again. Loving family bonds and the strong ties of friendship resound through the text and illustrations, a reflection of the Bower family's commitment to one another.

Parents, Sunday School teachers, and caregivers alike will want to add the Bowers' books to their collection. Extensive author notes with the inclusion of reader questions contribute to the take-away charm.

Pam Webb, School Library Technician, Sandpoint, Idaho

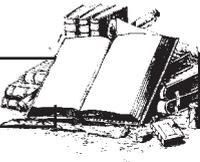
***Will you be my friend? A bunny and bird story*, by Nancy Tafuri. LCCN 9927027. New York: Scholastic, 2000. ISBN 0590637827, HBB, \$15.95.**

E. Rabbits--Fiction. Birds--Fiction. Friendship--Fiction. unip.

Bunny and Bird have a common residence, the old apple tree. Having never known a bird and rabbit to be friends, when Bunny asks for her friendship, Bird does not answer. When a great storm comes and soaks Bird's house, Bunny invites her to take refuge in his burrow at the bottom of the tree. Finally, her discomfort drives her to try, so she flies down to Bunny's home and spends a safe, dry night there. After the storm, they find Bird's house was destroyed. Bunny, Bird, Squirrel, and Chipmunk pitch in to rebuild it. Bird is grateful to her new friend, and sings a song of tribute.

Nancy Tafuri has created a story for beginning readers that is engaging and softly illustrated in watercolor and ink. Readers who know Tafuri's work in *Have You Seen My Duckling?* will encounter the same appeal here to new readers. Unlike many stories for beginning readers, the story has fluidity rather than a stilted plot.

Carol M. Jones, Librarian, South Side Elementary School and Marquette Pre-K Center, Champaign, Illinois



***Be brave, little lion!* by Ursel Scheffler; illustrated by Ruth Scholte; translated by J. Alison James. LCCN 99057082. New York: North-South Books, North-South Books, 2000. HBB, 735812640, \$13.95.**

F. Lions--Fiction; Courage--Fiction. 46 p.

When an energetic lion cub named Lea cannot find anyone to play with, she goes off alone. On her adventure, she faces a variety of challenges, and when a rhinoceros chases her from her watering hole, she runs home frightened. Brave Father Lion tells her that lions are never afraid. Mother Lion says lion cubs should run away from anyone stronger than them. This seems confusing to Lea and soon more happens to make her wonder if it's okay to be fearful. That night the pride faces danger from hunters and Father Lion leads them to the caves to take refuge. Still concerned, he takes them further away into the mountains, where they are finally safe.

Be Brave, Little Lion is a transitional reading book with a few difficult words to challenge the early independent reader. The lions are in their natural habitat and they face lion dilemmas, personified only in their ability to talk and problem solve rationally. It is clear that we are supposed to learn a lesson about fear and bravery, but the message is vague. Father Lion's actions seem to contradict his words and he is silent when Lea confronts him, asking the question, "Were you afraid?" Father's proud ways are explained by Mother Lion in a patronizing way.

Ruth Scholte van Mast's playful pencil and water color illustrations are warm and fun, and add interest to the tale. The story line offers a simple chain of events useful for checking comprehension with early readers. Children will enjoy the animal characters, but if chosen as a selection to learn about bravery and courage, further discussion and teaching will be necessary.

Karen Brehmer, Teacher, Sylvan Way Christian School, Bremerton, Washington

***The best figure skater in the whole wide world*, written by Linda Bailey; illustrated by Alan and Lea Daniel. LCCN C00933487. Toronto: Kids Can Press, Kids Can Press, 2001. HBB, 1550748793, \$15.95.**

E. Ice skating--Fiction. 32 p.

Whimsical, anxious, hopeful, disappointed, and more are the emotions that this very real, everyday story deals with. We find Lizzy who loves to watch figure-skating championships on TV, taking skating lessons. She finds the

practice hard but she's so determined that nobody else stays as late or tries as hard. When her teacher announces the class is going to perform at the winter carnival, Lizzy knows she can skate the lead. Not chosen, we find a heroine who overcomes her setbacks with family support and discovers her own special way to shine.

Linda Bailey's story is based on her own experience of learning to skate during the cold prairie days in Manitoba. Her vibrant writing lends itself to being read again and again with children. Husband and wife artists, Alan and Lea Daniel, illustrate with humor and originality and give Lizzy a persona that blends just perfectly with the story. Young children can figure out the story from the illustrations once they've heard the story.

Recommended for use in elementary classrooms, in school and public libraries, and in homes where children and parents read together.

Leroy Hommerding, Director, Fort Myers Beach P.L. District, Fort Myers, Florida

***Brian's bird*, written by Patricia A. David; illustrated by Layne Johnson. LCCN 99036094. Morton Grove, Ill.: Albert Whitman, Albert Whitman, 2000. HBB, 807508810, \$14.95.**

F. Parakeets--Fiction; Pets--Fiction; Brothers--Fiction; Blind--Fiction; Physically handicapped--Fiction. unsp.

On his eighth birthday Brian's parents give him a parakeet as a present. Because he is blind, the bird must be described to him. His grandmother shows him how to hold out his finger as a perch for his new pet, whom he names Scratchy. He quickly becomes Scratchy's conscientious and loving caretaker.

At his grandmother's instruction he patiently endeavors to teach Scratchy how to talk. When he finally succeeds, his big brother Kevin, with whom he sometimes has arguments, won't believe him. Brian's grandmother advises him to be patient with Kevin and reminds him that Kevin has good qualities too. At dinner that night Scratchy says "Hello Brian" for the entire family and Brian is vindicated.

Some time later, Kevin dashes into the room where Brian is and accidentally lets Scratchy outside. Brian of course cannot see where Scratchy is but with Kevin's help he is able to retrieve the parakeet and bring him back to safety. He realizes that he could not have done this without his big brother's help and is beginning to appreciate Kevin as the story ends.

Brian's Bird by Patricia A. Davis is a sweet, sensitive story that touches on several interesting topics—blindness, sibling

interaction, and the blessing that comes with loving and caring for a pet. Layne Johnson's illustrations are brilliantly colored and expressive, easily attracting and holding the young reader's eye. The author has done a good job of portraying Brian's disability as just one aspect of who he is. He is a very normal boy in all other ways. It would be an excellent book for teaching that the Lord has made us all special and unique and loves us equally.

Teresa O'Donley, Library Media Specialist, Baymonte Christian School, Scotts Valley, California

***Danger at Sand Cave*, by Candice F. Ransom; illustrations by Den Schofield. (On my own history.) LCCN 99021416. Minneapolis: Carolrhoda Books, Lerner, 2000. HBB, 1575053799, \$21.27; HBB, 157505454X, \$5.95.**

F. Collins, Floyd, 1890-1925--Fiction; Rescue work--Fiction; Caves--Fiction. 47 p.

This book is one of the beginning readers in the "On My Own History" series by publisher Carolrhoda. Author Candice Ransom retells the true story of a rescue attempt in 1925 of thirty-seven-year-old Floyd Collins trapped in a Kentucky cave fifty-five feet below the surface in an area known as Sand Cave. Ransom shows us the workers and reporters of this story through the eyes of ten-year-old Arly Dunbar, who helps by bringing coffee and blankets for the rescue workers. After several days pass, Arly worries about his friend Floyd. He sneaks into one of the tunnels to take a card he made to Floyd. His light goes out and he panics. Arly remembers what Floyd taught him during previous caving experiences, and manages his fear. He calls out, but doesn't hear Floyd. He leaves the card behind.

Although Arly Dunbar is a fictional character, the plight of Floyd Collins is not. Ransom does an excellent job of weaving true facts with emotion along with safety instructions for "caving"—don't panic, and most importantly, never cave alone so you have a buddy to go for help if needed. Be aware that Floyd Collins does not survive, which may be difficult for sensitive children, but also effectively communicates the idea that caving can be dangerous.

Kimm Swenson Gollnick, Writer, Speaker & Teacher (Marion Independent Schools), Marion, Iowa

***Frances Hodgson Burnett's A little princess*, adapted and illustrated by Barbara McClintock. LCCN 97043631. New York: HarperCollins, HarperCollins, 2000. HBB, 60290102, \$16.95.**

F. Boarding schools--Fiction; Schools--Fiction; Orphans--Fiction; London (England)--Fiction. unip.

In childhood, Barbara McClintock fell in love with Frances Hodgson Burnett's classic story of Sara Crewe, who went from being the rich, pampered, adored daughter of an English soldier to becoming a poor downtrodden orphan forced into servitude to keep a roof over her head, all without losing her cheerful outlook on life or the friends she'd made within the walls of Mrs. Minchin's Select Seminary for Young Girls.

This is her adaptation of that beloved tale, *A Little Princess*. Despite its picture book format, it isn't meant for the very young; its word-filled pages and intricate black ink and watercolor drawings would probably tax a lap-sitter's attention. However, older readers may enjoy it as an introduction to the full-length book, especially if they've seen a movie version of it (hopefully not the Shirley Temple version in which Sara's dead father is found in a London hospital suffering from amnesia).

Inevitably, novels adapted to picture book format lose something. This one loses Burnett's dialogue and description of life in 19th century London and India (as well as the gorgeous Ethel Franklin Betts paintings that appeared in the 1930s Scribner edition). However, McClintock traveled to London for first hand observation of 19th century clothing, costumes, town houses, and furniture, and from her travels came authentically detailed Kate Greenway-style drawings that visually return some of what was lost.

Although I wish that McClintock had done illustrations for the entire original text instead of an adaptation (no matter how well done), her adaptation may be enough for a young (or reluctant) reader, even if it does leave Burnett fans wanting more.

Betty Winslow, Bowling Green Christian Academy, Bowling Green, Ohio

***Have you seen me?* written by Monica Hall; based on a teleplay by Pamela Redford; from a story by R.J. Colleary. (Touched by an angel (Television program).) LCCN 98011475. Nashville: Tommy Nelson, Thomas Nelson, 1998. PAP, 0849958032, \$4.99.**

F. Adoption--Fiction; Guardian angels--Fiction; Angels--Fiction; Brothers and sisters--Fiction. 84 p.

When twelve year old Sarah, a girl who loves mysteries and detective work, sees the picture of a missing boy on the back of a milk carton, her life and the lives of her brother and parents get turned upside down. Monica Hall's story *Have You Seen Me?* is #2 in the *Touched by an Angel* series.

Monica, Tess and Andrew, three angels sent by God, help Sara and her family untangle secrets hidden in the past. In the process they learn the identity of the boy on the back of the milk carton. Truth plays a big part in the story as Sara's parents, Amy and Jake Monroe, and a man named Grant Abbot learn about the past. In

the process, a wicked man named Ray Bishop learns he can no longer hide the truth.

With the whole world tilting for this family, Sarah's eight-year-old brother Noah senses only that something is very wrong. While everyone else learns the secret, it is never revealed to this most important character. That Noah is never let in on what is going on in a book that focuses so much on truth, left one reader disturbed.

Have You Seen Me? is a sugary, unrealistic tale of half-hearted suspense. Children who have seen the television series *Touched by an Angel* may be able to read it through to the end. Others will be confused by the number of characters in so short a book.

Dell Smith Klein, Writer, Teacher, Catalina, Arizona

The home run mystery, created by Gertrude Chandler Warner; illustrated by Charles Tang. (Boxcar children mysteries; special 14.) LCCN 99056200. Morton Grove, Ill.: Albert Whitman, Albert Whitman, 2000. PAP, 807533696, \$3.95.

F. Mystery and detective stories; Baseball--Fiction. 120 p.

The *Boxcar Children* series by Gertrude Chandler Warner is popular with its target audience for numerous reasons, but two important ones are that emerging readers find the plots accessible and young readers enjoy and feel comfortable with the familiarity of the series format. In *The Home Run Mystery*, Henry, Jessie, Violet, and Benny accompany their grandfather, James Alder, to Pikesville, New York. This city is in a period of decline because of the closing of the local hat factory, and James, a specialist in urban renewal, has been invited to meet with the city council to discuss the situation. While he is occupied there, the children become involved in the last baseball games of the local season. These games are played in a strange old ballpark behind the abandoned factory. But something is amiss. Why are the Eagles suddenly hitting so many home runs? What are the strange lights that appear at night in the old factory? And what do the lights—and the mysterious home run streak—have to do with the sad Pikesville legend of Home Run Herman?

The author assumes the reader is familiar with previous titles in the series and the only explanation for the *Boxcar Children* title or how they came to be orphans is a very brief statement on the back cover of the book. Black and white illustrations by Charles Tay are scattered throughout the story and a short sections of puzzles and games pertaining to characters and incidents in the plot is included at the end. Fans of the *Boxcar Children* series will find this a satisfying addition to the series.

Lillian Heytvelt, Public Librarian, Pomeroy, Washington

Icarus Swinebuckle, written and illustrated by Michael Garland. LCCN 99016880. Morton Grove, Ill.: Albert Whitman, Albert Whitman, 2000. HBB, 807534951, \$15.95.

F. Pigs--Fiction; Flight--Fiction. unip.

Michael Garland uses the inspiration of an old Greek myth in *Icarus Swinebuckle*, a tale about a pig with a dream. Garland sets the story in seventeenth-century London and dresses the characters, who are all animals, in fanciful costumes of the time. More than anything else, *Icarus Swinebuckle* wants to fly. He is a cobbler by occupation, but frustrates his clients and his long-suffering wife by spending hours sketching inventions and making models instead of mending the shoes that lie piled up in his workshop. Everyone laughs at his dreams, except for his little son Robin.

After being hounded by Lady Holstein and her sister about shoes that are not mended, and after his landlord, Mr. Gnawbone, chastises him, "You're not like your father. He was never late with the rent!" *Icarus* truly begins to worry about his obsession with flying. But that night he takes his son into the back room and shows him his latest invention: a beautiful pair of wings made of goose feathers and wax.

Although everyone considers *Icarus* a fool for thinking he can fly, the townsfolk gather round on the day he has chosen to test his wings. Garland's illustrations are marvelous throughout and quite dramatic, but my favorite comes at this point in the story. Garland depicts *Icarus* just as his feet leave the rooftop. Far down below are the people, all staring up at him. Out in front lies the Thames river, and it appears *Icarus* wings are going to work! They do and *Icarus* gets caught up in the freedom of flying and soars higher and higher until the inevitable happens. The sun melts the wax, and he plunges back to earth. The story does end happily however. *Icarus*, whose confidence is boosted by the love of his family and the new belief of his friends, is inspired by the sight of the moon to set his sights even higher. All in all, Garland's adaptation is successful and a delightful way to introduce children to the Greek myth.

Lillian Heytvelt, Public Librarian, Pomeroy, Washington

Jeremy: the tale of an honest bunny, by Jan Karon; illustrated by Teri Weidner. LCCN 98053757. New York: Viking, Penguin Putnam, 2000. HBB, 067088104X, \$15.99.

F. Rabbits--Fiction; Toys--Fiction; Voyages and travels--Fiction; Christian life--Fiction. 80 p.

Jeremy is an English bunny, handmade by young, kind Lydia. Lydia not only dresses *Jeremy* in a little blue jacket with silver buttons, a cotton tie, and small brown boots, but she also makes him an honest bunny. No matter what happens he must always be honest, for that is the way he is made. After Lydia completes *Jeremy*, she tells him he must head off for America, for someone has paid for him. *Jeremy* nervously

leaves Lydia's small cottage and heads for North Carolina where his new owner lives. Jeremy quickly learns North Carolina is far from England and that before he reaches America he must receive help from many kind strangers. Mr. Pruneholt, a sea captain and his parrot, the Village Dear, and a family of bunnies are just some who assist Jeremy in finding Candace, his new owner, just in time for Christmas.

Jan Karon has written a short adventure story full of humor and love. Originally written for her daughter, Candace, *Jeremy: The Tale of an Honest Bunny* continues Karon's tradition of celebrating faith, joy, and homely virtues. The story reads like many classic children's stories; adult readers enjoy it as well. Karon also includes in the story a verse from Psalm 91 that acts as a central theme to Jeremy's tale: "He will give his angels charge over you, to keep you in all your ways." Teri Weidner's illustrations bring both Jeremy and the story to life by depicting Jeremy in all stages of his journey and in all his hilarious predicaments. A wonderful book to read or give to a special child.

Kerri Cunningham, Librarian, Camano Island, Washington

***The kite fighters*, by Linda Sue Park; decorations by Eung Won Park. LCCN 99036936. New York: Clarion Books, Houghton Mifflin, 2000. HBB, 395940419, \$15.**

F. Kites--Fiction; Brothers--Fiction; Primogeniture--Fiction; Korea--Fiction; Contests--Fiction. 136 p.

Young-sup loves to fly kites—and he's very good at it. Kee-sup, his older brother, makes excellent kites, but he can't fly them very well. The two brothers spend a lot of time flying their kites together in the meadow near their home. One day the King, who is close to the same age as the brothers, comes to the meadow where the boys are flying their kites. The beauty of Kee-sup's kites intrigues him, as does Young-sup's flying ability. He asks Kee-sup to make him a kite.

Kee-sup spends weeks working on the King's kite. During this time, Young-sup is left to fly his kite alone. But he doesn't remain alone for long. The King returns to the meadow and asks Young-sup to "talk to me as you would talk to other boys." At first he doesn't understand what the King means. Then he realizes the King is lonely because it is "inappropriate" for him to play as other children play. After that the King often returns to the meadow to play with Young-sup and his brother. He sends his advisors and bodyguards away so he can talk and laugh as any young boy would.

The Kite Fighters, by Linda Sue Park, is a well-written story about friendship, tradition, and duty. The King and the brothers struggle with the roles that society has imposed on them, but they still honor the traditions of their culture. In public, the King is treated like the King. Soothsaying and ancestor worship are mentioned briefly in the story, but this

accurately reflects the fifteenth century Korean setting.

Robyn Wyatt, Freelance Writer, Port Orchard, Washington

***Lionel at school*, by Stephen Krensky; pictures by Susanna Natti. (Dial easy-to-read.) LCCN 99010695. New York: Dial Books for Young Readers, Penguin Putnam, 2000. HBB, 803724578, \$13.99.**

F. Schools--Fiction. 48 p.

Stephen Krensky's *Lionel At School* contains four stories that will change sometimes-gigantic fears into child size ones for young readers. Susanna Natti's pencil, colored pencil, and watercolor wash charmingly illustrate the book jacket and stories, making it even more attractive to the young audience. Targeted to interest beginning readers, every story paints easy-to-understand word pictures about fears children face.

The first story, "Keeping Secrets," deals with Lionel's fear of losing his privacy. During Back-To-School night his sister, Louise, tells him parents and teachers trade secrets. Lionel's diabolical plan to keep parents and teachers separated makes a lively, laughable story. "Moving" portrays how unsettling change can be. Lionel attempts to befriend and be the trusty guide of Ben, the new boy in school. As he becomes his confidant, Lionel reveals to Ben which mystery meat to avoid at lunchtime. "The Stranger" illustrates Lionel's run-away imagination and his concerns aliens have taken over his sister Louise, when she begins to act peculiar in school. Lionel's less than helpful solution leaves Louise speechless and bedraggled. The fourth story illustrates how slowly time passes for children. Naturally Lionel attempts to manipulate the passing of time, only to achieve comical results. Lionel's engaging personality leaps from the pages, allowing readers to recognize themselves and their friends in these delightfully drawn characters. Well-written and lavishly illustrated, this is an excellent choice for beginning readers.

Gail Welborn, Reporter/Freelance Writer, Everett, Washington

***Miko's muzzy mess*, by Robert Elmer. (AstroKids; 4.) LCCN 2001001322. Minneapolis: Bethany House, Bethany House, 2001. PAP, 0764223593, \$4.99.**

F. Space stations--Fiction; Christian life--Fiction; Science fiction. 107 p.

Light science fiction meets Christian values in *Miko's Muzzy Mess*, part of the Astro Kids series. Fans of sci fi programs may recognize elements from them in this humorous tale of life aboard the space station Cleo-7, but there are still good core values underlying the story.

In this episode, Miko gives chocolate to a pair of muzzies, a cross between hamsters and caterpillars (a debriefing at the end of the book tells the reader that this cannot actually be done). The rapid expansion in muzzy numbers that follows has the Astro Kids scrambling to collect the animals before the station

commander gets too angry. Along the way, Miko, a stowaway, gets a lesson in giving her worries, her muzzy concerns, to God. A satisfactory and animal friendly solution is reached.

The book, by Robert Elmer, is funny, easy-going, and easy reading. The Christian market is just beginning to use science fiction themes more for youth, a welcome addition for the many youth who like this genre, but desire a Christian perspective. This novel is appealing on dual levels, with sci fi to reach those fans and many allusions for those who care to pick those out. A few black and white illustrations and a coded message are included. Based on this entry, this is a series worth investigating.

Betsy Ruffin, Librarian/Teacher, Cleburne, Texas

***Mommy far, Mommy near : an adoption story*, by Carol Antoinette Peacock; illustrated by Shawn Costello Brownell. LCCN 99036108. Morton Grove, Ill.: Albert Whitman, Albert Whitman, 2000. HBB, 807552348, \$14.95.**

F. Adoption--Fiction; Mother and child--Fiction; Chinese Americans--Fiction. unpag.

"I am Elizabeth, which starts with an E. I have black eyes and shiny black hair. I love to do cartwheels and climb trees. I can make popcorn in the microwave, and I like to pick the biggest chocolate chips out of cookie dough." And Elizabeth is adopted.

Author Carol Antoinette Peacock draws directly from her own experience adopting two baby girls from China with her husband. She tells the story with great sensitivity, fictionalized from her oldest daughter Elizabeth's point of view. But it's clear the feelings are real, and perhaps the conversations as well. One day, Elizabeth asks her mommy, "When did your mommy get you from China?" Her mommy tells her she did not come from China, but was born in America. "I thought all babies came from China," Elizabeth responds in surprise. "No, honey," her mother answers, "babies come from inside their mommy." She tells Elizabeth she has a mother in China who grew her in her tummy, and Elizabeth also has her, the mother who adopted her. "Two mommies!" Elizabeth exclaims. "A near mommy and a far mommy."

Later, while at a playground, Elizabeth spots an Asian girl and her mother walking together. Elizabeth's mother notices, and asks Elizabeth if she's okay. Elizabeth is sad, but when they get home her mother assures her how much she's loved. "That mommy [in China] loved you, Elizabeth. And I love you. And Daddy loves you..." The author includes descriptions about the family dog Penny, who was also "adopted" into the family, and Elizabeth pretends to adopt her stuffed toys and dolls. There's so much depth in this book, making it a wonderfully touching story to read aloud with children. Illustrations by Shawn Costello Brownell, done sensitively in full-color paint strokes.

Kimm Swenson Gollnick, *Writer, Speaker & Teacher* (Marion Independent Schools), Marion, Iowa

My life as a beat-up basketball backboard, by Bill Myers. (The incredible worlds of Wally McDoogle; 18.) LCCN 00025058. Nashville: Tommy Nelson, Thomas Nelson, 2000. PAP, 849940273, \$5.99.

F. Popularity--Fiction; Self-acceptance--Fiction; Authorship--Fiction; Christian life--Fiction; Humorous stories. 119 p.

Wally McDoogle, "the world's biggest klutz," is back and this time faces the challenges of, believe it or not, popularity. That's probably the last problem one would expect this extremely accident prone eighth grader to have. However, deep in his heart, Wally McDoogle longs to be respected and admired. So when Ricko Slicko's Advertising Agency claims that "they can take the biggest loser in the country and turn him into the most popular guy on the planet," Wally feels that he is the perfect candidate. Before he knows what has hit him, he is starring in the "A Day in the Life of Willard McDorkel" TV series and girls are flocking to get his autograph. He feels a little troubled by the fact that a stunt-double is performing all the feats of bravery that are garnering him such attention, but allows Ricko Slicko to brush his guilty conscience aside.

Wally's best friends, Wall Street and Opera, attempt to keep him grounded, but as Ricko Slicko's entrepreneurial vision grows larger and larger, gradually including a theme park ride, action figures, and a rock concert starring you know who as its main attraction, Wally lets his new found fame and attention go to his head. It's not until his attempt to be a star athlete for the high school basketball team leads to an unexpected insight into himself that Wally understands what he really wants and learns that being popular isn't all it's made out to be.

Everything about The Incredible Worlds of Wally McDoogle series is wildly exaggerated. Some readers will find Bill Myers sense of humor to be funny and entertaining; others may find it repetitive and shallow. While the message about popularity's pitfalls comes across loud and clear, the lack of respect shown to adults in the book and the way Wally's family treats one another, even if it is meant to be funny, is troubling.

Lillian Heyvelt, *Public Librarian, Pomeroy, Washington*

The other side, Jacqueline Woodson; illustrations by E. B. Lewis. LCCN 99042055. New York: G.P. Putnam's Sons, Penguin Putnam, 2001. HBB, 0399231161, \$16.99.

E. Race relations--Fiction; Friendship--Fiction; Summer--Fiction. unsp.

Clover, who has often wondered why a fence separates the black side of town from the white side, is bold one day when she approaches Anne a girl from the white side who is sitting on the fence. The ensuing story explores why the fence

is there and helps the reader appreciate who the girls are.

Lewis's lifelike watercolor illustrations draw one into the picture. Both a sense of warmth and noticing details will enable children to enjoy them many times. Woodson's lyrical, delicate narrative told in the hopeful voice of Clover touches upon racial tension and also the desire to erase this division. Both Woodson and Lewis have received numerous accolades and awards, Woodson two Coretta Scott King Honors, and Lewis ALA Notable and Junior Library Guild illustration.

Recommended for Christian school libraries, for public library collections, and for browse through readings in after school programs for the lower grades.

Leroy Hommerding, *Director, Fort Myers Beach P.L. District, Fort Myers, Florida*

The poison frog mystery, created by Gertrude Chandler Warner; illustrated by Charles Tang. (Boxcar children mysteries; 74.) LCCN 99043097. Morton Grove, Ill.: Albert Whitman, Albert Whitman, 2000. PAP, 807565873, \$3.95.

F. Mystery and detective stories; Zoos--Fiction; Endangered species--Fiction; Brothers and sisters--Fiction; Orphans--Fiction. 130 p. (Middle school)

There is value in books that are written in a series. You find familiar characters that are like old friends, heroes that you can really identify with, and situations you can put yourself in. *The Poison Frog Mystery* will fit right in to your Boxcar Children collection. Since the day these children made a home for themselves in that railroad derelict, Gertrude Warner's penwriters have kept those mini-detectives alive and well. This book has all the elements of an intriguing "who dunit." The setting in the zoo will immediately catch the interest of all who like strange animals and is quite different from most other stories written. Jessie and Violet Alden use the clues and get some help from the frog to thwart a hired thief.

You will find all that you need for budding readers that are just getting into "chapter books" or competent readers that want a good story with which to relax.

Jim McKinney, *Teacher, Port Orchard, Washington*

Realm of the panther : a story of South Florida's forests, by Emily Costello; illustrated by Wes Siegrist. (Soundprints habitat series.) LCCN 99043775. Norwalk, Ct.: Soundprints, Soundprints, 2000. HBB, 1568998473, \$15.95.

F. Florida panther--Fiction; Puma--Fiction; Animals--Infancy--Fiction. 27 p.

In *Realm of the Panther*, author Emily Costello, packs in plenty of facts about Florida panthers and their habitats while also telling an exciting story. The text follows two panther kittens as they learn hunting skills by watching their mother and practicing crouches and pounces during play. When their mother doesn't return

from a hunting excursion, the kittens work together to hunt on their own.

Active narrative brings their journey for food to life. They attempt and fail to stalk larger prey, wander into the territory of an adult male panther, working together to get away, and finally find small prey they successfully stalk and kill. Rich watercolor paintings by Wes Siegrist portray the cypress forest setting. The story cycles through several days and both the descriptive language of the story and the details in the illustrations show how the panther kittens face and overcome dangers as they learn to fend for themselves.

The book concludes with a vivid foldout double spread of Big Cypress National Preserve, the setting for the story. A visual glossary identifies twenty-six plants and animals seen throughout the book and in the double spread. Readers will enjoy finding each glossary item in the illustrations.

Lisa A. Wroble, *Library Aide/Freelance Writer, Plymouth, Michigan*

Ruled out, by Randy Southern. (KidWitness tales.) LCCN 00010712. Minneapolis: Bethany House, Bethany House, 2000. PAP, 1561798843, \$5.99.

F. Moses (Biblical leader)--Fiction; Ten commandments--Fiction; Conduct of life--Fiction. 112 p.

Ten-year-old Ethan and his friend, Melki, are tired of rules. They have been following Moses through the desert for months. They are tired of eating nothing but manna and long for something exciting to do. Now Moses has gone to the top of Mount Sinai and no one else is even allowed to set foot on the mountain. Ethan and Melki want to climb the mountain to get closer to the lightning and thunder coming from above. Do they dare sneak up there at night when everyone else is sleeping?

Days and weeks pass, and still Moses is on the mountain. Many of the adults, including Melki's father, are getting restless. They, too, are tired of Moses' rules and Moses' God. There are even rumors that Moses has died on the mountain and God has abandoned them. Excitement stirs the camp as many prepare to worship a "new" god. Ethan is just looking forward to fewer rules. But his father refuses to join with the "rebels"—he believes Moses is alive and warns Ethan about the dangers of disobedience. Ethan begins to see the importance of rules when violence breaks out in the camp and his father nearly loses his life.

Randy Southern does an excellent job of bringing Bible characters to life. His young characters behave much the way one would expect ten-year-old boys to behave when told they can't do something. *Ruled Out* will quickly capture the attention of young readers, and hold their attention while painlessly teaching them the importance of rules. The book teaches that even adults sometimes make foolish choices. Although there is some violence, it is

appropriate to the story and not more than an eight-year-old can handle.

Robyn Wyatt, Freelance Writer, Port Orchard, Washington

***Salsa stories, stories and linocuts* by Lulu Delacre. LCCN 99025534. New York: Scholastic, Scholastic, 2000. HBB, 590631187, \$15.95.**

F. Latin America--Fiction; Short stories. 105 p.

Carmen Teresa's family may all be living in the United States, but when it comes to times of celebration the customs and foods of their native lands prevail! As the family and its friends gather, each of the adults is encouraged to relate a story from their youth back in their homeland. Stories from Guatemala, Cuba, Puerto Rico, and other Latin countries are told, fragrant with memories of favorite dishes from childhood. As Carmen Teresa listens to all the wonderful stories, she ponders what she will do with the journal she has been given as a gift by one of the guests. Everyone has his own idea about what use she should put to those blank pages, but Carmen isn't sure. Then, after the delicious foods of their celebration are served, she makes up her mind. It will be her own cookbook, filled with the recipes and stories of those she loves.

Lulu Delacre's *Salsa Stories* is a charming collection of tales from distinctively Latin childhoods. Sprinkled with Spanish phrases, the short stories illustrate universal themes of love of family, friendship, etc., and relate sweet memories from a simpler time. Each story also features a particular dish representative of the country in which it takes place and does so in a very natural, unobtrusive manner. Then, after all the stories have been told, the back of the book contains all the recipes Carmen Teresa wrote down, so the reader can join in the celebration and try the same delicious foods the stories talk about. *Salsa Stories* is a gentle and thoroughly charming introduction to Latin culture for elementary-aged children that will warm the heart and, if you try the recipes, the tummy as well.

Pamela A. Todd, Librarian/English Teacher, Chalcedon Christian School, Cumming, Georgia

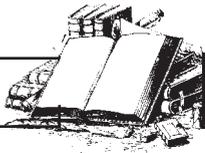
***See you later, gladiator*, by Jon Scieszka; illustrated by Adam McCauley. (The time warp trio.) LCCN 00040431. New York: Viking, Penguin Putnam, 2000. HBB, 0670893404, \$14.99.**

F. Time travel--Fiction; Gladiators--Fiction; Wrestling--Fiction; Rome--Fiction; Humorous stories. 87 p.

When Joe, Sam, and Fred are hanging out at Joe's house, they get into a wrestling match and accidentally knock *The Book* off Joe's bookshelf. When *The Book* lands, it opens to a page showing a Roman Gladiator, which means Joe, Sam, and Fred are transported back to ancient Rome. In a duel with the Roman Gladiator, the boys try to outwit their opponent so they can escape the ring, find *The Book*, and get home safely.

Jon Scieszka continues the wacky story of the Time Warp Trio in this trip to Rome. Fans of the series will not be disappointed as Scieszka utilizes his usual humor while he includes quite a bit of Roman history and facts. Teachers and parents looking for a high interest read for reluctant readers need only get them hooked on one of the series. They will read the rest with gusto.

Carol M. Jones, Librarian, South Side Elementary School and Marquette Pre-K Center, Champaign, Illinois



200's—Religion

God's precious gift in a manger, by Rebecca Ann Lamb; illustrated by David L. Erickson. LCCN 00037602. Colorado Springs: Faith Kids, Cook Communications, 2000. 0781432650, \$10.99.

232.92. Jesus Christ--Nativity; Creation; Christmas; Bible stories. CNF.

Through *God's Precious Gift in a Manger*, Rebecca Ann Lamb relates the history and significance of the Christmas story – from the promise made in the garden to the promise kept in the manger. The book condenses and simplifies complex theology into a tender narrative that can be understood by very young children. Lamb successfully chronicles events that carry the theme from the beginning of time through the birth of Jesus. Heroes of the Bible—Abraham, Moses, Isaiah, and David—are highlighted in the telling and familiar scriptures are embodied in the text to herald the Savior's birth. Throughout the work, Lamb weaves the promise to give the Gift of Life. The reader learns how God lovingly plans from one generation to the next, until the time of promise has come.

David L. Erickson's beautiful illustrations greatly enhance the story. A sepia tint throughout gives the reader an impression of antiquity. The use of light and vibrant color expresses the joy of Christ's birth in the final pages.

A Faith Parenting Guide is included and will be useful for homeschool parents or teachers of young children. While the title might indicate a Christmas book, it is much more than a story to read once a year. Parents interested in a thought-provoking book that presents the gospel in clear and graceful prose should add *God's Precious Gift in a Manger* to their reading list.

Cathy M. Elliott, Freelance Writer, Anderson, California

300's—Social Sciences



101 simple service projects kids can do, by Susan L. Lingo. LCCN 2001265379. Cincinnati, Ohio: Standard Publishing, 2000. PAP, 0784711542, \$14.99.

361.37'0835. Christian education of children; Service (Theology)--Handbooks, manuals, etc.; Child volunteers--Religious aspects--Christianity; Voluntarism--Religious aspects--Christianity. 127 p.

101 Simple Service Projects Kids Can Do, by Susan L. Lingo, is geared to church youth groups and it really lives up to its name; these

projects are simple! However, they are not childish or a waste of class time. There are projects in it that are appropriate for servants of all ages and the Bible is central to the whole book, which begins with a verse from John 12 as the dedication: "Whoever serves me must follow me; and where I am, my servant also will be. My Father will honor the one who serves me."

This sets the tone for the following chapters. Each begins with an appropriate Bible verse and the pages of that chapter are all bordered with the same verse. Projects are then explained, most of them using three steps: Get Ready (supplies needed for each project), Get Set (the scripture and lesson the project demonstrates) and Go Serve (how to carry it out). "Kindness Counts" boxes scattered throughout the book mention other projects that various groups have done, giving the reader even more ideas.

Marilynn G. Barr's black and white line drawings add charm to the pages, while copies of the coupons, charts, poems, labels and other clip art used in the book's projects can be found in the back, making it easy to get projects up and running. Permission by Lingo to copy them is included. Also included in the back is a service directory, which gives contact information for many of the organizations mentioned in the book. This book has a lot of possible uses and adaptations.

Betty Winslow, Librarian, Bowling Green Christian Academy, Bowling Green, Ohio

The wigmakers, written and illustrated by Leonard Everett Fisher. (Colonial craftsmen.) LCCN 99016261. Tarrytown, N.Y.: Benchmark Books, Marshall Cavendish, 1999. LIB, 0761409335, \$14.95.

392.5. Wigs; Wigmakers--United States--History--18th century; United States--History--Colonial period, ca. 1600-1755. 48 p.

The hatters, written and illustrated by Leonard Everett Fisher. (Colonial craftsmen.) LCCN 00045160. Tarrytown, N.Y.: Benchmark Books, Marshall Cavendish, 2001. LIB, 0761411461, \$14.95.

646.5'00973'09032. Hats; United States--History--Colonial period, ca. 1600-1755. 48 p.

The potters, written and illustrated by Leonard Everett Fisher. (Colonial craftsmen.) LCCN 00045161. Tarrytown, N.Y.: Benchmark Books, Marshall Cavendish, 2001. LIB, 0761411496, \$14.95.

666.3973'09033. Pottery craft--History--18th century; United States--History--Colonial period, ca. 1600-1755. 48 p.

The tanners, written and illustrated by Leonard Everett Fisher. (Colonial craftsmen.) LCCN 00045159. Tarrytown, N.Y.: Benchmark Books, Marshall Cavendish, 2001. LIB, 0761411488, \$14.95.

675.23'0973'09032. Tanning; Leatherwork; United States--History--Colonial period, ca. 1600-1755. 48 p.

The papermakers, written and illustrated by Leonard Everett Fisher. (Colonial craftsmen.) LCCN 00045158. Tarrytown, N.Y.: Benchmark Books, Marshall Cavendish, 2001. LIB, 076141147X, \$14.95.

676.2'0973'09032. Papermaking; United States--History--Colonial period, ca. 1600-1755. 48 p.

The blacksmiths, written and illustrated by Leonard Everett Fisher. (Colonial craftsmen.) LCCN 99033360. Tarrytown, N.Y.: Benchmark Books, Marshall Cavendish, 1999. LIB, 0761409300, \$14.95.

682.097'09033. Blacksmithing--History; Blacksmiths; United States--History--Colonial period, ca. 1600-1755. 48 p.

The printers, written and illustrated by Leonard Everett Fisher. (Colonial craftsmen.) LCCN 99033361. Tarrytown, N.Y.: Benchmark Books, Marshall Cavendish, 1999. LIB, 0761409297, \$14.95.

686.2'0973. Printing--History; Printing; Publishers and publishing--History; United States--History--Colonial period, ca. 1600-1755. 48 p.

The architects, written and illustrated by Leonard Everett Fisher. (Colonial craftsmen.) LCCN 99033370. Tarrytown, N.Y.: Benchmark Books, Marshall Cavendish, 1999. LIB, 0761409319, \$14.95.

720.973. Architecture, Colonial; Architects; United States--History--Colonial period, ca. 1600-1755. 48 p.

The limners : America's earliest portrait painters, written and illustrated by Leonard Everett Fisher. (Colonial craftsmen.) LCCN 99033369. Tarrytown, N.Y.: Benchmark Books, Marshall Cavendish, 1999. LIB, 0761409289, \$14.95.

757.0973. Portrait painting, American; Artists; Art, American--History; United States--History--Colonial period, ca. 1600-1755. 48 p.

(Elementary, Middle school, High school)

The Colonial Craftsmen series, written and illustrated by Leonard Everett Fisher, was first published in the late 1960's. Newly released in 2000, the books retain the language and style of writing of the 60's. Thus, the historical perspective reflects the colonists' perspective versus that of the Native American.

Fisher begins each book with what he calls 'a short history' which sets the time and climate for discussing the various craftsmen and their patrons. This section spans approximately one hundred and fifty years, from the Jamestown settlers through the late 1700's. The author addresses the political climate in England toward her American colonies and how local craftsmen helped the colonists gain self-reliance. The historical details include overviews of England's relationships toward other European countries and how these relationships affected the American colonies.

In the books *Hatters* and *Wigmakers*, the author writes of social customs of the time, revealing the stories behind the fashions. Although wigs were used as early as Ancient Egypt, King Louis XIII of France began a trend for wigs when he was troubled with his baldness. The popularity reached England in 1663 with King Charles II, who donned a wig to cover his graying hair.

The Blacksmiths, The Tanners, and The Potters books examine how the crafts insured the colonists' survival. From hatchets to horseshoes, leather making to pottery, each book details the tools and techniques from start to finish. The author notes how the colonists used less British imports, thus enraging English tradesmen and establishing further self-sufficiency in North America. The author interprets the historical settings displaying the manufacturing processes with his intricate black and white illustrations.

There is a glossary of trade terms and an index at the end of every book. Although each book is only 48 pages, the author includes an enormous amount of information, making this series appropriate reference for elementary through high school aged students and adults.

Joanne M. Haffly, Homeschool Parent/Writer, Gig Harbor, Washington

800's—Literature & Rhetoric

***Looking back : a book of memories*, by Lois Lowry. LCCN 9811376. Boston: Houghton Mifflin, 1998. ISBN 03958943X, HBB, \$16.00.**

813'.54. Lowry, Lois; Women authors—American; Authors, American; Women—Biography. 181 p..

In a series of essays, Lois Lowry relates her life. Framing each essay with a quote from one of her books, Lowry draws in readers of her work. With an uncanny talent for recalling what it was like to be each age, she recounts her experiences in each black and white photograph from her youth. Throughout her story, the message of connection rings clearly. Lowry makes readers feel connected to her while communicating the connections she had and has with her family.

With the excerpts from her writings and black-and-white candid shots from her childhood, Lowry has created a wonderful memoir.

Although the book will appeal especially to readers of her work, the title will appeal to anyone who reads it. Students who are required to do biographical research will find it a welcome relief to the usual formula biographies.

Carol M. Jones, Librarian, South Side Elementary School and Marquette Pre-K Center, Champaign, Illinois

900's—Geography, History, & Biography

***Sybil Ludington's midnight ride*, by Marsha Amstel; illustrations by Ellen Beier. (On my own history; grades 2-3.) LCCN 98044155. Minneapolis: Carolrhoda Books, Lerner, 2000. PAP, 1575054566, \$5.95; LIB, 1575052113, \$21.27.**

973.3'33. Ludington, Sybil, b. 1761; Danbury (Conn.)—Jostpru—Burning by the British, 1777; United States—History—Revolution, 1775-1783—Biography; Women—Biography. 48 p.

***The girl who struck out Babe Ruth*, by Jean L.S. Patrick; illustrations by Jeni Reeves. (On my own history; grades 2-3.) LCCN 99033322. Minneapolis: Carolrhoda Books, Lerner, 2000. PAP, 1575054558, \$5.95; LIB, 1575053977, \$21.27.**

796.357'092. Mitchell, Jackie, 1914-1987; Baseball players; Baseball—History; Women—Biography. 48 p.

Beginning readers have barely begun to get their feet wet in the reading pool. The Carolrhoda On My Own History series urges them to plunge right in with books that expand their world through well-written nonfiction. They find here the action and suspense they crave. Short understandable sentences help encourage these young readers, though some words may bring a call for help. Even so they all range within a child's comprehension and serve to advance their vocabulary.

Each book begins with an Author's Note and ends with an Afterword. Both pages give background information to help readers know they are about to read or have just read a true story. The added details about the hero or heroine rounds out that person's life in the mind of a young reader.

Intriguing illustrations in bright, yet soft tones, portray the action on every page. This series makes a good connector between easy readers and chapter books.

Betty M. Hockett, Writer/Speaker/Teacher, Newberg, Oregon

***Exploring the New World*, by Rebecca Steffoff. (North American historical atlases.) LCCN 99052973. Tarrytown, N.Y.: Benchmark Books, Marshall Cavendish, 2001. LIB, 0761410562, \$16.95.**

970.01. America—Discovery and exploration; America—Discovery and exploration—Maps. 48 p.

***The colonies*, by Rebecca Steffoff. (North American historical atlases.) LCCN 99047939. Tarrytown, N.Y.: Benchmark Books, Marshall Cavendish, 2001. LIB, 0761410570, \$16.95.**

973.2. United States—History—Colonial period, ca. 1600-1775. 48 p.

***Revolutionary War*, by Rebecca Steffoff. (North American historical atlases.) LCCN 99047937. Tarrytown, N.Y.: Benchmark Books, Marshall Cavendish, 2001. LIB, 0761410589, \$16.95.**

973.3. United States—History—Revolution, 1775-1783. 48 p.

***First frontier*, by Rebecca Steffoff. (North American historical atlases.) LCCN 99047936. Tarrytown, N.Y.: Benchmark Books, Marshall Cavendish, 2001. LIB, 0761410597, \$16.95.**

973.5. Frontier and pioneer life; United States—Territorial expansion. 48 p.

***The War of 1812*, by Rebecca Steffoff. (North American historical atlases.) LCCN 00020086. Tarrytown, N.Y.: Benchmark Books, Marshall Cavendish, 2001. LIB, 0761410600, \$16.95.**

973.5'2. United States—History—War of 1812—Maps. 48 p.

(All ages)

North American Historical Atlases, Rebecca Steffoff's new series of five slim volumes, will delight upper elementary through adult ages with its fascinating overview of American history from the earliest Native American settlers through the War of 1812.

Divided into three short chapters each, these oversized books do not drone with boring facts. Rather, the reader appreciates a skillfully hidden storyteller, speaking in a voice easy to hear and understand. Steffoff explains in a captivating manner the underlying reasons for major events. Though the printing is large, a great number of colorful, detailed maps and illustrations predominate over text. Most are still life drawings or photographs. At the end of each 43-page book the reader will discover five pages of helps: a glossary, map list, vertical chronology of dates from the text, bibliography for further reading, and an index.

In *Exploring The New World*, Steffoff brings the earliest Native American settlers over the land bridge from Siberia to Alaska between 15,000 and 40,000 years ago and discusses their complex cultural systems. An engaging account of explorations by sea and land follows, beginning with the Vikings and ending with the settlement of Quebec in 1608.

In *The Colonies*, *Exploring The New World*, and *The First Frontier*, the first settlers arrive from France, Spain, and England and then move westward to the Northwest Territory, across the mountains, and beyond the Mississippi River. In *Revolutionary War* and *The War of 1812*, readers will enjoy reading about land and sea battles and prominent personalities coming to life. A majority of

maps in all five volumes are primary source documents taken from the Library of Congress Map Division. All maps and illustrations have interesting commentaries.

North American Historical Atlases is an absorbing read, a treasure for information or pleasure.

Rhonda Marie Lackey, Writer, Substitute Teacher/Former Librarian, Tukwila, Washington

In colonial New England, by Deborah Kent. (How we lived....) LCCN 98007780. Tarrytown, N.Y.: Benchmark Books, Marshall Cavendish, 1999. LIB, 076140905X, \$18.95.

974'.02. Frontier and pioneer life--New England; Pioneers; New England--Social life and customs--To 1775. 72 p.

In the middle colonies, by Deborah Kent. (How we lived....) LCCN 98023097. Tarrytown, N.Y.: Benchmark Books, Marshall Cavendish, 1999. LIB, 0761409076, \$18.95.

974'.02. Frontier and pioneer life--Middle Atlantic States; Pioneers; Middle Atlantic States--History--Colonial period, ca. 1600-1775; Middle Atlantic States--Social life and customs. 72 p.

In the southern colonies, by Deborah Kent. (How we lived....) LCCN 98020318. Tarrytown, N.Y.: Benchmark Books, Marshall Cavendish, 1999. LIB, 0761409084, \$18.95.

975'.02. Frontier and pioneer life--Southern States; Pioneers; Southern States--Social life and customs--To 1775. 72 p.

On the old western frontier, by R. Conrad Stein. (How we lived....) LCCN 98023100. Tarrytown, N.Y.: Benchmark Books, Marshall Cavendish, 1999. LIB, 0761409092, \$18.95.

978. Frontier and pioneer life--Northwest, Old; Frontier and pioneer life--Southwest, Old; Pioneers; Northwest, Old; Southwest, Old. 72 p.

In the Spanish West, by R. Conrad Stein. (How we lived....) LCCN 98024087. Tarrytown, N.Y.: Benchmark Books, Marshall Cavendish, 1999. LIB, 0761409068, \$18.95.

979'.00468. Frontier and pioneer life--Southwest, New; Pioneers; Southwest, New--History--To 1848. 72 p.

(Middle school)

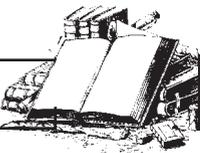
How We Lived discusses life in the early settlements of our country. From the Spanish missions in the west to the plantations of the southern colonies, these books give a good overview of the people's lives as our country began.

Each book generally tells of the beginnings of the colonies in the area, covers the areas of work, recreation, community, religion, and family. Side bars in the various sections fill in other information about the history of the area. Full color pictures and other illustrations are numerous. End materials include a glossary, timeline, places to visit, recommended books and websites, bibliography, and an index.

The books are very informative. They cover both virtues and vices of the people in a matter-of-fact tone that gives the readers an honest view of both without making judgments for them. Authored by a husband and wife team, the series is well-written for the stated interest level of 4th grade up to perhaps 8th. The end materials would be particularly helpful in school situations, giving ideas for further study and reference materials. The pictures are good, often using present-day re-creations of the settlement life for better visual imagery and are placed with the material they are illustrating. The hardback books are sturdy and well-made also.

This series is well-done and would make an especially good purchase for a school.

Betsy Ruffin, Librarian/Teacher, Cleburne, Texas



***The 1930's : directions*, by Dorothy and Tom Hoobler. (Century kids.) LCCN 00026513. Brookfield, Ct.: Millbrook, 2000. HBB, 0761316035, \$21.90.**

F. Olympic Games (11th : 1936 : Berlin, Germany)--Fiction; Depressions--1929--Fiction; Runaways--Fiction; Berlin (Germany)--Fiction; Germany--Fiction. 159 p. (Elementary)

It's 1936 and thirteen-year-old Tony's father, Rocco Vivanti is trying to increase business at his Chicago restaurant by hosting a live radio broadcast provided by two young men who are cousins of Rocco's old friend, silent movie star Nell Aldrich. While everyone's attention is focused on an interview with Amelia Earhardt, discontented Tony decides to run away to Hollywood to find Nell. His travel money is stolen and he becomes one of many hoboes trying to "ride the rails" across the country.

David Aldrich, twelve, is attending the Berlin Olympics with his family. His mother is Jewish and David's family senses danger. So David and his little sister travel with Uncle Georgie to America via the Hindenberg to stay with relatives in California. Both boys are traveling for different reasons but are they heading in the same direction?

This novel is fourth in the series "Century Kids" which traces the lives of several families in this narration of the 20th century. The parallel storylines in *The 1930's : Directions* will draw older elementary or younger middle school readers into the plot while also educating them about the events, attitudes and thoughts of the 1930's. Dorothy and Tom Hoobler have made the action fast-paced; however the alternating storylines may be confusing for some readers.

Each character is portrayed in photographs which are displayed in family trees so the relationships are clearly delineated. This is a great touch helping younger readers not only to identify with the characters but to be able to see for themselves how people of the time period dressed. There are also the wonderful additions of other photos from the era illustrating the story (pictures of the Hitler, Monopoly, etc.), "Historical Notes" and a list of year-by-year historical happenings for the decade.

Teresa O'Donley, Library Media Specialist, Baymonte Christian School, Scotts Valley, California

***The adventures of Nathan T. Riggins*, Stephen By. LCCN 00011985. Wheaton, Ill.: Crossway, 2001. PAP, 1581342357 (v. 1), \$9.99; PAP, 1581342349 (v.2), \$9.99.**

F. Children's stories, American; Frontier and pioneer life--Nevada--Fiction; Christian life--Fiction; Nevada--Fiction; West (U.S.)--Fiction. 2 v.

Stephen Bly introduces twelve-year-old, Nathan T. Riggins and his adventures in the Old West. In *The Dog Who Would Not Smile*, book one, Nathan, a city boy travels to the gold fields in search of his missing parents. Although Nathan had sent a letter telling his parents he was on his way, his parents leave the area before the note arrives. Instead of finding his parents, Nathan finds himself in one adventure after another, as he fingers an outlaw, encounters Indians, gains a wolf-like dog, and ultimately finds that God's plan or providence is always perfect. Book two, *Coyote True*, continues the adventure, as Nathan learns God designed each of his creatures to be true to their nature. In book three, *You Can Always Trust a Spotted Horse*, Nathan gains a trick horse and new friends, and influences an outlaw to return \$20,000 to the owners. The stories in these books move quickly, grabbing your attention with lots of action, and positive interplay between the characters. Nathan habitually talks things over with God, asking for help and understanding as each story unfolds.

In the second volume, which combines books four through six, Stephen Bly, continues the story of Nathan T. Riggins and his adventures in the Old West. In book four, *The Last Stubborn Buffalo in Nevada*, Nathan and his friends, Colin and Leah, find themselves trying to keep a very stubborn buffalo safe. Together they learn that the words from their school Bible play, "...Who knows whether you have come to the kingdom for such a time as this..." help them make decisions whether they find themselves taking their buffalo to a new town or facing outlaws. In book five, *Never Dance with a Bobcat*, Nathan finds that some worthless gold claims might have value, meets an orphaned family of all girls, takes on a job helping haul freight, and learns again that God is always faithful. In the last book, the conclusion to the series, *Hawks Don't Say Good-bye*, the gold town that Nathan lives in is beginning to turn into a ghost town. His dad loses his job and Nathan and his friends have to deal with the fact that they will be moving away from each other. Again, God helps them face the circumstances and make the best of a hard situation. A fun epilogue at the end of the books gives a short biography of each of the younger characters and tells what happens later in their lives. This volume continues to highlight high moral choices and shows Nathan as a positive, enjoyable role model for preteens. Each volume of the book can stand alone, but the books are best read in tandem to follow the characters personality and spiritual development.

Paula Stewart Marks, Principal, Morning Star Christian School

***The amah*, by Laurence Yep. LCCN 98049046. New York: G.P. Putnam's Sons, Penguin Putnam, 1999. HBB, 0399239408, \$15.99.**

F. Family life--Fiction; Ballet dancing--Fiction; Chinese Americans--Fiction. 181 p.

Amy Chin is at the end of her rope! Well, she would be if she weren't Chinese as well as an American. But, that was the problem, Chinese daughters don't get to the end of their ropes. They smile and obey. They sacrifice. And sacrificing means missing her ballet lessons and maybe even her part in the next recital. All this because money is so tight since her father's death that she must babysit her brother and sister while Mama must go uptown to work as an amah, a companion, to Stephanie, a spoiled, rich Caucasian American girl. To make matters worse, Mama comes home with wonderful gifts from her charge and stories of how kind and good she is, while Amy sits at home and stewes in increasing anger and jealousy. When the lonely Stephanie wants to meet Amy and become friends, Amy wants no part of it, only accompanying her when her mother insists.

Eventually she realizes that Stephanie has more problems than she does, and they work together to solve both of their situations with surprising results.

The Amah, by Laurence Yep is at once an insightful glimpse into Chinese American family life for the middle school reader and a realistic examination of the effects of jealousy, anger and selfishness. Yep's characters are written with a sureness and compassion that allows these destructive emotions to be felt, discussed, and solved without painting any one character as the cause of it all. Amy Chin and her family succeed in involving the reader in their lives and conveying a little of what it means to be caught between being Chinese and American.

Pamela A. Todd, English Teacher/Librarian, Chalcedon Christian School, Cumming, Georgia

★

***The amazing secret*, Joni Eareckson Tada, Steve Jensen. (Darcy and friends; 1.) LCCN 00008985. Wheaton, Ill.: Crossway, 2000. ISBN 1581341970, PAP, \$5.99.**

F. Physically handicapped--Fiction; Forgiveness--Fiction; Christian life--Fiction. 127 p.

★

***The unforgettable summer*, Joni Eareckson Tada, Steve Jensen. (Darcy and friends; 2.) Wheaton, Ill.: Crossway, 2000. ISBN 1581341962, PAP, \$5.99.**

F. Physically handicapped--Fiction; Camping--Fiction; Christian life--Fiction; Junior high school--Fiction. 125 p.

★

***The meanest teacher*, Joni Eareckson Tada, Steve Jensen. (Darcy and friends; 3.) LCCN 2001000585. Wheaton, Ill.: Crossway, 2001. ISBN 158134256X, PAP, \$5.99.**

F. Physically handicapped--Fiction; Wheelchairs--Fiction; Christian life--Fiction; Schools--Fiction. 144 p.

★

***The mission adventure*, Joni Eareckson Tada, Steve Jensen. (Darcy and friends; 4.) LCCN 2001000337. Wheaton, Ill.: Crossway, 2001. ISBN 1581342578, PAP, \$5.99.**

F. Physically handicapped--Fiction; Wheelchairs--Fiction; Christian life--Fiction; Missionaries--Fiction; Sisters--Fiction. 143 p.

(Elementary)

Darcy and Friends opens in *The Amazing Secret* by introducing Darcy, a typical sixth grader. Typical, except for the fact that due to a hit and run accident several years before, Darcy is paralyzed from the waist down. It's nearing Thanksgiving and Darcy, in the hospital for severe pressure sores, is feeling sorry for herself until she meets Eric, a burn victim. Through Eric, Darcy learns that she needs to forgive the man who was driving the car that hit her. Will her parents let her track him down to tell him and can she get her friends, Chip, April and Mandy to help?

In *The Unforgettable Summer* Darcy goes to camp with her family and the others in her church. Her friends are staying in the preteen cabins, her sister, Monica is with the high schoolers, even her little brother Josh is staying with friends, but she has to stay in a cabin with her parents so that they can help bathe and dress her. Then she can't even go on a hike with her friends. Darcy begins to feel so left out that she is less than honest with her friends. Will Darcy be able to realize that God cares for her and that she is special and unique?

Darcy is now in seventh grade and wow, is junior high different from grade school. Not only that, but her P.E. teacher, Mrs. Crowhurst is *The Meanest Teacher*. In an effort to fit in, Darcy decides to work on the student newspaper and to run for Student Body President. As her "cause" she plans to "stop the mean machine" by writing an article exposing the uncaring teachers like Mrs. Crowhurst. Then Darcy discovers that she shares something special with the hated teacher but now her campaign is out of control. What will she do as she learns the true meaning of friendship?

Seventh grade is winding up and after hearing about her church's mission trip to Guatemala, Darcy wants to participate, but needs someone to go to help her. To her surprise, big sister Monica wants to go. They struggle to raise the money, but see that God is faithful to provide.

While there Darcy reaches out to Luis, a troubled orphan who shows up to the meetings. Darcy not only learns to have a heart for missions but she learns how God directs every step of our paths.

This inspiring and delightful series from Joni Eareckson Tada with its funny, honest, and unusual heroine is well written and involving. While aimed at middle school readers, even younger children will enjoy Darcy and her struggles not only with her physical disability, but with school, her friendships and her growing relationship with Jesus.

Teresa O'Donley, Library Media Specialist, Baymonte Christian School, Scotts Valley, California

***Christy*, Catherine Marshall; adapted by Anna Wilson Fishel. LCCN 2001017396. Grand Rapids: Chosen, Baker, 2001. HBB, 0800792939, \$9.99.**

F. Teachers--Fiction; Schools--Fiction; Christian life--Fiction; Mountain life--Tennessee--Fiction; Great Smoky Mountains (N.C. and Tenn.)--Fiction; Tennessee--Fiction. 160 p.

When Christy Huddleston at nineteen hears a missionary at her church ask for teachers for the impoverished people of the Great Smoky Mountains, she responds to the need. However, the reality of Cutter Gap, Tennessee, is a big jump for this city gal. The people are dirty and smelly. Animals run wild, in and out of houses that are without electricity or running water. Superstition is rampant. Little by little Christy learns to love the people and make a difference by meeting the needs of the children put into her care. Still, her faith is tried when an illegal whisky still is found under the schoolhouse and a feud brings death and dissension among the hill people.

Has Christy made the right choice? What is her faith based on? This classic tale retold still captures the flavor and intrigue of the original. Young people will be interested in the mountain school and the way the children respond to Christy. Like Christy, readers will be challenged to decide what their faith is based on. Is it about what they have heard or what they know within themselves? Throughout the book the Holy Spirit prompts Christy with an inner voice and leads her to make positive decisions.

Paula Stewart Marks, School Principal, Bend, Oregon

***Cross my heart*, by Sandra Byrd. (Hidden diary; 1.) LCCN 2001001257. Minneapolis: Bethany House, 2001. PAP, 0764224808, \$4.99.**

F. Diaries--Fiction; Friendship--Fiction; Christian life--Fiction; Santa Catalina Island (Calif.)--Fiction; California--Fiction. 111 p.

***Make a wish*, by Sandra Byrd. (Hidden diary; 2.) LCCN 2001001326. Minneapolis: Bethany House, 2001. PAP, 0764224816, \$4.99.**

F. Diaries--Fiction; Parties--Fiction; Christian life--Fiction. 111 p.
(Elementary)

Lucy Larson is nearly twelve and looking forward to spending the summer on Catalina with her parents, two research botanists, and her favorite cousin Katie until she finds out that Katie will not be able to join her. Her parents, who are new Christians, give Lucy the option of staying or going to be with Katie, but they want her to seek God about her decision.

In her room she finds a mysterious letter and key. The letter contains a challenge from two girls from 1932, Mary and Serena, to search for their mutual diary. Lucy not only discovers the diary, but makes a new Christian friend in Serena, the great-granddaughter of the original Serena. As Lucy struggles with fitting in and her previous obligation to spend time with Claudette, the seven-year-old daughter of friends, she discovers that God does keep His promises (thus the title, *Cross My Heart*) and that He not only will help in her decision making, but He has already prepared a way for her to go.

In book two in The Hidden Diary series, Serena and Lucy decide to weekly read the diary together and to pattern their actions after the diary's authors. Thus, since the writers gave a party, they plan a birthday party for Lucy. Their efforts begin to go awry due to the jealousy of Serena's friend, Julie, and Lucy's relationship with Claudette. In *Make a Wish* Lucy learns that the Christian life is one of obeying Christ in all things and of placing the desires of others before your own.

Sandra Byrd has done a lovely job of accurately portraying the lives of modern day preteens who struggle with feelings of acceptance and guidance. The conflicts are realistic and nicely resolved. The details such as flavors of Jelly Bellies add a touch of realism. Girls from about third to sixth grade would benefit by reading this entertaining series. Note: in the first book Lucy and her father have a conversation about God's keeping his promises in which he states an "eternal security" position. Parents who hold a differing doctrinal opinion may desire to discuss this with their child.

Teresa O'Donley, Library Media Specialist, Baymonte Christian School, Scotts Valley, California

***The discovery*, Nancy Rue. (Christian heritage series. Santa Fe years; 1.) LCCN 00012431. Minneapolis: Bethany House, 2001. PAP, 1561798622, \$5.99.**

F. Honesty--Fiction; World War, 1939-1945--United States--Fiction; Tewa Indians--Fiction; Indians of North America--New Mexico--Fiction; Christian life--Fiction; Santa Fe (N.M.)--Fiction. 186 p.

***The mirage*, Nancy Rue. (Christian heritage series. Santa Fe years; 2.) LCCN 00012429. Minneapolis: Bethany House, 2001. PAP, 1561798630, \$5.99.**

F. Prejudices--Fiction; World War, 1939-1945--United States--Fiction; Christian life--Fiction; Mentally handicapped--Fiction; Santa Fe (N.M.)--Fiction. 188 p.

The pursuit, by Nancy Rue. (Christian heritage series. The Chicago years; 6.) LCCN 99055398. Minneapolis: Bethany House, 2000. PAP, 1561798568, \$5.99.

F. Family life--Fiction; Christian life--Fiction; Chicago (Ill.)--Fiction. 174 p. (Elementary)

The role of faith and family in American history is explored in the Christian Heritage series by Focus on the Family. Following the Hutchison family through several generations, the books present their struggles with the Christian life, the happenings of the period, and with other people against a backdrop of United States history, including, in these books, World War II and the late 1920's just before the depression years.

The main characters are middle school age with their own sets of problems. They are generally believable and realistically drawn. Adults in the books are usually helpful even when dealing with their own concerns of life. Problematic characters are there to provide conflict for the students and to show how faith is to be applied to everyday life. The morals and lessons usually start and are helped along with an adult's advice to the children, but they must work out the details for themselves.

Series books are often popular with intermediate and middle schoolers, and these have good moral values and strong obvious lessons, as well as a look at historical epochs, though some details might be checked with other resources for a better view. This would be a good series for readers interested in history, and the presence of male main characters, as well as female, makes it a possibility for interesting boys in the books. It's a series worth investigating further.

Betsy Ruffin, Librarian/Teacher, Cleburne, Texas

Firegold, by Dia Calhoun; pictures by Hervé Blondon. LCCN 98089830. Delray Beach, Fla.: Winslow Press, 1999. HBB, 1890817104, \$15.95.

F. Fantastic fiction. 285 p.

Jonathan Brae's blue eyes made him an object of suspicion in the Valley, where everyone's eyes were brown. Blue eyes were cursed, they believed, only to be found among the Dalriada, a legendary people who lived far over the mountains. Any one in the Valley who had them was bad luck and would eventually go insane. As Jonathan grows, the uneasy acceptance he has had with his neighbors wears thin, turning to open hatred and fear when a blight hits the orchards, the Valley's main crop. His safety questionable, Jonathan strikes out on a quest to find the truth about his ancestry and the people over the mountains who he resembles. But when he finds them, he finds that he has not left his troubles behind him. Even here he must prove that he belongs by succeeding at the Ridgewalk, a deadly obstacle course from which only the worthy return. Returning in triumph, the boy-turned-man discovers that still he is not

whole nor accepted and must return to the Valley to find both.

Firegold, Dia Calhoun's work of fantasy, seems to take place centuries after a world-wide catastrophe that has divided people into isolated, fearful groups, neither of which will accept her protagonist. The story is typical of the genre: a youth searches for belonging and finds that he must accept both sides, both cultures from which he has descended, in order to be whole; and in doing so, becomes the savior of both peoples. Calhoun's prose is up to the task and her plot provides an interesting, though not original, read.

Where **Firegold** fails is in its theme, which is trite and full of a fuzzy-feel-good view of life. But its most important failure is in its lack of an underlying ethic. Jonathan has nothing to guide him in his decision making or apprehension of his two "sides," leading him to a lopsided view of the two contending cultures and leaving the question of right and wrong largely unanswerable. This post-modern approach to young adult novels is a trend to be observed with concern.

Pamela A. Todd, English Teacher/Librarian, Chalcedon Christian School, Cumming, Georgia

Framed in fire, David Patneade. LCCN 98039606. Morton Grove, Ill.: Albert Whitman, 1999/2001. HBB, 0807590983, \$14.95; PAP, 0807590967, \$5.95.

F. Stepfathers--Fiction; Fathers and sons--Fiction; Psychiatric hospitals--Fiction. 214 p.

Seventh grader Peter is waging a war with Buck, his lying, conniving stepfather, who has convinced Peter's mother that he has ADHD and is in need not only of medication but of incarceration in a place that can "handle him." Peter would be glad to never see Buck or his home again, but he misses his mom and five-year-old half brother, Lincoln.

In Resthaven he meets John/Eugene, his roommate who thinks he is a famous poet and who only speaks in the form of poems; Sarah, a cigarette smoking anorexic; Zodiac, a free spirited orderly; Cat, the pretty receptionist; and Dr. Lila, an understanding and kind psychiatrist. Peter resolves to be on his best behavior in order to go home, but through a loose bookplate and his brother's "real dreams" he becomes suspicious about the supposed death of his father. Has his mother been lying to him all along? He must find the answers to his questions and in the process hopefully find a better life for himself.

In **Framed in Fire** author David Patneade paints a vivid portrait of a hero with a stressful home life and less than perfect behavior. His characters are full fleshed and well drawn and the middle school or high school reader will be rooting for Peter to find his answers. The character Zodiac is motivated by wanting to have more good deeds than bad deeds because he believes this is what will get him into heaven (there is no mention of Christ's redemption) and

Lincoln's "real dreams" could be interpreted as prophetic or clairvoyant, so a parent may want to discuss these issues with younger readers.

Teresa O'Donley, Library Media Specialist, Baymonte Christian School, Scotts Valley, California

Groover's heart, Carole Crowe. LCCN 00103736. Honesdale, Pa.: Boyds Mills, 2001. HBB, 1563979535, \$15.95.

F. Parents--Fiction; Death--Fiction; Life--Fiction. 144 p.

Groover's Heart by Carole Crowe tells the tale of Charlotte Dearborn, an eleven-year-old orphan. She has lived with her Aunt Viola and Uncle Ed since her parents were drowned in a ferry accident. Aunt Viola is very particular about neatness, manners, and "keeping up with the Joneses." Charlotte feels out of place and unloved in her aunt's home.

Charlotte discovers that she has another uncle, information that her aunt has kept from her. While her aunt and uncle are away for the holidays, Charlotte runs away from home to find her estranged uncle in hope that he will love her, as her aunt cannot. After a dangerous trip through New York City, Charlotte arrives at her Uncle Groover's shabby home. Charlotte and Groover establish a warm relationship almost immediately, but Groover is a recovering alcoholic who feels responsible for the death of Charlotte's parents. Groover finds a way to overcome the obstacles to having Charlotte come to live with him, and Charlotte comes to a realization that her Aunt Viola does care for her in her own way.

If this story sounds familiar, you may have read *Heidi*. This book is not a unique story and can be considered a modern rewrite of that classic. **Groover's Heart** is sentimental and treats difficult family dynamics in a somewhat superficial manner. It is readable and enjoyable, but I recommend the classic *Heidi* instead.

Karla Castle, Public Services Librarian, Warner Pacific College, Portland, Oregon

Hemlock Hill Hideaway, by Carrie Bender. (Whispering Brook Series, 4.) LCCN 99055154. Scottsdale, Pennsylvania: Herald Press, 2000. ISBN 0836191285, Pap, \$8.99.

F. Amish--Fiction. Family life--Fiction. Farm life--Fiction. 168 p.

When the Petersheim family takes in Dannie, an almost orphaned boy whose father has disappeared, they deal with some rough times as he tests their boundaries. Dannie rescues a raccoon who is also orphaned and the connection between them is fast. When the little coon, Bandit, makes trouble in the corn patch, Dannie and the coon head for the woods and stay in an abandoned cabin. Eventually with the consistency and love that characterizes the Petersheim family unit, Dannie comes around.

Carrie Bender once again weaves a gentle story of the Petersheim family. Readers of the Whispering Brook series will eagerly read this

installment. Adult readers looking for something similar to Jan Karon's Mitford series will also enjoy the tales of this family. A member of the Amish community, Bender uses a pen name and writes stories true to the Amish tradition. A charming, gentle story that will have readers yearning to have the Petersheims living next door.

Carol M. Jones, Librarian, South Side Elementary School and Marquette Pre-K Center, Champaign, Illinois

The legend of Crystal Lake, by Sally A. Roberts. LCCN 99049996. Austin, Tex.: Eakin Press, 2000. 1571683690, HBB, \$17.95.

F. Frontier and pioneer life--Texas--Fiction; Texas--History--To 1846--Fiction. (Elementary)

There is romance, sadness, adventure, and history in *The Legend of Crystal Lake* by Sally Roberts. The story centers on Sarah Kensington and her family who leave their native England for Texas. The adjustments are tremendous for twelve-year-old Sarah. Not only is her mother now dead, Sarah fights a fever during the crossing. She feels estranged and lonely, vowing she will not accept Texas and her new life there. Sarah also strives to reach out to her grief-stricken father, and wonders what will become of her family when she realizes her older sister will soon marry. Sarah and her family share in the tumultuous beginnings of Texas as they fight for their adopted home's freedom and independence.

Sarah is a plucky, determined heroine who tries not to succumb to her reoccurring rheumatic fever, her doubts, and her fears. Clinging to remnants of a beloved fairy tale, Sarah tries desperately to keep her promise to her mother to continue the tradition of being the royal swan keeper, as she copes with so many changes in her life. Sarah struggles to care for her flock of twenty swans through perilous desert crossings, drought, and Indian raids, fiercely keeping hold of her promise.

The inclusion Jason Eckhardt's simple wood-cut like illustrations add to the appeal of this historical fiction. There is an informative epilogue, a helpful vocabulary index, and a suggested reading list.

Pam Webb, School Library Technician, Sandpoint, Idaho



Mary, Bloody Mary, Carolyn Meyer. LCCN 99021185. San Diego: Gulliver, Harcourt, 1999/2001. HBB, 0152019065, \$16.00; PAP, 0152164561, \$6.00.

F. Mary I, Queen of England, 1516-1558--Childhood and youth--Fiction; Kings, queens, rulers, etc.--Fiction; Great Britain--History--Mary I, 1533-1558--Fiction. 227 p.



Beware, Princess Elizabeth, Carolyn Meyer. LCCN 00011700. San Diego: Harcourt, 2001. HBB, 0152026592, \$17.00.

F. Elizabeth I, Queen of England, 1533-1603--Childhood and youth--Fiction; Mary I, Queen of England, 1516-1558--Fiction; Princesses--Fiction; Sisters--Fiction; Great Britain--History--Edward VI, 1547-1553--Fiction; Great Britain--History--Mary I, 1533-1558--Fiction. 214 p.

(High school)

Mary Tudor is the pampered daughter of King Henry VIII until his obsession with fathering a son causes her not only to be declared illegitimate but to be in constant fear of being killed. In *Mary, Bloody Mary* this famous queen comes to life in this first person narrative as Carolyn Meyer portrays her as a young girl grieved by the absence of her mother, and fearing the future as she stubbornly defies the king. Her life is traced from the time that she is ten years old to the moment at age twenty that she finally is forced by Cromwell, the king's hated minister, to sign the documents which acknowledge that she has no claim to the throne and that her father is the head of the "true" church. In the concluding epilog, the author briefly describes the rest of her life.

The Young Royals series continues in the same manner with *Beware, Princess Elizabeth*, another first person narrative of Elizabeth, fourteen, whose father, Henry VIII has just died and whose brother Edward VI has come to the throne. Elizabeth shares some of same struggles that plagued Mary but she has even more to fear when her embittered sister becomes queen and considers Elizabeth a threat to her power. Elizabeth's early life is filled with fascinating characters (Jane Grey, Philip II of Spain, etc.) and great tragedies (the execution of her mother, Mary's persecution of Protestants, etc.). The book concludes with the death of Mary and the twenty-five year old Princess Elizabeth about to become one of England's greatest monarchs.

This excellent series brings these two intriguing women wonderfully to life. The middle or high school reader will be able to identify with the fears and hopes Mary and Elizabeth experienced. They are well written and the first person narration flows smoothly. This is exactly what historical fiction for young people should be—entertaining as well as educating. While the issues of infidelity, divorce, death, and the conflicts between Protestants and Catholics are handled well, some parents may want to read these books with their younger adolescents.

Teresa O'Donley, Library Media Specialist, Baymonte Christian School, Scotts Valley, California

My brother's keeper : Virginia's diary, by Mary Pope Osborne. (My America.) LCCN 00020200. New York: Scholastic, 2000. HBB, 0439153077, \$10.95.

F. Gettysburg (Pa.), Battle of, 1863--Fiction; Diaries--Fiction; United States--History--Civil War, 1861-1865--Campaigns--Fiction. 109 p.

Papa and Jed went to help Uncle Jack hide his horses from the Confederate soldiers. Nine-year-old Virginia has been left with the McCully family in Gettysburg. Jed asks Virginia to keep his journal for him while he is gone. He tells her to write what she hears, what she sees, and what

she truly feels and thinks. Virginia writes of the battle, of missing Pa and Jed, of looking for Jed when he doesn't return home, and of nursing Jed back to health. *My Brother's Keeper* is the story of the days leading up to and following the Battle of Gettysburg as seen through the eyes of a nine-year-old girl.

Mary Pope Osborne has effectively entered the voice of a young girl. The story actually sounds like a third grader would tell it: from jealousy when eighteen-year-old Jane Ellen McCully asks questions about Jed to running away when asked to hold a soldier's hand while the doctor saws off the man's leg.

Jane Mouttet, Missionary School Librarian, Window Rock, Arizona

Pankration : the ultimate game, by Dyan Blacklock. LCCN 98038559. Morton Grove, Ill.: Albert Whitman, 1999. HBB, 0807563234, \$15.95.

F. Olympic games (Ancient)--Fiction; Escapes--Fiction; Greece--Fiction. 192 p.

Tragedy and trouble seem to be Nicasylus--Nic's--lot in life. A young citizen of ancient Athens, he began life as a beloved son, but he is now a merely tolerated step-son. A devoted brother; now he must watch in silence as his sister is married off to a loathsome man twice her age. Then plague sails into Athens on the trade ships and he is sent away to live with his step-father's family. On his trip, he is befriended by the ship's captain, Gellius, who is also in training for the Pankration event, a brutal, no-holds-barred fight, in the next Olympic games. But trouble intervenes again when the ship is boarded by pirates, and Nic is taken and sold into slavery. The story then divides between Nic's escape from slavery and trip to find Gellius at Olympus, and Gellius' recovery, training, and competition at the games. In the end the two are reunited at the games, Nic challenges Gellius' defeater his right to the prize by revealing that the winner is really a pirate, not the honorable man he had vowed he was; thereby giving Gellius his victory and gaining justice for himself.

Dyan Blacklock's *Pankration: The Ultimate Game*, is an awkward attempt at fictionalizing what life might have been like in ancient Greece for the upper elementary-aged reader. The accumulation of tragedies and troubles in Nic's life and the number of coincidences employed to solve them stretch the reader's willingness to believe, and seem to be utilized merely in order to give more examples of historical facts. The characters are rather shallow; and growth, even in Nic's character, is minimal. Neither is there a strong theme for the reader to latch onto. Literature, this story is not; but there is plenty of action and enough description of it to keep the attention of the middle school male reader and supplement study of the ancient world at this age level.

Pamela A. Todd, English Teacher/Librarian, Chalcedon Christian School, Cumming, Georgia

The preacher's boy, by Katherine Paterson. LCCN 98050083. New York: Clarion Books, Houghton Mifflin, 1999. HBB, 0395838975, \$15.00.

F. Family life--Vermont--Fiction; Fathers and sons--Fiction; Christian life--Fiction; Vermont--Fiction. 168 p.

From Mabel Cramm's bloomers flapping atop the flagpole, to flicking a large black spider down Mrs. Weston's high-necked collar during church, to writing the fake note for help, to running away, Robbie Hewitt's creativity plummets him into deep trouble.

Robbie, son of the minister of the Congregational Church, decides on Revival Sunday to "leave the fold." This decision, he convinces himself, leaves the way clear to experience as much of life as possible before the Day of Judgment. After that his behavior as an "apeist" entangles him to an unexpected extent.

It takes a serious head injury to pump sense into his mind. He begins to feel responsible for his actions, and at once the same creativity that lands him in this state works to his advantage. While he still feels weak, he pulls himself together to do "what had to be done." On the way to the courthouse, Robbie encounters a miracle that makes him sign on as a true believer "for all eternity."

Katherine Paterson chose Robbie's viewpoint for this story, set in a small Vermont town in 1899. The first person voice quickly draws readers into the action. Besides Robbie and his family, we meet his buddy, Willie Beaner, Vile, short for Violet, and her reprobate father, Zeb, as well as parishioners and others. Their dialogue sounds natural and their actions consistent with that era. The authentic background gives *The Preacher's Boy* an autobiographical quality. In fact, according to Paterson's explanation in Acknowledgments, she based these appealing characters on real-life people.

As always, her clear, concise writing sparkles with similes and strong word pictures.

Betsy M. Hockett, *Writer/Speaker/Teacher, Newberg, Oregon*



Refugee treasure, Robert Elmer. (Promise of Zion; 3.) LCCN 00012158. Minneapolis: Bethany House, 2001. PAP, 0764222996, \$5.99.

F. Refugees, Jewish--Fiction; Christian life--Fiction; Palestine--History--1917-1948--Fiction. 171 p. (Elementary)

Trying to find the Jewish section in the maze-like and unfamiliar streets of Jerusalem's Old City, Dov Zalinski instead ends up in the Muslim quarter. After trying to steal bread from Farouk Bin-Jazzi, an Arab Christian, Dov is hired by the man to help around his shop. Dealing in souvenirs, Mr. Bin-Jazzi doesn't deal in real artifacts until a friend brings the real Dead Sea Scrolls for him to examine. Aware the shop is being watched, Dov hides in the cistern below the shop when thieves arrive to steal the scrolls. Unable to get back into the shop, Dov

wanders through the tunnels, finally emerging in the Jewish section. When he is arrested, Dov gives Emily Parkinson's name to the British officer. Emily shows Dov the way back to the Muslim quarter. There they escape the men who are after the scrolls and get help for an injured Mr. Bin-Jazzi. Emily gives Dov information she has uncovered about his family.

Book three in the Promise of Zion series, *Refugee Treasure*, continues the story of thirteen year-old Dov Zalinski and Emily Parkinson. Searching for his family, Dov has not seen his mother since being dropped off at an orphanage in Warsaw, Poland, at age five. As the daughter of a British major, Emily Parkinson has come to love Jerusalem. Upset that her family may soon be leaving land she calls home, Emily is searching for a way to stay. As their paths continue to cross, adventure ensues.

Author Robert Elmer has written an exciting tale of life in Jerusalem at a volatile time. Thoroughly researched, the descriptions of the Old City are excellent. Young readers and adults will both enjoy this well-written story.

Elizabeth Coleman, *Freelance Writer, Tumwater, Washington*

Risking the dream, Lee Roddy. (Between two flags; 6.) LCCN 00010839. Minneapolis: Bethany House, 2000. PAP, 0764220306, \$5.99.

F. Slavery--Fiction; African Americans--Fiction; Christian life--Fiction; Virginia--History--Civil War, 1861-1865--Fiction; United States--History--Civil War, 1861-1865--Fiction. 175 p.

In *Risking The Dream*, Gideon, Emily, and Nat dream of the future in spite of the Civil War. Gideon leaves the family farm and goes to Richmond, Virginia. He wants to write and there's an opening on the newspaper. Another boy gets the position. Desperate to remain in Richmond Gideon agrees to smuggle articles back from the front lines. Hoping to sell stories to the newspaper, Gideon writes about a wounded drummer boy and the hot air balloons used by the North and South. The articles are published, but his name isn't on them. Reluctantly Gideon decides he must give up his dream and go home. At the last moment Gideon finds an alternative.

Orphaned and sent to the South to live with relatives, Emily dreams of going back home to Illinois. Ordered out of her cousin's home after a disagreement over the slaves, Emily's now on her own. Emily is delighted when she gets a pass through the battle lines that will allow her to return to the North. But she can't escape the thought that perhaps God had a special reason for her to be in the South.

Nat has always been a slave. His dream to be free has finally been realized. Now he just wants to find his two brothers and join the rest of his family in Canada. Why do these white people want to complicate his life by insisting he think beyond just being free?

As always, Lee Roddy spins an exciting tale. Set during the Civil War, *Risking The Dream* is

sixth in the series, *Between Two Flags*. Fascinating historical details are woven into the story of young people learning to turn their lives over to God. The cover illustration by Chris Ellison is well done and adds to the story of the balloon.

Barbara Bryden, *Freelance Writer, Olympia, Washington*

Surviving Jamestown : the adventures of young Sam Collier, Gail Karwoski; illustrated by Paul Casale. LCCN 00054859. Atlanta: Peachtree, 2001. HBB, 1561452394, \$14.95; PAP, 1561452459, \$8.95.

F. Smith, John, 1580-1631--Fiction; Collier, Samuel, d. 1622--Fiction; Explorers--Fiction; Jamestown (Va.)--Fiction; Virginia--History--Colonial period, ca. 1600-1775--Fiction. 199 p.

Sam Collier is leaving England for the first and last time and is sailing as John Smith's young servant. They are traveling to America to establish the colony at Jamestown. Traveling along with Sam are three new young friends, Nate, James, and Richard. Sam is totally caught up in the excitement of the voyage until his master John is arrested for mutiny and locked up in a room aboard the ship. By the time they reach the New World the conflict is resolved. John Smith is assigned to explore the land and to make contact with the Native Americans already living there. Sam is privileged to be able to accompany him on several trips and find out just how different this strange new land is from his native England. Soon the settlers seem to face crisis after crisis - starvation, cold, disease, and the sometimes hostile natives. Sam must face the loss of friends and even struggle for his own life. Will he be able to survive Jamestown?

Surviving Jamestown by Gail Langer Karwoski a thrilling, fast paced, you-are-there adventure in which the young reader will experience life as it was for the earliest Europeans to settle America through the wide eyes of one of the youngest to first set foot here. This fine work of historical fiction for middle schoolers is based upon an actual boy, Sam Collier, who did come and travel with John Smith and who remained when Smith returned to England. The author's notes at the end of the novel give the reader further information about the settlement, Captain Smith, and Sam.

Teresa O'Donley, *Library Media Specialist, Baymonte Christian School, Scotts Valley, California*

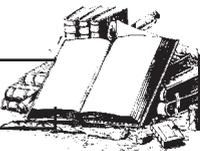
Triple threat trouble, Clair Bee; updated by Randall and Cynthia Bee Farley; foreword by Jack McCallum. (Chip Hilton sports series; 18.) LCCN 00068882. Nashville: Broadman & Holman, 2001. PAP, 0805420975, \$5.99.

F. Football--Fiction; Teamwork (Sports)--Fiction. 183 p. (High school.)

If you are looking for books that will catch your sports-minded youngster's interest, this series is top of the line. In this book the main character, Chip Hilton, all-American quarterback and captain of the State University football team,

faces troublesome team relationship problems with positive values and good sportsmanship. When two glory hungry sophomores, nicknamed the Touchdown Twins, try to wreck Chip's calls in order to promote themselves, the team suffers. When the team turns on the twins, three players are sidelined. Chip works hard to resolve the conflict and bring about team unity. Chip also mentors a younger high school player and helps him become stronger in making right choices. This book is packed with football plays and good strategy. Coach Bee vividly describes events that enable the reader to hear the thud of the tackle and experience how a player exhibits character, determination, and faith on and off the field. Each book of the series stands alone, as the author puts the main character in different sports and situations.

Paula Stewart Marks, School Principal, Bend, Oregon



200's—Religion



Girl talk : 61 questions from girls like you! by Sandra Byrd. LCCN 2001002328. Minneapolis: Bethany House, 2001. PAP, 0764224921, \$7.99.

248.8'2. Girls--Religious life--Miscellanea; Christian life--Biblical teaching--Miscellanea; Christian life--Fiction; Conduct of life. 126 p. (High school)

Girl Talk: 61 Questions From Girls Like You! is a wonderful book for any adolescent girl. Even older girls could benefit not only from its great advice, but from the scripture references given to support the answers. The format has been well thought out by author Sandra Byrd, who also wrote "The Hidden Diary" series. There are chapters on Faith, Family, Friendship, School, Society, and Yourself. Each section begins with a quiz of approximately ten questions. Each question is followed by an annotation giving the page location of the answer. The chapters then have inquiries from a girl's point of view ("I study for tests, why don't I get an A?") which are then answered. Following that the author ask a couple of questions of her own ("Have there been times when your work has gone unrewarded?") with space for girls to write their answers if they desire to. Then Byrd supplies an appropriate scripture verse that applies to the situation.

A wide variety of subjects is covered, from abortion, dating, drugs, divorce, smoking, jealousy, etc. to devotional times, worship, and a personal relationship with Christ. Due to the controversial nature of some of the topics, parents of younger girls may want to read the book with their children.

Teresa O'Donley, Library Media Specialist, Baymonte Christian School, Scotts Valley, California



The journals of Rachel Scott, [adapted by] Beth Nimmo and Debra Klingsporn. LCCN 00067879. Nashville: Thomas Nelson, 2001. HBB, 0849975948, \$9.99.

277.3'0829'092. Scott, Rachel (Rachel Joy); Columbine High School (Littleton, Colo.)--Students--Biography; Christian biography--Colorado; Christian teenagers--Colorado--Biography; High school students--Colorado--Biography; Christian teenagers--Religious life. 148 p.

Rachel Scott was one of the teen martyrs at Columbine High and she left some extraordinary journals behind. The authors Beth Nimmo (Rachel's mother) and Debra Klingsporn have done a marvelous job of adapting her journals and presenting them in a

first person format as if Rachel were telling her own story teen to teen. The narration is crisp, tender, bittersweet, sad, funny, and sounds exactly as if a teen was writing to her girlfriend.

Rachel's relationships, especially her relationship with God, are portrayed honestly--doubts, fear, trust, and all. The book is filled with actual quotes from her journals as well as photos of pages from her journals which are filled with drawings, poetry, Bible quotations, and songs. There are also thoughts from Rachel's friends and family. Each chapter is concluded with a brief comment from the authors, and space is provided for the reader to add her own journal comments and thoughts.

Rachel Scott is shown to be a truly amazing young woman, one not so different from many girls, but one who was prepared for all that the Lord allowed to be in her life and who followed Him to the best of her abilities. This book would make a wonderful companion to the previous biography *Rachel's Tears* and any young person would be inspired and enriched by reading it.

Teresa O'Donley, Library Media Specialist, Baymonte Christian School, Scotts Valley, California

700's—The Arts and Recreation

Building big, David Macaulay. LCCN 00028116. Boston: Houghton Mifflin, Houghton Mifflin, 2000. HBB, 0395063311, \$30.00.

720. Architecture. 192 p.

Have you ever wondered how exactly a bridge is suspended or how Hoover Dam was built? If you have, then *Building Big*, the big-sized companion volume to the PBS series by the same name, contains the information that you've been looking for. In this intriguing book the reader is introduced to the basic principles of architectural design in some of mankind's greatest and most awesome building endeavors.

Author David Macaulay begins with bridges and then continues, thoroughly covering tunnels, dams, domes, and skyscrapers. Each chapter illustrates how various types of bridges, etc. are built through specific chronological examples of each, giving the history of how they came to be and explaining how they were built. The many wonderful pencil and ink illustrations which accompany the text are not only easy to understand but enlightening and educational as well. There is a nice glossary at the conclusion of the book.

Macaulay's focus on how the various builders solved their problems with creative and

inventive design strategies would inspire many young or even older readers. Anyone interested in buildings in general, architectural design, the physics of building, or just in good old problem solving would greatly benefit by reading this interesting book.

Teresa O'Donley, Library Media Specialist, Baymonte Christian School, Scotts Valley, California

Basketball the right way, Robin Roberts. (Get in the game!) LCCN 00025350. Brookfield, Ct.: Millbrook, 2000. LIB, 0761314091, \$21.90; PAP, 0761312854, \$6.95.

796.323. Basketball. 48 p.

Robin Roberts, former basketball player and current sports broadcaster for ESPN has done a fine job in *Basketball the Right Way*, explaining step by step both the concepts involved in playing the game and the fundamentals of playing. She divulges her motivation and goes on to state that basketball is first and foremost a team sport and explains all that this entails, including how to relate and get along with other teammates and coaches and difficult players. The fundamentals of playing are laid out in an informative way that would benefit new players or perhaps remind more experienced players of the basics. There is a very beneficial section on how to tell good advice from advice that produces discouragement or bad motivation. The book concludes with a section on attitudes about winning and losing.

This book is well laid out with many color photographs, bulleted points, and nice use of white space, all of which will encourage reluctant readers. The bibliography not only contains some good basic books on basketball but has a list of helpful websites. While *Basketball the Right Way* is mainly targeted at young girls, young boys may also be interested and could certainly benefit by Roberts' thoughtful advice.

Teresa O'Donley, Library Media Specialist, Baymonte Christian School, Scotts Valley, California

900's—Geography, History, & Biography

Billy Yank and Johnny Reb : soldiering in the Civil War, Susan Provost Beller. LCCN 99462169. Brookfield, Ct.: Twenty-First Century Books, Millbrook, 2000. HBB, 0761318690, \$26.90.

973.742. United States. Army--History--Civil War, 1861-1865; Confederate States of America. Army--History; Soldiers; United States--History--Civil War, 1861-1865. 96 p. (Elementary)

The reasons for resorting to war and the meaning of the events that occur during it are often a matter of perspective. Almost one hundred and fifty years in our past, the great war of 1861-1864 still challenges our understanding, adult and child alike, of what America was and is to be. Although the words of politicians and generals are very important in understanding past wars, children want to know what it was like, and that means war from the soldier's viewpoint. Susan Provost Beller's *Billy Yank and Johnny Reb*, real soldiers Theodore Garrish and Carlton McCarthy, tell their story through quotes on their views of the major events in a soldier's life from the day he signs up to fight, through training, deployment, engagement, the uncertainty of hospital, and life after 1864.

Billy Yank and Johnny Reb joins the parade of many books looking at soldiering during the Civil War but with significant differences. First, it is squarely aimed at the upper elementary, middle school reader with the intent of providing solid information in a readable and attractive manner that does not "talk down" to the reader. The balance between the author's presentation of facts and the pertinent excerpts from soldiers' letters is well maintained, keeping the narrative interesting and personal. Another refreshing difference is the respect with which Beller treats the Confederate side of the story, eschewing the dangerously inaccurate simplification of the causes of the war that is so widespread, especially in children's books. Neither is the war romanticized. Every page spread includes black and white period photographs or reproductions of period documents to illustrate the subject of the chapter and the devastation of war.

Billy Yank and Johnny Reb ends with a map of the major battles and cities involved in the war, a chronology of events, a chapter by chapter list of the resources the author consulted, and a short list of books, CD-Roms, and internet sites for further study. Beller has gathered together a book that is well able to provide for those students looking for resources for reports as well as those who are fascinated with the war itself.

Pamela A. Todd, English Teacher/Librarian, Chalcedon Christian School, Cumming, Georgia

Series Update



***Amy Carmichael : rescuer of precious gems*, by Janet and Geoff Benge. (Christian heroes: then and now.) LCCN 98023396. Seattle: YWAM Pub., 1998. PAP, 1576580180, \$8.99.**

266. Carmichael, Amy, 1867-1951; Missionaries--Ireland--Biography; Missionaries--India--Biography; Women--Biography; Dohnavur Fellowship--History. 203 p.



***Corrie Ten Boom : keeper of the angels' den*, by Janet and Geoff Benge. (Christian heroes: then and now.) LCCN 98030891. Seattle: YWAM Pub., 1999. PAP, 1576581365, \$8.99.**

269. Ten Boom, Corrie; Christian biography--Netherlands; Missionaries; Women--Biography. 201 p.

Amy Carmichael is a young Irish woman living in England working in various wonderful Christian causes when she hears the Lord tell her to "go ye." She at first believes that she is called to China, but winds up in Japan and then Ceylon instead, but after a brief return home, she decides for health reasons to go to India. Thus begins the lengthy Indian ministry of a true woman of faith. Amy becomes the "child stealing amma (mother)" and the leader of the Starry Cluster. Ultimately through great trust in God and compassion for the Indian people, she shines as one of Christianity's great missionaries and writers.

Corrie Ten Boom has led a relatively quiet life with her pious father and sister Betsy in pre WWII Holland. She trusts God and is the founder of the Triangle Clubs to minister to young women, but her faith is about to be tested with the advent of the Nazi invasion of her homeland. Her family bravely works with the underground to hide Jews. Once they are betrayed, through the grace of God and her own valiant determination Corrie will not only survive the death camps of Hitler to tell her story of God's provision and faithfulness, but will learn to forgive the seemingly unforgivable.

Janet and Geoff Benge strike pure gold once again in their wonderful series "Christian Heroes: Then and Now." The stories of these true heroines are told forthrightly and in a manner that is easy to read for younger children and yet involving for adults. Any Christian, young or old, would be inspired and blessed by reading these awesome true adventures in The Faith.

Teresa O'Donley, Library Media Specialist, Baymonte Christian School, Scotts Valley, California

***Ancient communication : from grunts to graffiti*, by Michael Woods and Mary B. Woods. (Ancient technology.) LCCN 99040934. Minneapolis: Runestone Press, Lerner, 2000. HBB, 0822529963, \$25.26.**

302.2'09. Communication--History. 88 p.

***Ancient computing : from counting to calendars*, by Michael Woods and Mary B. Woods. (Ancient technology.) LCCN 99039810. Minneapolis: Runestone Press, Lerner, 2000. HBB, 0822529971, \$25.26.**

510'.93. Mathematics, Ancient; Mathematics--History. 88 p.

***Ancient medicine : from sorcery to surgery*, by Michael Woods and Mary B. Woods. (Ancient technology.) LCCN 98036124. Minneapolis: Runestone Press, Lerner, 2000. HBB, 0822529920, \$25.26.**

610'.9'01. Medicine, Ancient; Medical technology. 88 p.

***Ancient machines : from wedges to waterwheels*, by Michael Woods and Mary B. Woods. (Ancient technology.) LCCN 98030289. Minneapolis: Runestone Press, Lerner, 2000. HBB, 0822529947, \$25.26.**

621.8. Simple machines; Machinery--History. 88 p.

***Ancient construction : from tents to towers*, by Michael Woods and Mary B. Woods. (Ancient technology.) LCCN 99039828. Minneapolis: Runestone Press, Lerner, 2000. HBB, 082252998X, \$25.26.**

624'.093. Civil engineering--History; Building--History; Science, Ancient. 88 p.

***Ancient transportation : from camels to canals*, by Michael Woods and Mary B. Woods. (Ancient technology.) LCCN 98047475. Minneapolis: Runestone Press, Lerner, 2000. HBB, 0822529939, \$25.26.**

629.04'09'01. Transportation--History. 88 p.

***Ancient warfare : from foraging to farming*, by Michael Woods and Mary B. Woods. (Ancient technology.) LCCN 98048497. Minneapolis: Runestone Press, Lerner, 2000. HBB, 0822529955, \$25.26.**

630'.9'01. Agriculture--History. 88 p.

Most of us think of technology in terms of computers, cell phones, DVDs, or other gadgets we use today. Technology, however, is the use of knowledge to devise means to make life easier. Thus people have been using technology throughout history.

These eight reviewed volumes of the Ancient Technology series discuss the many ways people have used their knowledge, inventions, and discoveries to make life easier from the Stone Age to the fall of the Roman Empire. This series discusses not only the technological advances we would expect such as the wheel, or the Great Pyramid, which was the world's tallest structure for over 4,000 years, or even the Great Wall of China, the only human-made structure on earth that is visible from space. In it we also learn that the ancients performed brain surgery and other delicate operations. They also invented many devices which we consider quite modern, including a calculator and even a computer.

Each book of this series highlights the technological advances made by each ancient civilization in brief, highly readable text. Photographs, drawings, maps, and charts greatly enhance the text. Each volume also includes a bibliography, index and glossary.

The books in this series are not only excellent for students who are doing research, they are also interesting reading for anyone who would like to know more about the history our world.

Virginia E. Brown, Library Assistant/Freelance Writer/Former Teacher, Sheridan, Wyoming

Out of the darkness : the story of Blacks moving North, 1890-1940, by James Haskins. (Great journeys.) LCCN 99019882. Tarrytown, N.Y.: Benchmark Books, Marshall Cavendish, 2000. LIB, 076140970X, \$21.95.

304.8'089'96073. African Americans--Migrations; African Americans--History--1877-1964; Migration, Internal; Southern States--Race relations. 112 p.

They came in chains : the story of the slave ships, by Milton Meltzer. (Great journeys.) LCCN 98047456. Tarrytown, N.Y.: Benchmark Books, Marshall Cavendish, 2000. LIB, 076140967X, \$21.95.

382'.44. Slavery--History; Slave trade--History. 96 p.

Driven from the land : the story of the Dust Bowl, by Milton Meltzer. (Great journeys.) LCCN 98047501. Tarrytown, N.Y.: Benchmark Books, Marshall Cavendish, 2000. LIB, 0761409688, \$21.95.

978. Dust storms--Great Plains; Droughts--Great Plains--History; Depressions--1929. 111 p.

Beyond the frontier : the story of the trails West, by Edward F. Dolan. (Great journeys.) LCCN 98043838. Tarrytown, N.Y.: Benchmark Books, Marshall Cavendish, 2000. LIB, 0761409696, \$21.95.

978'.02. Overland journeys to the Pacific; Frontier and pioneer life--West (U.S.); Trails--West (U.S.)--History; West (U.S.)--History. 112 p.

This is a series about times when large numbers of people moved far away from their roots. Economic situations are discussed and appear to be the primary motivation for each migration. Hard times and depressed, hopeless situations are general themes.

Each book has a little icon – a symbol of the travel that took place; for example, *Driven From the Land* has a line of little, old, loaded down trucks at the beginning of each chapter. All books in the series contain actual history with valid documentation accompanied by primary sources, like a letter by Narcissa Whitman in *Beyond the Frontier*, and a few inset pages with interesting details. Also interspersed are a song, basic maps, and drawings. Each book has many black and white illustrations, appropriate to its time period: photographs of famous paintings; pictures taken by famous photographers; and copies of engravings, woodcuts, and lithographs. Concluding each volume is a bibliography, books for further reading (some of which are fiction or geared toward younger readers), and a thorough index.

While the general theme would make the reader assume that these were written as formula books, the content is actually arranged more around the specific content than what appears to be an outline. While all are very readable, the narrative in *Out of the Darkness*, as it tracks the individual lives of two very different individuals, is a bit disjointed in places. In *They Came In Chains*, the author waxes philosophical in his explanations of the incredible injustice of this terrible trade in human beings. *Driven*

From the Land has at times an almost bitter tone, and definitely portrays a distrust of government plans and its intervention in the struggle.

Over all this series of books provides lots of well illustrated material, appropriately suited to the middle school student.

Judy Belcher, Teacher, Bremerton, Washington

Women of Ancient Greece, by Don Nardo. (World history series.) LCCN 99053699. San Diego: Lucent Books, 2000. LIB, 1560066466, \$19.96.

305.4'0938. Women--Greece--History; Women--History--To 500; Greece--Civilization--To 146 B.C. 108 p.

The Constitution and the founding of America, by Lydia D. Bjornlund. (World history series.) LCCN 99039423. San Diego: Lucent Books, 2000. LIB, 1560065869, \$19.96.

320.973'09'033. United States--Constitutional history; United States--Politics and government--1775-1783; United States--Politics and government--1783-1789. 128 p.

Ancient Chinese dynasties, by Eleanor J. Hall. (World history series.) LCCN 99037242. San Diego: Lucent Books, 2000. LIB, 1560066245, \$19.96.

931. China--History--To 221 B.C.; China--History--Ch'in dynasty, 221-207 B.C.; China--History--Han dynasty, 202 B.C.-220 A.D. 128 p.

The making of the atom bomb, by Victoria Sherrow. (World history series.) LCCN 99042640. San Diego: Lucent Books, 2000. LIB, 1560065850, \$19.96.

940.54'4973. Atomic bomb--History. 128 p.

The rise and fall of the Soviet Union, by John R. Matthews. (World history series.) LCCN 99034059. San Diego: Lucent Books, 2000. LIB, 1560065672, \$19.96.

947. Soviet Union. 112 p.

Colonial America, by Bonnie L. Lukes. (World history series.) LCCN 99040171. San Diego: Lucent Books, 2000. LIB, 1560063211, \$19.96.

973.2. United States--History--Colonial period, ca. 1600-1775. 128 p.

The War of 1812, by Don Nardo. (World history series.) LCCN 99014587. San Diego: Lucent Books, 2000. LIB, 1560065818, \$19.96.

973.5'2. United States--History--War of 1812. 128 p.

The Reagan years, by Darv Johnson. (World history series.) LCCN 99035592. San Diego: Lucent Books, 2000. LIB, 1560065923, \$19.96.

973.927'092. Reagan, Ronald; Presidents; United States--Politics and government--1981-1989. 111 p.

The Inca empire, by Dennis Nishi. (World history series.) LCCN 99045620. San Diego: Lucent Books, 2000. LIB, 1560065389, \$19.96.

985.019. Incas; Indians of South America. 93 p. (Elementary, High school)

This is a very well done and extensive series covering many areas in world history. The books are chockful of information, charts, black and white photos, maps, and original quotes.

Most books also include a timeline of the topic covered. Especially nice are the inserted boxes with additional information on the subject being discussed. The bibliographies are divided into "Notes," "For Further Reading," "Major Works Consulted," and "Additional Works Consulted." Each volume also has a very extensive index. While each volume is written by a different author, they each present an easy to read, well thought out format that is factual and impartial.

These volumes would be fine supplements for the student doing research in any of the topic areas. They are simple enough for older elementary or middle school students to use for reports, research, or just for interest reading. But they also have enough quotes, maps, etc. to be of real help to high school students researching a topic. The bibliographies would provide an especially nice jumping off place for more in-depth study.

Teresa O'Donley, Library Media Specialist, Baymonte Christian School, Scotts Valley, California

The 1960s, by Jennifer A. Hurley. (Opposing viewpoints digests.) LCCN 99038546. San Diego: Greenhaven Press, 2000. PAP, 0737702109, \$12.96; LIB, 0737702117, \$19.96.

306'.0973. United States--Social conditions--1960-1980; Political culture--United States--History--20th century; Nineteen sixties; Youth--United States--Political activity--History--20th century. 143 p.

Teen pregnancy, by Jennifer A. Hurley. (Opposing viewpoints digests.) LCCN 00037135. San Diego: Greenhaven Press, 2000. PAP, 0733703652, \$12.96; LIB, 0073373660, \$19.96.

306.874'3. Teenage pregnancy; Pregnancy. 95 p.

Child abuse, by Henny H. Kim. (Opposing viewpoints digests.) LCCN 99047464. San Diego: Greenhaven Press, 2000. PAP, 1565108663, \$12.96; LIB, 1565108671, \$19.96.

362.76'0973. Child abuse. 144 p.

Gun control, by Terry O'Neill. (Opposing viewpoints digests.) LCCN 99048707. San Diego: Greenhaven Press, 2000. PAP, 0156108787, \$12.96; LIB, 1565108795, \$19.96.

363.3'0973. Gun control; Firearms ownership; Firearms--Law and legislation. 144 p.

Abortion, by Stephen Currie. (Opposing viewpoints digests.) LCCN 99042785. San Diego: Greenhaven Press, 2000. PAP, 0733702281, \$12.96; LIB, 073770229X, \$19.96.

363.46. Abortion; Pro-choice movement; Pro-life movement. 125 p.

The environment, by Scott Barbour. (Opposing viewpoints digests.) LCCN 99049960. San Diego: Greenhaven Press, 2000. PAP, 1565108728, \$12.96; LIB, 1565108728, \$19.96.

363.7. Environmental degradation; Environmental protection. 143 p.

This series of books, *Opposing Viewpoints Digests*, deals with issues our children and families must face in today's society. Each

volume in the series is approximately 120 pages long and organized to include an introduction, chapters dealing with the issues surrounding the topic, study questions, appendices, and a list of organizations representing each viewpoint. Recommendations for further reading represent an important aspect of each text, as well as a listing of works consulted to write the material included. The index in each volume assists the reader in locating needed materials.

Issues dealt with include abortion, the environment, drugs and sports, teen pregnancy, and child abuse among others. Each author of the *Opposing Viewpoints Digests* writes all the material related to one issue so that the style remains consistent. Each issue is dealt with in a matter of fact manner leaving emotion out of the equation. Factual information allows the reader to form an intelligent opinion based on data rather than charged emotions. This is especially important in dealing with issues that involve moral and legal issues. Such highly charged issues as abortion should be, and are, handled with consideration for the legal and moral aspects.

This series is recommended for those who need to have the many sides of an issue presented in a succinct one-volume format. (Editor's note: These digests are summarized from the *Opposing Viewpoints* series for high schoolers.)

Barbara Anne Wall, School Librarian System, Orange Ulster BOCES, Monroe, New York

***The rise of the cities, 1820-1920*, by Christopher Collier and James Lincoln Collier. (The drama of American history.) LCCN 99038409. Tarrytown, N.Y.: Benchmark Books, Marshall Cavendish, 2000. LIB, 0761410511, \$20.95.**

307.760973. Cities and towns--United States--History; Urbanization--United States--History; City and town life--United States--History. 96 p.

***The United States enters the world stage : from Alaska through World War I, 1867-1919*, by Christopher Collier and James Lincoln Collier. (The drama of American history.) LCCN 00029483. Tarrytown, N.Y.: Benchmark Books, Marshall Cavendish, 2000. LIB, 0761410538, \$20.95.**

973.8. United States--History--1865-1921; United States--Foreign relations--1865-1921. 96 p.

***Progressivism, the Great Depression, and the New Deal, 1901 to 1941*, by Christopher Collier and James Lincoln Collier. (The drama of American history.) LCCN 00029481. Tarrytown, N.Y.: Benchmark Books, Marshall Cavendish, 2000. LIB, 0761410564, \$20.95.**

973.91. Progressivism (United States politics); Depressions--1929; New Deal, 1933-1939; United States--History--1901-1953; United States--Politics and government--1901-1953. 96 p.

***Indians, cowboys, and farmers and the battle for the Great Plains, 1865-1910*, by Christopher Collier and James Lincoln Collier. (The drama of American history.) LCCN 00021103. Tarrytown, N.Y.: Benchmark Books, Marshall Cavendish, 2000. LIB, 076141052X, \$20.95.**

978'.02. Frontier and pioneer life--Great Plains--History; Indians of North America--Great Plains; Great Plains--History. 96 p.

The *Drama of American History Series* by Christopher Collier and James Lincoln Collier continues, covering in highly readable style events that have shaped the United States from the early nineteenth century up to and including the Roosevelt Administration. Each volume reads chronologically within its given topic, and can stand alone for students who wish to concentrate on a single theme. Young readers will find the story of American history exciting when not buried under a heap of names, dates, and places. The comprehensive core of basic themes will help them to better remember, and appreciate, American heritage. Each library-bound book has an attractively-colored cover, and is well-written, making use of maps, charts, drawings, paintings, and period photographs as helpful visual illustrations. There are also separate bibliographies for teachers and students respectively.

Indians, Cowboys, and Farmers and the Battle for the Great Plains (1865-1910) opens describing the lifestyle, economy, and battles of Native Americans before and with the white man, and the feats of legendary Sitting Bull with foe General George Custer. Successive chapters cover the cattle boom, the work of the cowboy and cowpunch, the railroads, and the conquest of the Great Plains, including the effect of growth on the American farmer.

The Rise of the Cities (1820-1920) deals with the importance of the city as the center of cultural life and government, and its place in the economy. Specific attention is given to the technological advances that helped to develop the modern city such as Thomas Edison's "invention factory," the growing ease of public transportation, and new and elaborate architecture. A growing population had its advantages for industry and entertainment, but slums soon followed, and with it came political promises for reform.

In *The United States Enters the World Stage (1867-1919)*, the period between the Alaska Purchase through World War I is covered. Westward expansion and international acquisitions, the Spanish-American War, and the differing diplomatic styles of the Presidents are all discussed, while not losing touch with the effects of growth on the daily life of ordinary citizens. The final chapter presents a basic account of the complicated events leading up to World War I, while not glossing over the realities of the war itself.

The *Progressivism, the Great Depression and the New Deal (1901-1941)* volume discusses the

causes of the Great Depression and its effects on the United States, not only economically but socially and politically as well. Topics include the Roaring Twenties, Theodore Roosevelt's Progressive Party, and the sweeping reform legislation of Franklin D. Roosevelt's Hundred Days, including a descriptive list of each Act.

Denise Griffin, Freelance Writer, Winston-Salem, North Carolina

***Leonardo da Vinci and the Renaissance in world history*, by Allison Lassieur. (In world history.) LCCN 99050571. Berkeley Heights, N.J.: Enslow, 2000. LIB, 0766014010, \$20.95.**

709'.2. Leonardo, da Vinci, 1452-1519; Renaissance--Italy; Artists. 128 p.

***Mahatma Gandhi and India's independence in world history*, by Ann Malaspina. (In world history.) LCCN 99050570. Berkeley Heights, N.J.: Enslow, 2000. LIB, 0760013987, \$20.95.**

954.03'5092. Gandhi, Mahatma, 1869-1948; Nationalists--India; Statesmen--India; India--Politics and government--1919-1947; India--History. 128 p.

***Robespierre and the French Revolution in world history*, by Tom McGowen. (In world history.) LCCN 99041656. Berkeley Heights, N.J.: Enslow, 2000. LIB, 0766013979, \$20.95.**

944.94'092. Robespierre, Maximilien, 1758-1794; Revolutionaries; France--History--Revolution, 1789-1799; France--History--Reign of terror, 1792-1794. 128 p.

***Cinqué of the Amistad and the slave trade in world history*, by Richard Worth. (In world history.) LCCN 00009719. Berkeley Heights, N.J.: Enslow, 2001. LIB, 0766014606, \$20.95.**

326.0973. Cinque; Amistad (Schooner); Slave trade; Slave insurrections; Antislavery movements. 112 p.

***Nelson Mandela and apartheid in world history*, by Ann Gaines. (In world history.) LCCN 00010369. Berkeley Heights, N.J.: Enslow, 2001. LIB, 0766014630, \$20.95.**

968.06'5092. Mandela, Nelson, 1918--; Apartheid--South Africa; Presidents--South Africa; Blacks--South Africa--Biography; Nobel prizes--Biography; South Africa--Race relations. 128 p.

***Cortés and the conquest of the Aztec Empire in world history*, by Charles Flowers. (In world history.) LCCN 00010309. Berkeley Heights, N.J.: Enslow, 2001. LIB, 0766013952, \$20.95.**

972'.02092. Cortés, Hernán, 1485-1547; Montezuma II, Emperor of Mexico, ca. 1480-1520; Aztecs--History; Mexico--History--Conquest, 1519-1540. 128 p.

(High school)

It could be argued that fascinated captivation is the hallmark of a good history text. By that definition, these three books are excellent. As part of the *In World History* series from Enslow Publishers, these works were intended and developed to teach history. Well written, balanced in conclusions, and complete in content, these texts are an excellent resource for middle school or higher history or social studies students. Teachers and parents can confidently use these volumes as "in depth" material for a standard curriculum or "chapters" in an

assembled teaching program. These books are authored in an accessible, factual, yet entertaining manner.

Each book includes a timeline, chapter notes (bibliography), a further reading and internet addresses section, and an index. These features allow the book to serve as a straight textbook for a younger student and a sourcebook for an older/advanced student. They also serve as evidence of the intellectual and historical rigor of the authors.

Author Tom McGowen, in Robespierre, easily captured the drama and tragedy of the French Revolution. Allison Lassieur draws the reader deeply into the world of the Renaissance through the da Vinci text.

The books focus on historical facts, including the actions, reactions or failures of Christians in events. The role of the French Catholic church during the French Revolution is reported bluntly. The alternating encouragement and suppression of the free thought and expression by the Catholic Church during the Renaissance is also shown. The influence of Gandhi by Christian thought and morals has its moment in the spotlight. Author Richard Worth, in Cinque, unflinchingly describes the greed of Africans who sold their countrymen into slavery and the ruthless Europeans who enslaved them for profit. In Cortes, writer Charles Flowers describes the monstrous human sacrifices of the Aztecs, and compares it to the barbaric cruelty of the "Christian" Spanish. Ann Graham Gaines' Nelson Mandela clearly describes the white imposed system of apartheid and the failure of ethnic South Africans to work cohesively toward equality.

Mandela's Christian education is reported. The story is given of the Christian clergy and lay men who defended Cinque and his fellows from slavery or execution. The actions of Cortes, in the name of God, to subdue the Aztec and capture treasure are also recorded. God's Hand in the events of men is not hidden in this series of books.

While each text centers itself in the life of one key figure, the era described is much larger than any single name. Each author, in turn, tries to present the historical, social, religious and economic background of the place and time being discussed. By presenting all of the evidence, in an evenhanded way, each book largely allows the readers to form their own conclusions. By not taking an Euro-centric approach, the In World History series truly tells world history.

I heartily recommend these books as part of any education system for Christian students.

Kirk Hunt, Instructor, Pima County Community College, Business & Industry Division, Tucson, Arizona

***The Cold War : collapse of communism*, by Earle Rice Jr. (History's great defeats.) LCCN 00008311. San Diego: Lucent Books, 2000. LIB, 1560066342, \$19.96.**

327.47073. Cold War; United States--Foreign relations--Soviet Union; Soviet Union--Foreign relations--United States; World politics--1945--; Post-communism. 112 p.

***The British Empire : the end of colonialism*, by William M. Lace. (History's great defeats.) LCCN 99057228. San Diego: Lucent Books, 2000. LIB, 1560066830, \$19.96.**

909'.0971241. Great Britain--Colonies--History; Commonwealth countries; Postcolonialism--Commonwealth countries--History; Decolonization--History--20th century. 112 p.

***The Third Reich : demise of the Nazi dream*, by Earle Rice Jr. (History's great defeats.) LCCN 99046869. San Diego: Lucent Books, 2000. LIB, 156006630X, \$19.96.**

943.086. Germany--History--1933-1945; National socialism; Hitler, Adolf, 1889-1945--Biography; World War, 1939-1945--Germany; Jews--Persecutions--Germany--History--20th century. 112 p.

***The Aztecs : end of a civilization*, by Joan D. Barghusen. (History's great defeats.) LCCN 99046849. San Diego: Lucent Books, 2000. LIB, 1560066202, \$19.96.**

972'.02. Aztecs; Indians of Mexico; Mexico--History--Conquest, 1519-1540; Decolonization--History--20th century. 112 p.

Each title in the History's Great Defeats series explores the reasons behind the failure or collapse of a particular civilization, world power, or major military campaign. In retrospect, many of the fatal flaws and mistakes that caused these great defeats seem obvious, and one wonders why the losers did not see what was coming and do something to divert disaster. Upon closer examination, one sees that usually many complex factors were involved. It is intriguing and instructive to observe how attitudes such as arrogance, fear, ignorance, and stubbornness often played a major role in bringing about defeat.

With engaging writing, clearly structured arguments, and an array of supporting features these titles are valuable resources for student research. Primary and secondary sources are carefully documented, and an extensive Works Consulted list is included to aid further research. The text is sprinkled with well chosen photos, drawings, and sidebar stories that enhance readers' understanding of the content. This is a well written series for the intended audience and readers will come away with a thorough understanding of the reasons behind some of history's most decisive defeats and be able to see how these events shaped our world.

Lillian Heytvelt, School Librarian/Teacher, Pomeroy, Washington

***Endangered animals of North America : a hot issue*, by David Goodnough. (Hot issues.) LCCN 00009256. Berkeley Heights, N.J.: Enslow Publishers, 2001. HBB, 0766013731, \$19.95.**

333.95'42097. Endangered species. 64 p.

***Drug abuse and teens : a hot issue*, by Shelagh Ryan Masline. (Hot issues.) LCCN 99041408. Berkeley Heights, N.J.: Enslow Publishers, 2000. HBB, 0766013723, \$19.95.**

362.29'0855. Teenagers--Drug use; Teenagers--Substance use; Drug abuse--Prevention; Substance abuse--Prevention. 64 p.

***Runaway teens : a hot issue*, by Renée C. Rebman. (Hot issues.) LCCN 00010854. Berkeley Heights, N.J.: Enslow Publishers, 2001. HBB, 0766016404, \$19.95.**

362.74. Runaway teenagers; Runaways. 64 p.

***Hate and racist groups : a hot issue*, by Linda Jacobs Altman. (Hot issues.) LCCN 00008978. Berkeley Heights, N.J.: Enslow Publishers, 2001. HBB, 0766013715, \$19.95.**

364.1. Hate groups; Hate crimes; Race relations; Prejudices. 64 p.

***Vegetarianism and teens : a hot issue*, by Kathleen Winkler. (Hot issues.) LCCN 00010951. Berkeley Heights, N.J.: Enslow Publishers, 2001. HBB, 0766013758, \$19.95.**

613.2'62. Vegetarianism. 64 p.
(High school)

Each book in this series is designed to address a topic of current interest to the young teen and middle school student. Each volume is by a different author and so needs to be judged on its own merits. In general, each book is approximately sixty pages long and well laid out with many color photographs. The text tends to be easy to read and extremely informative. One of the major strengths of the series is the last section of each volume which includes a glossary, index, bibliography, chapter notes, and a list of websites, etc. to add to the knowledge of children whose interest is piqued.

Please note, that some topics (running away, substance abuse, etc.) may be areas that parents/teachers do not want to address with younger teens. As with the DARE Program, the volume on drug abuse might appear to some to be supplying too much information on a topic that younger teens might not have a lot of knowledge on yet (though the dangers are clearly delineated). The same would hold true for the book on running away.

Note: Christians should hesitate to purchase the volume on hate groups. While overall it is an informative book on an important topic, there tend to be parallels and ties drawn between intolerance, hate groups, racism and religion, especially Christianity. It would be confusing for the young Christian. If a teen reads it, it should certainly be discussed afterwards with a mature Christian.

Teresa O'Donley, Library Media Specialist, Baymonte Christian School, Scotts Valley, California

Land mines : 100 million hidden killers, by Elaine Landau. (Issues in focus.) LCCN 99050597. Berkeley Heights, N.J.: Enslow Publishers, 2000. HBB, 0766012409, \$19.95.

355.8'25115. Land mines; Land mine victims. 128 p.

Nuclear weapons : more weapons, more threats, by Tom Streissguth. (Issues in focus.) LCCN 99050599. Berkeley Heights, N.J.: Enslow Publishers, 2000. HBB, 0766012484, \$19.95.

355.8'25119. Nuclear weapons; Nuclear arms control. 112 p.

Chemical and biological warfare : the cruelest weapons, by Laurence Pringle. (Issues in focus.) LCCN 99040269. Berkeley Heights, N.J.: Enslow Publishers, 2000. HBB, 0766012417, \$19.95.

358'.34. Chemical warfare; Biological warfare. 112 p.

Environmental time bomb : our threatened planet, by Patricia Haddock. (Issues in focus.) LCCN 99050938. Berkeley Heights, N.J.: Enslow Publishers, 2000. HBB, 0766012298, \$19.95.

363.7. Environmental quality; Environmental protection; Conservation of natural resources. 112 p. (High school)

These four books are part of the Issues In Focus series from Enslow Publishers. Well written and strong in content, these texts are a good resource for middle school or higher social studies students. Teachers and parents could use these volumes as "in depth" material for a standard curriculum or "chapters" in an assembled teaching program. These books are written in an accessible manner; therefore younger and older students are more likely to understand and use these works. Each book includes a glossary, chapter notes (bibliography), further reading, internet addresses, and an index.

Elaine Landau, author of *Land Mines*, describes the devastation being inflicted on children and other non-combatants by land mines. *Nuclear Weapons* written by Tom Streissguth, and *Chemical and Biological Warfare* authored by Laurence Pringle, describe the development, use, and implications of non-conventional weapons. Patricia Haddock tells the story of ecological recklessness in *Environmental Time Bomb*.

Each author, in turn, tries to present part of the background data of the issue being discussed. These texts are very pointed in their conclusions and outlook. There is little or no attempt to discuss issues or conclusions that do not support the writers. While no responsible party would argue for ecological destruction, or nuclear war, the agenda of these texts do not allow a wider or deeper discussion of the issues. Issues such as Nazi research of nuclear weapons or lack of understanding in long-term ecological effects are not examined in the text.

This series may represent a lost opportunity to teach students to consider the long-term outcomes or implications of their decisions.

Better than teaching students to undo damage is instructing them to avoid error.

Kirk Hunt, Instructor, Pima County Community College-Business and Industry Division, Tucson, Arizona

The Roman Colosseum, by Don Nardo. (Building history series.) LCCN 97002839. San Diego: Lucent Books, 1998. LIB, 1560064293, \$19.96.

725'.827'09376. Colosseum (Rome, Italy)--Design and construction; Rome (Italy)--Buildings, structures, etc.; Rome (Italy)--Antiquities; Amphitheatres--Rome. 96 p.

The Sistine Chapel, by Renee C. Rebman. (Building history series.) LCCN 99046399. San Diego: Lucent Books, 2000. LIB, 1560066407, \$19.96.

759.5. Michelangelo Buonarroti, 1475-1564; Sistine Chapel (Vatican Palace, Vatican City). 96 p.

The Titanic, by Nathan Aaseng. (Building history series.) LCCN 98031964. San Diego: Lucent Books, 1999. LIB, 1560065699, \$19.96.

910'.91634. Titanic (Steamship); Shipwrecks. 96 p.

The Lucent Books Building History Series took on a big challenge: How can you make the history of large, important edifices and the stories behind them interesting enough to hold the attention of a young reader through 96 pages? Surprisingly, they've succeeded, although children who tackle one of these books need to be able to follow long, involved sentences, as well as understand (or be willing to look up) a lot of big words. In addition, there are several caveats for the titles I reviewed (noted below).

The books in this series tell readers almost more than they wanted to know about the conception and building of each edifice, using the authors' thorough research (documented in extensive bibliographies and, in some cases, footnotes), quotes from historical documents and people living then, photos, maps, drawings, and whatever else could be found to flesh out the stories. Each book also includes a timeline, an index, a glossary, and a list of materials for further reading about each topic. Although my review only covers three titles from the series, the series includes many other edifices.

In *The Roman Colosseum*, Don Nardo, classic historian and author of such titles as *The Roman Empire* and *Life in Ancient Rome*, uses his expertise on the subject of Roman life and culture (as well as a fair amount of Latin) to bring an ancient ruin and a long-dead people to life. Anyone considering buying this particular title should be aware that when Nardo writes about the colosseum's use as a venue for torture and killing of animals and humans for entertainment, he uses some gruesome details as well as several disturbing paintings (including one of an unclothed man wrestling a wild animal) to make his point.

Author Renee C. Rebman's *The Sistine Chapel* is as absorbing as a historical novel. As she writes about the events that led up to and encompassed the building of one of the world's

greatest artistic treasures, and the people responsible for it, Rebman breathes life into the dry bones of the Catholic Church and Italian history, and teaches the reader a lot about art, art techniques, and art history in the process. A particularly interesting section covers the historic restorations that have been carried out over time, including the most recent one that began in the sixties and was finished and revealed to a marveling public in 1994. Like all the illustrations in this series, the photos in Rebman's book are black and white, even those of the chapel's artwork (which, by the way, includes both draped and undraped human flesh). That was a bit disappointing, considering the book's colorful topic, but the photos of the restoration work that was done and the close-ups of chapel details that the naked eye cannot see were still interesting.

In *The Titanic*, author Nathan Aaseng displays the rare ability to make readers care about a topic that might never have interested them before, starting in Chapter One: Birth of the Monster Ships, and progressing through chapters explaining how the Titanic was built and how the seeds of its destruction were planted before it even sailed. He then goes over the events of the night it sank, in such detail that it's hard to believe he wasn't actually there. The book's epilogue wraps it all up, as Aaseng talks about the conclusions of the researchers, scientists, and explorers who, long after the tragedy, finally found and examined the wreckage.

It all makes for fascinating reading, even for someone whose only interest in the Titanic came from the DiCaprio movie. One minor detail of concern is a sidebar on page 75 that tells the story of a book that, at the time of the tragedy, was said by some to have psychically foretold the details of the sinking. Otherwise, if your collection needs a definitive book about the sinking of the Titanic -- this is it.

Betty Winslow, Librarian, Bowling Green Christian Academy, Bowling Green, Ohio

Games of ancient Rome, by Don Nardo. (The way people live.) LCCN 99033783. San Diego: Lucent Books, 2000. LIB, 1560066555, \$19.96.

790'.0937. Games--Rome; Rome--History. 96 p.

Life in a medieval castle, by Gary L. Blackwood. (The way people live.) LCCN 99026848. San Diego: Lucent Books, 2000. LIB, 1560065826, \$19.96.

940.1. Castles; Civilization, Medieval. 108 p.

Life in the Hitler Youth, by Jennifer Keeley. (The way people live.) LCCN 99037017. San Diego: Lucent Books, 2000. LIB, 156006613X, \$19.96.

943.086'0835. Hitler Youth; National socialism; Germany--Politics and government--1933-1945. 112 p.

Life on the Underground Railroad, by Stuart A. Kallen. (The way people live.) LCCN 99037101. San Diego: Lucent Books, 2000. LIB, 1560066679, \$19.96.

973.7115. Underground railroad; Fugitive slaves. 96 p.

The foreword to the series by Lucent Books, *The Way People Live*, says, in part, "Books in *The Way People Live* series focus on groups of people in a wide variety of circumstances, settings, and time periods... Each book emphasizes the daily routines, personal and historical struggles, and achievements of people from all walks of life." On the back cover of each book, their mission for the series is stated as "...show[ing] an honest and complete picture of a culture removed from our own by time or space" using a wide variety of primary quotations (which are footnoted in the back of each volume).

Each title includes an introduction that sets the stage for what follows: a brief history of slavery in the U.S. for *Life on the Underground Railroad*, of Hitler's rise in Germany for *Life in the Hitler Youth*, of the importance and significance of the games of ancient Rome for the book of the same name, and an explanation of the feudal family for *Life in a Medieval Castle*, for example. They include, as well, epilogues that sum it all up, such as *The Decline of the Castle and Life After Hitler* and *The Third Reich*. In addition, each title has two extensive bibliographies, one for use by those readers who want to do additional reading on the topic, the other for those who want to check out the sources that the author used for researching the book.

The book chapters themselves are well-written and interesting (if you are already interested in the subject), and they cover a great deal of ground. In *Life in a Medieval Castle*, Life styles of the Rich and Noble contrast nicely with Life Among the Lowly, while *Life in Hitler Youth* puts side by side the zealots of Ideology and Activities with the rebels of Resistance. *Life on the Underground Railroad* not only tells the reader about A Slave's Life, it also tells them about the Lives of the Trackers, the Lives of the Conductors, and Stations and Stationmasters.

Even if readers aren't really interested in the topic at hand, this series will hold their attention long enough to allow them to be used for reports and other types of learning experiences. Read in conjunction with other titles (*Life on the Underground Railroad* and *Uncle Tom's Cabin* or a biography of Harriet Tubman, or *Life in the Hitler Youth* and *Lisa's War* or *The Diary of Anne Frank*, for example), the somewhat dry information in them could also breathe life into other materials. There are many more titles in the series.

One caveat: Each book also includes a wide variety of photos, maps, portraits, political cartoons, and other visual aids that serve to make the time and subject come to life. In the case of the four titles I reviewed, this was a concern. Pictures of people and events such as the beatings and torture that slaves endured, medieval patients covered with the pustules of the Black Death, games involving naked or half-

naked gladiators, and a particularly distressing one of the charred remains of a Dachau concentration camp inmate will make these books strong meat for many, no matter what their age.

However, the series contains material not easily found in other children's books and will certainly be a valuable addition to a collection, as long as the maturity of the readers who will use the information is considered.

Betty Winslow, Librarian, Bowling Green Christian Academy, Bowling Green, Ohio

***Hatshepsut and ancient Egypt*, by Miriam Greenblatt. (Rulers and their times.) LCCN 98021798. Tarrytown, N.Y.: Benchmark Books, Marshall Cavendish, 1999. LIB, 0764109114, \$19.95.**

932'.01. Hatshepsut, Queen of Egypt; Kings, queens, rulers, etc.; Egypt--History--Eighteenth dynasty, ca. 1570-1320 B.C.; Egypt--Social life and customs--To 332 B.C. 80 p.

***Augustus Caesar and ancient Rome*, by Miriam Greenblatt. (Rulers and their times.) LCCN 98025654. Tarrytown, N.Y.: Benchmark Books, Marshall Cavendish, 1999. LIB, 0764109122, \$19.95.**

937'.07092. Augustus, Emperor of Rome, 63 B.C.-14 A.D.; Kings, queens, rulers, etc.; Rome--Civilization. 80 p.

***Alexander the Great and ancient Greece*, by Miriam Greenblatt. (Rulers and their times.) LCCN 98021799. Tarrytown, N.Y.: Benchmark Books, Marshall Cavendish, 1999. LIB, 0764109130, \$19.95.**

938'.07092. Alexander, the Great, 356-323 B.C.; Greece--Social life and customs--To 146 B.C. 80 p.

***Peter the Great and Russia*, by Miriam Greenblatt. (Rulers and their times.) LCCN 98025656. Tarrytown, N.Y.: Benchmark Books, Marshall Cavendish, 1999. LIB, 0764109149, \$19.95.**

947'.05. Peter I, Emperor of Russia, 1672-1725; Kings, queens, rulers, etc.; Russia--History; Russia--Social life and customs. 80 p.

The series *Rulers and Their Times* by Miriam Greenblatt takes an old tack: use an historical figure to personify an historical era. It does an admirable job. Each book in the series follows the same format: one third of the book is biography; one third describes what everyday life was like, for example food, clothing, entertainment and religion, along with other topics; one third presents primary sources, e.g. "the Romans in their own words." Each book has an adequate index, chapter notes, a reasonably up-to-date bibliography, a list of suggested readings including recommended websites (with the caveat that these are subject to change and to check with a librarian for current websites), and a glossary. The drawback to this approach is that the person is made representative for an entire era, which is a bit of a distortion: Imperial Rome went on for hundreds of years after Augustus.

The author's prose is accessible to her intended audience, middle schoolers. She has chosen anecdotes that should appeal to this audience. For example, "Roman ladies used makeup lavishly...and darkened their eyebrows with charcoal or a paste made from crushed ant's eggs." She has also chosen interesting primary material, interspersing some of the standard authors with lesser known material. The author gets her historical facts right.

The author uses the dating convention C.E. for common era and B.C.E. for before common era rather than the traditional A.D. and B.C. Description of the Roman gladiatorial games is fairly graphic in talking about blood and gore, and in *Alexander the Great and Ancient Greece*, it is noted that one of Alexander's captured foes was ripped apart in a traditional Persian method of execution.

The books are sturdily bound on high quality paper and profusely illustrated. The illustrations, in color, are well integrated with the text and captioned. The illustrations lack credits, a minor irritation. The typeface is large and easy to read.

Overall, these books should make appealing and accessible the major themes of the eras covered, as well as providing concise biographies of Hatshepsut, Augustus, Alexander the Great, and Peter the Great.

David William Rash, Community College Librarian, Everett, Washington

***The 1920s from prohibition to Charles Lindbergh*, by Stephen Feinstein. (Decades of the 20th century.) LCCN 00010691. Berkeley Heights, N.J.: Enslow, 2001. LIB, 0766016102, \$17.95.**

973.91. Nineteen twenties; United States--History--1919-1933; United States--Social life and customs--1918-1945. 64 p.

***The 1930s from the Great Depression to the Wizard of Oz*, by Stephen Feinstein. (Decades of the 20th century.) LCCN 00010054. Berkeley Heights, N.J.: Enslow, 2001. LIB, 0766016099, \$17.95.**

973.9. Nineteen thirties; United States--History--1919-1933; United States--Social life and customs--1918-1945; United States--History--1933-1945. 64 p.

***The 1940s from World War II to Jackie Robinson*, by Stephen Feinstein. (Decades of the 20th century.) LCCN 99050710. Berkeley Heights, N.J.: Enslow, 2000. LIB, 0766014282, \$17.95.**

973.9. Nineteen forties; World War, 1939-1945; United States--Civilization--1918-1945; United States--Civilization--1945-. 64 p.

***The 1950s from the Korean War to Elvis*, by Stephen Feinstein. (Decades of the 20th century.) LCCN 00008295. Berkeley Heights, N.J.: Enslow, 2000. LIB, 0766014274, \$17.95.**

973.92. Nineteen fifties; United States--Civilization--1945-. 64 p.

The *Decades of the Century* series begins with the 1900's and continues with one volume for each successive decade of the century. Every volume includes the same chapters and includes

information on fashion, fads, arts, sports, technology, and politics. A timeline at the end highlights each year in the decade with important events from that year. Books in the Decades of the Century series also include a list of sources for further reading, Internet address for related materials, and a complete index. These features provide readers with resources for more extensive research after using Decades of the Century as a stepping stone in the research process.

The author, Stephen Feinstein, writes in a clear, easy to read style. Every page is filled with information, illustrative pictures of the decade, and notes in the margins to further highlight significant happenings. For example, in the volume *The 1940's from World War II to Jackie Robinson*, the discussion of the formation of the United Nations includes a short profile of Eleanor Roosevelt as well as a picture of Mrs. Roosevelt. The combination of visuals and text makes an effective presentation in every volume. The entire format and presentation of history makes for easy and interesting reading. The reading and interest level is middle school.

Barbara Anne Wall, School Librarian System, Orange Ulster BOCES, Monroe, New York



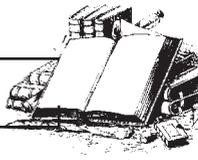
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Castaways of the Flying Dutchman, Brian Jacques; illustrated by Ian Schoenherr. LCCN 00059822. New York: Philomel, Penguin Putnam, 2001. HBB, 0399236015, \$22.95.

F. Heroes--Fiction; Dogs--Fiction; Angels--Fiction; Flying Dutchman--Fiction. 327 p.
(Middle school)

Adding to the erie legend of the Flying Dutchman, whose crew and captain were said to be cursed to sail the violent seas of Cape Horn, Africa, for eternity, Jacques has added a mute boy, dubbed Neb, and a black Labrador, Den, to the tale. Both Neb and Den have long been mistreated by the world, so they quickly become loyal friends and do what they must to stay alive aboard the rough ship. Upon saving the captain's life from mutiny, Neb and Den are commanded to be his eyes and ears aboard ship. After several failed attempts to sail through Cape Horn, Africa, during the winter of 1620, the captain ties himself to the ship's wheel, raises his fist to the skies and curses God. An angel arrives on dark, thunderous clouds to reunite the crew members, both living and dead, and curse them to sail forever through these heartless seas. Neb and Den are set free on the icy sea and told by the angel that they will forever wander the land to help people in need. They wash up on the shore of Tierra del Fuego and are taken in by Luis, a kind-hearted old Spanish shepherd. Three years later, when Luis dies, Neb and Den move on and change their names to Ben and Ned.

The story of Ben and Ned re-opens two hundred seventy years later, in a small town that is about to be taken over by a cruel, greedy man who wants to get rid of the townspeople to build a factory. Ben, Ned, and some new friends, an old shipmate of Captain Winn, a friendly brother and sister, and the frizzy-headed librarian must help Mrs. Winn, the widowed Captain's wife, save the town and her own home from the village bullies, the greedy factory builder, and cohorts. The conundrum turns into a wild goose chase that involves the entire town.

Jacques, well-known author of the Redwall fantasy series for young teens, has once again used humor and adventure to paint an enchanting tale that leaps two centuries, without losing its charm. Recommended for both school and public libraries.

Kim Harris, Librarian, Newman Riga Library, Churchville, New York

Conflict in California, Ken Stuckey. LCCN 00066706. Grand Rapids: Baker Books, 2001. PAP, 0801044782, \$6.99.

F. Stock car racing--Fiction; Drag racing--Fiction; Emotional problems--Fiction; Christian life--Fiction; California--Fiction. 208 p.

(Middle School)

Set against the backdrop of NASCAR and NHRA racing, this book follows the members of the Orly Mann racing team as they prepare for the California 500. While doing so, they must also deal with a fellow competitor's prescription drug addiction due to anxiety, a gang confrontation, and the threatened hostile takeover of Speed King Oil, their sponsor, owned by a friend who is dying of cancer. A few love interest tidbits are thrown in also. There's a lot going on in this book.

The main protagonists of the book are Christian young people, members of the pit crew for the team. They seem fairly real in their faith, trying to live for Jesus, but still struggling with temptations. The older characters are helpful without being too preachy. The morals of the story are obvious, but not heavy-handed. The author seems to have tried to make his characters real in their lives and faith.

With the current popularity of racing and the prominence of male characters, this book, and series, will interest younger male readers. Plenty of racing action sequences liven up the work and give the feel of the NASCAR world. There is a mix of ethnic groups represented, and there are points that will make the books of interest to girls also. Series books may not be great literature, but kids usually like them, and it keeps them reading. If this book is any indication, the Orly Mann series will be well worth investing in.

Betsy Ruffin, Librarian/Teacher, Cleburne, Texas

I promise, by Robin Jones Gunn. (Christy and Todd; 3.) LCCN 2001001321. Minneapolis: Bethany House, 2001. PAP, 0764222740, \$10.99.

F. Weddings--Fiction; Christian life--Fiction. 285 p.

The event that Christy and Todd fans have been waiting for: the wedding. Christy and Todd became engaged in *As You Wish* and now in *I Promise* the duo set the date. Todd wants to be married immediately, whereas Christy wants to wait until after she graduates from college. Unfortunately, the lovebirds discover that they are not exactly on the same wave length when it comes to wedding details, since Christy plans and Todd is spur of the moment. Adding to this tension is Christy's Aunt Marti, who wants to make the wedding the event of the year. Christy and Todd must discover compromise, forgiveness, and purity. During all the wedding preparations and graduations, Christy's

roommate, Katie, gets reacquainted with an old flame, Rick.

Fans of Robin Jones Gunn's Christy series will not want to miss this book. This is the 3rd book in the Christy and Todd: The College Years series. Readers will mainly be those who have followed the series. Although some of the discussion on premarital kissing is somewhat unrealistic, it is an admirable story that could possibly influence the young adult audience.

Connie J. Weaver, Church & Reference Librarian, Newville, Pennsylvania

Mars diaries. Mission 1, Oxygen level zero, Sigmund Brouwer. LCCN 00712478. Wheaton, Ill.: Tyndale House, 2000. PAP, 0842343040, \$.

F. Sanders, Tyce (Fictitious character)--Fiction; Science fiction; Christian life--Fiction; Mars (Planet)--Colonists--Fiction. 121 p.

Mars diaries. Mission 2, Alien pursuit, Sigmund Brouwer. LCCN 00712479. Wheaton, Ill.: Tyndale House, 2000. PAP, 0842343059, \$.

F. Sanders, Tyce (Fictitious character)--Fiction; Science fiction; Christian life--Fiction; Mars (Planet)--Colonists--Fiction; Life on other planets--Fiction. 123 p.

Mars diaries. Mission 3, Time bomb, Sigmund Brouwer. LCCN 00712480. Wheaton, Ill.: Tyndale House, 2000. PAP, 0842343067, \$.

F. Sanders, Tyce (Fictitious character)--Fiction; Science fiction; Christian life--Fiction; Mars (Planet)--Colonists--Fiction. 113 p.

Mars diaries. Mission 4, Hammerhead, Sigmund Brouwer. LCCN. Wheaton, Ill.: Tyndale House, 2001. PAP, 0842343075, \$.

F. Sanders, Tyce (Fictitious character)--Fiction; Science fiction; Christian life--Fiction; Mars (Planet)--Colonists--Fiction; Comets--Fiction. 113 p.

Mars diaries. Mission 5, Sole survivor, Sigmund Brouwer. LCCN. Wheaton, Ill.: Tyndale House, 2001. PAP, 0842343083, \$.

F. Sanders, Tyce (Fictitious character)--Fiction; Science fiction; Christian life--Fiction; Mars (Planet)--Colonists--Fiction. 113 p.

(High school)

Sigmund Brouwer delivers yet another series full of action, intrigue, and spiritual thought, entitled Mars Diaries. And like many of his other series, this one has a character-driven plot with plenty of suspense, filled with fascinating facts. Each slim volume is a page-turner--they are difficult to put down once begun. Each book in the series can be read separately since Brouwer spends a considerable amount of backtracking to keep new readers informed, as he continues the series.

The series is set on Mars in the year 2039. A group of scientists have established a small

colony on the red planet in hopes of one day making it habitable for humans. At this point in history the Earth is overpopulated to the point of political uprisings and war. Although the Mars project is a tremendously costly one, it seems to be the only hope Earth has at survival. Tyce Sanders, a fourteen-year-old who is confined to a wheelchair, has the distinction of being born on Mars. Through the combination of virtual reality and a robot Tyce is able to explore Mars, showing how when our body fails our mind and spirit can prevail.

Mission 1: The dome is losing oxygen to the point where lives are endangered. Tyce hopes to discover the source leak, and the secret the director is hiding.

Mission 2: An outside dome technician is left in a coma after his space suit is shredded by what looks like alien teeth and claw marks, and the space shuttle brings another teenager named Ashley to Mars.

Mission 3: An earthquake uncovers a black box that holds a mystery, and possibly a key to the financial survival of the Mars project.

Mission 4: Tyce learns how to pilot a super rocket called the Hammerhead in order to avert a comet enroute to Mars. He finds out the truth about the comet, only to lose a friend.

Mission 5: Several scientists are buried in a cave-in while exploring Mars' surface. Their survival is threatened when the dome is taken over by terrorists.

Brouwer blends science and faith into each book without being heavy-handed. Those who put more belief in science will be challenged by the thought provoking postscripts. Readers will also want to check out the series interactive website at www.marsdiaries.com. Brouwer has another site worth clicking at www.coolreading.com.

Pam Webb, School Library Technician, Sandpoint, Idaho

Spinners, by Donna Jo Napoli and Richard Tchen. LCCN 98054640. New York: Dutton's Children's Books, Penguin Putnam, 1999. HBB, 0525460659, \$15.99.

F. Fairy tales; Fathers and daughters--Fiction; Spinning--Fiction. 197 p.

"If you make her a gold wedding dress by the time of the next full moon, you may marry her. If not, she will wed the miller." His offer accepted, the tailor can not believe his ears. To wed the woman he loves, that he has already loved, he must fulfill what his mouth had desperately promised her unreasonable father, a dress made of gold. How could it possibly be done? The tailor is wild to win her and steals a magic spinning wheel in order to make the attempt. Unbelievably, he succeeds; but the price has been a strange twisting of his leg. When the dress is offered, he is no longer the tall, straight man the young woman loved; and the miller is financially secure, a great consideration given that she is already with child. She marries the miller, and so begins the very different retelling of the Rumpelstiltskin

tale by the writing team of Donna Jo Napoli and Richard Tchen.

Spinners is a very dark retelling of the old fairy tale that is not for younger readers. It begins with a scene of an illicit love affair and then falls into more and more darkness as the results of this are spun out in hatred, jealousy, greed, and revenge. Another problem, for this reader, was the choice of the authors to write this book completely in the present tense: "Saskia takes a handful of wool from a sack. She spins, rocking far forward..." This awkward way of telling the story succeeds in heightening the discomfort level as the characters sink further and further into tragedy, but is also distracting. *Spinners* has no fairy tale ending; it's darkness is complete, leaving the reader empty, with no moral to consider or character to cheer.

Pamela A. Todd, English Teacher/Librarian, Chalcedon Christian School, Cumming, Georgia

Stick and Whittle, by Sid Hite. LCCN 99054763. New York: Scholastic, 2000. HBB, 0439098289, \$16.95.

F. Frontier and pioneer life--West (U.S.)--Fiction; Orphans--Fiction; West (U.S.)--Fiction. 202 p.

Melvin Fritchett, twenty-six, is riding alone near the Chisholm Trail in 1870's Texas when he is "ambushed" by orphan Melvin Smythe who is sixteen. The two dub each other "Stick" (older Melvin) and "Whittle" and decide to travel together.

Stick has been looking for his lost love, Evelyn, who mistakenly believes that he died in the Civil War. Whittle is looking for a purpose and a destiny. On the trail they meet Talking Walk and his granddaughter Brings The Rain, with whom Whittle is instantly smitten.

After parting company with the natives, Stick and Whittle ride into the wild town of Caldwell, Kansas, where Stick learns that a young heiress has been kidnapped along with her governess, who turns out to be none other than his long lost love, Evelyn. He determines to rescue her from the band of desperados and Whittle refuses to be left behind.

With the intervention of a tornado the pair again encounters Brings The Rain and Talking Rock, who agree to help them liberate Evelyn and her young charge. But their plan is a risky one and not everyone will come back alive.

Stick and Whittle is an amusing tale told with relish by Sid Hite and is sure to entertain most readers. There are several twists and turns and improbable happenings that will keep older kids involved in the story. The lessons of perseverance and loyal friendship are well told. However, Stick is first bedeviled and then led by his dreams and there are several discussions about whether all of this is because of God or because of luck and which is better to believe in. No definitive answer is really given and so it would be a good opportunity for discussion between parents and children.

Teresa O'Donley, Library Media Specialist, Baymonte Christian School, Scotts Valley, California

Stranded, Patricia H. Rushford. (Jenny McGrady mystery; 14.) Minneapolis: Bethany House, 2001. PAP, \$4.99.

F. Mystery and detective stories. 171 p.

"Nail-biting time," thinks Jennie McGrady. Her grandmother's small plane hits an unsteady air pocket and Jennie wonders why she asked Gram to let her pilot the plane to central Oregon's Sun River. A snow storm hits full force just before they feel an explosion. "We've been hit," says Gram. By what? They wonder as the plane slams into the ground.

Jennie discovers she can move, but Gram, Helen Bradley, makes no sound, her "still form pressed against some rocks. . . ." Falling snow quickly covers the plane, and when no one shows up to help, Jennie makes a difficult decision: she must leave Gram and try to find help. Eventually, a young man named Eric finds her and takes her to the Desert Colony. The high walls and barbed wire raise Jennie's suspicions. The residents, however, claim they trust in God and enjoy their simple life style. Jennie can't help but wonder.

Things don't look right, and despite reassurances from Colony leaders, Jennie's suspicions deepen. Why don't her parents come for her? Who shoots at Eric? How does Gram, nearly unrecognizable, end up at the Colony Hospital only to disappear again later? Why does Eric's family suddenly disappear, and who sets fire to their home nearby? Do Colony members use drugs to manage residents? Discovering an airfield and underground tunnels only make matters worse in Jennie's mind. Soon Dory, an older Colony resident, confirms Jennie's suspicions. Then, just as an escape and rescue look possible, everything changes, and Jennie dares to take matters in her own hands. Surprise follows surprise until at last everything becomes clear as the story races to the conclusion.

Stranded, the fourteenth Jennie McGrady mystery, transports readers into the danger, drama, and excitement readers expect from Patricia H. Rushford. Settings and situations appear plausible because she researches carefully, such as the scenes that involve Jennie as a budding pilot. Romance does not become a major theme in *Stranded*, but as always, Rushford includes enough boy-girl interest to appeal to teen readers. Spiritual emphasis remains consistent but not dominant or intrusive. Jennie makes prayer a natural part of her time in this dangerous setting.

Rushford also writes the Helen Bradley mysteries.

Betty M. Hockett, Writer/Speaker/Teacher, Newberg, Oregon

Tangled web, written by Kristi Holl; created by Terry K. Brown. (Today's girls.com; 3.) LCCN 00024414. Nashville: Tommy Nelson, Thomas Nelson, 2000. PAP, 084997562X, \$5.99.

F. Prejudices--Fiction; Grandparents--Fiction; Family problems--Fiction; Christian life--Fiction. 140 p.

New Christian Nikki Sheridan lives with her grandparents in Michigan and is preparing to celebrate her eighteenth birthday when her distant and distraught mother, Rachel, shows up with her luggage. That night Rachel informs Nikki that her father has moved in with another woman. In her anger and confusion Nikki confides in Jeff, a neighbor for whom she has developed feelings since he helped her the year before in dealing with her pregnancy and the subsequent adoption of her baby boy, but it seems he is already involved with Shannon, a girl from the college he attends.

Keesha, Nikki's best friend, in an effort to help her forget Jeff, tries to get her involved with Mitch and Steve, friends Keesha has met on the Internet. Keesha arranges to meet Steve and later pressures Nikki to double date with her, Steve and Mitch. Nikki wisely refuses.

Meanwhile Grandmother's friend Arleta has arranged for Nikki to share her testimony at a tea which peers from her school will be attending. Nikki is overwhelmed with her feelings for Jeff, the pressure from Keesha, the upcoming tea, and the new softness in her mother. Through the encouragement and guidance of her grandparents, Nikki is able to rely on the Lord for the answers to her problems. After an argument with Jeff and against her better judgment, Nikki meets with Keesha and her "web friends." As she feared, things are not what they seem and only the Lord can save the girls.

Tangled Web is the fifth in the Nikki Sheridan series and is sure to appeal to high school girls with its honest and frank dealings the contemporary issues – divorce, unwed pregnancy, peer pressure, the Internet – that many modern readers grapple with. Shirley Brinkerhoff has done a fine job of plot development interwoven with Nikki's growing reliance on Christ.

Teresa O'Donley, Library Media Specialist, Baymonte Christian School, Scotts Valley, California

Wild fire, Linda I. Shands. (Wakara of Eagle Lodge; 1.) LCCN 00053360. Grand Rapids: Fleming Revell, Baker, 2001. PAP, 0800747367, \$5.99.

F. Grief--Fiction; Identity--Fiction; Single-parent families--Fiction; Forest fires--Fiction; Survival--Fiction; Oregon--Fiction. 168 p.

Blind fury, Linda I. Shands. (Wakara of Eagle Lodge; 2.) LCCN 00053361. Grand Rapids: Fleming Revell, Baker, 2001. PAP, 0800757475, \$5.99.

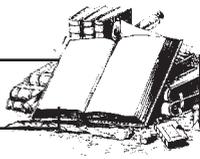
F. Single-parent families--Fiction; Brothers and sisters--Fiction; Identity--Fiction; Blizzards--Fiction; Ranch life--Oregon--Fiction; Oregon--Fiction. 172 p.

Wakara Sheridan is fifteen years old and lives with her Dad, older brother Greg and younger brother Ryan on a ranch in Oregon. Mom died a year ago in a fiery car accident that has left Greg with major attitude problems, Wakara with nightmares plus added responsibilities, and Ryan with a knack for getting into trouble. Dad hires a new ranch hand, Colin, who is a handsome blond with a troubled past. In *Wild Fire*, Wakara's family move to the mountains for the summer to open their wilderness resort. The summer is exceedingly dry but one day a storm leashes a wildfire upon the resort in which Wakara and Ryan must save themselves from a fiery death.

The Sheridan family's adventures continue in the sequel, *Blind Fury*. Dad and Greg return to the wilderness resort to assess the damages brought about from the wildfire. Wakara, Colin, Ryan and the housekeeper Anne stay at the ranch. Wakara has uneasy feelings about Dad and Greg going to the mountains alone, but she keeps busy by digging into her family history to determine the exact Native American tribe her ancestors came from. Unfortunately, Wakara awakens during a blizzard to the unexplained feeling that Dad and Greg are in trouble. Taking it upon herself to rescue the duo, Wakara saddles up and ventures into the mountains braving the blizzard and a mountain lion.

Author Linda Shands lives in Oregon and writes a convincingly adventurous series that not only keeps the reader turning pages but it also describes physical and spiritual survival skills. Wakara's family turn to God for help in both adventures in which He guides them through the learning process. A contemporary story with current issues that promises a third installment to come later in Fall 2001.

Connie J. Weaver, Church & Reference Librarian, Newville, Pennsylvania



200's—Religion

Bible bytes for teens : a study-devotional for logging in to God's Word, written by Alison J. Hutchins; edited by Chad Allen. LCCN 00193614. Lancaster, Pa.: Starburst, 2001. PAP, 1892016494, \$13.99.

220. Bible--Textbooks; Teenagers--Prayer-books and devotions. 277 p.

Using computer terminology, this book offers short devotionals designed to make teens think about and apply God's Word to their daily lives. Each two-page piece has a contemporary story, a Bible verse, an application, highlight quotation, and questions. The general areas covered are commitment to God, the Christian life, problems, relationships, and witnessing. A subject index and list of Biblical references are given at the back.

The book is nicely done, with the modern stories seeming real and the applications clear and to the point. The questions are written to make the reader think for him or herself about God's role in life and the decisions to be made as a Christian young person. The highlight quotations sum up the lesson well. Most areas are covered from self-image to friendships to conflicts to the temptations of sex and drugs.

Designed as it is, the book can be taken in short daily bites or longer studies. Daily devotional books can raise check-out length questions for a library, but *Bible Bytes* can be available for group studies or used to help with specific areas of need. The short format and modern lingo will appeal to teen readers. Those looking to build youth sections and readership should consider this selection.

Betsy Ruffin, Librarian/Teacher, Cleburne, Texas

Ripples of joy : stories of hope and encouragement to share, [compiled by] Cheryl Kirking. LCCN 00055664. Colorado Springs: WaterBrook, 2000. PAP, 0877884021, \$11.99.

242. Christian life--Anecdotes; Anecdotes. 238 p. (Adult)

Formatted like the popular Chicken Soup books (to which the author has contributed), *Ripples of Joy* presents Christian pieces designed to encourage hearts. Headings include love, prayer, faith, laughter, and more. There are stories from Florence Littauer, Fred Rogers, Kurt Kaiser, James Robinson, Kirking herself, and many more.

This book, like others of its kind, provides a comfortable, easy read that is still inspirational. The stories, generally, are well chosen and are designed to make the reader smile—and think. The range of subjects will help in many areas of

Christian life, and the stories are picked to uplift the spirit and soul of the reader. The Christian viewpoint is evident throughout the pieces.

Kirking has done a good job with the compilation and the writing she contributes to the work. The book may appeal to readers who want a book that can be taken in short bites or need encouragement in some specific aspects of their life. It can provide an inspirational touch without a big investment of time at any one sitting, just right for today's busy Christian families. *Ripples* is a good book for its purpose, and well-worth including in a collection.

Betsy Ruffin, Librarian/Teacher, Cleburne, Texas



The right way to win : how athletes can place God first in their hearts, Mike Blaylock. LCCN 00023495. Chicago: Moody, 2000. PAP, 0802484258, \$12.99.

248.8'8. Athletes--Religious life; Sports--Religious aspects--Christianity. 134 p. (Adult)

What does it mean to be a successful Christian athlete? Consistent wins? No injuries? Performance advantages over your non-Christian opponents? In *The Right Way to Win: How Athletes Can Place God First in Their Hearts*, Mike Blaylock, former teacher-coach and chaplain for the Kansas City Royals, challenges young people with God's game plan for achieving success in His eyes, both as an athlete and as a Christian.

Replete with Scripture, the text encourages youth to model their lives after Jesus, teaches how to overcome obstacles, setbacks, and pressures, and suggests specific ways to witness to teammates. A special section includes tips for parents in their spiritual training of athletic children. Blaylock includes pertinent quotes from professional athletes and the history of sports, and inspiring anecdotes from well-known biographies and his own sports career. At each chapter's end are provocative To Think About Questions, ideal for individual introspection or group discussion.

With page-turning style, Blaylock dissolves five myths concerning the relationship of God and sports. (Myth #1: Being a Christian Means The Score Will Come Out In Your Favor). He coaches toward a personal devotional life with Real Success Prayers (#3: Give me a passion to know you), and presents the Gospel in easy lay terms. Emphasis is on first nurturing a successful personal walk with Him, then letting that play out in life. God's desire is to create character, he says, and the goal is to please Him. Jesus should be the only fan in the stands.

Follow His example of perseverance, purpose, preparation, humility, and discipline.

Readers of *The Right Way To Win* will take Blaylock's words to heart and apply his success principles to all areas of life.

Rhonda Marie Lackey, Writer, Substitute Teacher/Former Librarian, Tukwila, Washington

300's—Social Sciences

Barbara Jordan : getting things done, James Mendelsohn. LCCN 00057776. Brookfield, Ct.: Twenty-First Century Books, Millbrook, 2000. HBB, 0761314679, \$23.90.

328.73'092. Jordan, Barbara, 1936-; United States. Congress. House--Biography; Legislators--United States--Biography; African American women legislators--Biography; Legislators; African Americans--Biography. 192 p.

The late Barbara Jordan was the first black woman to win a seat in the Texas Senate, and one of the first African-Americans elected to Congress in more than 100 years. In his biography *Barbara Jordan: Getting Things Done*, author James Mendelsohn shows that she was arguably one of the most influential African-Americans in the United States.

Mendelsohn places Jordan's early years within the context of history and analyzes the relationships within her family. He richly details the history of blacks in Texas territory, describing how they helped to build Texas but were later brutally denied the rewards of their efforts. Jordan's ancestors lived life in that setting, a setting that eventually resulted in the segregated Houston society into which she was born in 1936.

Jordan's family taught her the importance of working hard and applying the same standards to everyone. At one time she shared her family's belief that blacks would achieve equality through good citizenship and by excelling in all their endeavors. Eventually, she became impatient waiting for integration and decided to actively promote change by working within the system. That decision, her law school experiences and her considerable skill as an orator, eventually led her into political life.

Mendelsohn writes an engaging biography for the high school reader about an important African-American in our history. He effectively brings to life the significant historical events Jordan was a part of, from civil rights actions and legislation to the tumultuous Watergate years. However, impressionable readers may need guidance in examining biased statements about political parties and disparaging views of religion, the traditional roles of women, and respect for authority. Parents and teachers may

also want to discuss the morality of some incidences of lying and alcohol use. In two instances, Mendelsohn unnecessarily states profanity that was used.

Sharon Berg, *Freelance Writer, Bellevue, Nebraska*

900's—Geography, History, & Biography

The seven wonders of the world, by Ron Tagliapietra. LCCN 99026243. Greenville, S.C.: Bob Jones University Press, 2000. PAP, 1579242340, \$9.95.

910. Curiosities and wonders; Seven Wonders of the World; Architecture, Ancient. 224 p. (Adult)

Ron Tagliapietra covers quite an extensive amount of information in this illustrated paperback. He includes how God was and is apart of all the Seven Wonders of the World. Not only does he write about the Seven Ancient wonders of the world; also included are the following: the Seven Technological wonders, the Seven Archaeological wonders, the Seven Architectural wonders, the Seven Natural wonders, and other famous sevens. Dr. Tagliapietra lists the criteria for being a wonder of the world and uses this list throughout the entire book. Of particular significance is the inclusion of an index, a bibliography, and a table of contents. In the appendices is a note for teachers that mentions the importance of interesting background information to world history lessons.

Each chapter discusses the seven wonders of the above mentioned categories and what makes it so unique to have made Dr. Ron's list. Each Wonder includes at least two pages of information and several black and white photographs. Some of the information is in the form of maps, charts, and fictionalized accounts of the discovery of the Wonder. Colored photographs of each of the Seven Wonders is in the center of the book. The last chapter is a list of the Seven Spiritual wonders that can all be found in Jerusalem. At the very end of this last chapter is a plea for readers to accept Christ and to pray the sinner's prayer that Dr. Ron has included.

Connie J. Weaver, *Church & Reference Librarian, Newville, Pennsylvania*

Harriet Tubman, Rebecca Price Janney. (Women of faith.) LCCN 99006542. Minneapolis: Bethany House, 1999. PAP, 0764221825, \$4.99.

973.7. Tubman, Harriet, 1820?-1913; Slaves--United States--Biography; African Americans--Biography; Christian biography; Underground railroad; Antislavery movements--United States. 158 p.

Rebecca Price Janney tells the life story of an incredible woman of faith. Harriet Tubman was born around 1820 in Maryland. She spent her childhood in slavery, but always yearned for a day when she would be free. Even as a young child, God spoke to her in visions and dreams about someday being free and leading others of her people to freedom. This dream became a reality when she reached adulthood. Threatened with being separated from her family after the death of her master, Harriet finally made a break

for freedom. After she made it to the north, she became involved with the Underground Railroad. During her lifetime, Harriet Tubman—known as "Moses" to those she brought to freedom—rescued over three hundred people from slavery.

Harriet Tubman, by Rebecca Price Janney is a moving, inspirational account of a woman who thought nothing of the sacrifices she had to make to free her people. The book reads for the most part like a story. There are a few interruptions to the story line as Janney explains the aspects of history that make the story come alive. High school students will learn that you do not need to be educated, charismatic, or good-looking to accomplish heroic deeds. All that is necessary is complete trust and devotion to God. This is exactly what Harriet Tubman exhibited in her life.

Robyn Wyatt, *Freelance Writer, Port Orchard, Washington*

Nonfiction Series Update

Animal experimentation, edited by David M. Haugen. (At issue.) LCCN 99027264. San Diego: Greenhaven Press, 2000. PAP, 073770148X, \$11.96; LIB, 0737702498, \$17.96.

179'.4. Animal experimentation--Moral and ethical aspects; Animal experimentation. 94 p.

Violent children, edited by Bryan J. Grapes. (At issue.) LCCN 99030143. San Diego: Greenhaven Press, 2000. PAP, 0737701587, \$11.96; LIB, 0737701595, \$17.96.

303.6'083. Children and violence. 79 p.

Interracial relationships, edited by Bryan J. Grapes. (At issue.) LCCN 99023677. San Diego: Greenhaven Press, 2000. PAP, 0737701544, \$11.96; LIB, 0737701552, \$17.96.

306.84'6. Intermarriage; Interracial marriage; Ethnicity; United States--Race relations. 80 p.

Affirmative action, edited by Bryan J. Grapes. (At issue.) LCCN 99015925. San Diego: Greenhaven Press, 2000. PAP, 0737702893, \$11.96; LIB, 0737702907, \$17.96.

331.13'3'0973. Civil rights--United States; Affirmative action programs--United States; Discrimination; Reverse discrimination; United States--Social policy. 74 p.

Teen suicide, edited by Tamara L. Roleff. (At issue.) LCCN 99055610. San Diego: Greenhaven Press, 2000. PAP, 073770327X, \$11.96; LIB, 0737703288, \$17.96.

362.28'083'0973. Teenagers--Suicidal behavior; Gay teenagers--Suicidal behavior; Depression in adolescence; Adolescent psychology; Teenagers--United States--Social conditions. 108 p.

Smoking, edited by Mary E. Williams. (At issue.) LCCN 99033070. San Diego: Greenhaven Press, 2000. PAP, 0737701560, \$11.96; LIB, 0737701579, \$17.96.

362.29'6. Tobacco habit; Cigarette habit; Smoking; Tobacco industry. 96 p.

Food safety, edited by Laura K. Egendorf. (At issue.) LCCN 99036429. San Diego: Greenhaven Press, 2000. PAP, 0737701501, \$11.96; LIB, 073770151X, \$17.96.

363.19'2. Food adulteration and inspection; Food contamination. 126 p.

Guns and crime, edited by Tamara L. Roleff. (At issue.) LCCN 99037174. San Diego: Greenhaven Press, 2000. PAP, 0737701528, \$11.96; LIB, 0737701536, \$17.96.

363.3'3'0973. Firearms and crime; Gun control. 106 p. (Middle school, Adult)

This non-fiction series covers controversial issues for young adults for the purpose of research and information. Each book follows a similar format: chapters giving a positive viewpoint of the subject followed by the dissent, i.e. "Gun control can reduce crime" versus "Gun control does not reduce crime." Each chapter is authored by a different expert on the subject, filled with quotations, uncut articles with full footnotes and source notes. Further research is assisted by an extensive book and periodical bibliography as well as annotated lists of relevant organizations to contact for further information.

The purpose of this series is to not only provide a quick grounding in these issues but also a challenge to the critical thinking skills of the reader. It is strictly a research tool to be used to test the validity of the arguments presented and then for the reader to come to their own conclusions on the subject. In addition to use for research papers, these books would also be invaluable to the debater.

Small, dense print does not give this series an appealing look but they are nevertheless an excellent research tool and would be used extensively by upper middle schoolers and high school students.

Cecil Carey, *Young Adult Librarian, Plano, Illinois*

Issues in racism, by Mary E. Williams. (Contemporary issues.) LCCN 00008052. San Diego: Lucent Books, 2000. LIB, 1560064781, \$19.96.

305.8'00973. Race relations; Racism; Race discrimination; Discrimination. 112 p.

Issues in immigration, by Stephen Currie. (Contemporary issues.) LCCN 99088268. San Diego: Lucent Books, 2000. LIB, 1560063777, \$19.96.

325.73. United States--Emigration and immigration. 112 p.

Each chapter in the Contemporary Issues series by Lucent Books asks a question, then attempts to answer it by presenting a variety of viewpoints. The writers go beyond the surface to give the reader a thorough understanding of the root causes of debate, thereby proving why each issue is a complex one. From political, economic, and social standpoints, the convictions of both its supporters and detractors are presented, with multiple perspectives on each side of the aisle. Students will quickly

learn that well-reasoned arguments can easily be countered by opposing ones of equal worth, and result in different forecasts for a future solution. The bright library-bound editions are well-written and easy to understand, and include relevant photographs, an index of source quotes, organizations to contact with brief mission statements, and a list of works consulted for further study.

Issues in Immigration by Stephen Currie discusses problems facing immigrants and the effects that immigration, legal and illegal, has on the United States. Topics include assimilation, language and employment issues, and the effect of an increasing ethnic population on American culture and economy. The challenges of patrolling the border and enforcing the law raise the question of whether or not, and how, immigration law should be reformed.

In *Issues in Racism*, Mary E. Williams looks at how different people define racism and the severity of the problem. The social and psychological aspects of race are discussed and personal stories of the daily experience of discrimination are told. Civil rights history and long-held attitudes are confronted with care to avoid placing blame. The effect of the media on stereotypes, racial profiling, and Affirmative Action are also discussed. Examples are given of organizations working to combat racism through education and dialogue.

Denise Griffin, Freelance Writer, Winston-Salem, North Carolina

Cults, edited by Jill Karson. (Contemporary issues companion.) LCCN 99020382. San Diego: Greenhaven Press, 2000. PAP, 0737701625, \$14.96; LIB, 0737701633, \$22.96.

291. Cults. 144 p.

War crimes, edited by Henny H. Kim. (Contemporary issues companion.) LCCN 99016391. San Diego: Greenhaven Press, 2000. PAP, 0737701706, \$14.96; LIB, 0737701714, \$22.96.

341.69. War crimes. 176 p.

Teen smoking, edited by Mary E. Williams. (Contemporary issues companion.) LCCN 99027816. San Diego: Greenhaven Press, 2000. PAP, 0737701684, \$14.96; LIB, 0737701692, \$22.96.

362.29'08350973. Teenagers--Tobacco use; Tobacco habit; Smoking. 144 p.

Serial killers, edited by Louise Gerdes. (Contemporary issues companion.) LCCN 99023601. San Diego: Greenhaven Press, 2000. PAP, 0737701668, \$14.96; LIB, 0737701676, \$22.96.

364.15'23. Serial murders; Serial murders. 192 p.

School violence, edited by Bryan J. Grapes. (Contemporary issues companion.) LCCN 99058905. San Diego: Greenhaven Press, 2000. PAP, 0737703318, \$14.96; LIB, 0737703326, \$22.96.

371.782. School violence. 156 p.

Cloning, edited by Lisa Yount. (Contemporary issues companion.) LCCN 99049733. San Diego: Greenhaven Press, 2000. PAP, 0737703296, \$14.96; LIB, 073770330X, \$22.96.

571.8'9. Cloning; Cloning--Social aspects; Cloning--Moral and ethical aspects. 176 p.

Cancer, edited by Lisa Yount. (Contemporary issues companion.) LCCN 99011431. San Diego: Greenhaven Press, 2000. PAP, 0737701609, \$14.96; LIB, 0737701617, \$22.96.

616.99'4. Cancer. 190 p. (Adult)

The Contemporary Issues Companion series covers a wide range of topics. The chosen subjects offer a blend of physical and emotional concerns that truly are contemporary issues, some of which have deep historical roots in our societal history.

Each subject covered is presented in an anthology format through essays, personal accounts, and background information, so the reader has a well-rounded gathering of facts and opinions for research or general reading purposes. Concise yet thorough, each book yields a wealth of useful information, making this an excellent resource for students at both the secondary and post-secondary level. Each subject covered reflects current concerns which for the most part adversely affect society, which are divided up into several aspects of study. Further study aides included are contact organizations, bibliography, and index.

The compilation of essays represent a broad base of information and fact which helps readers consider the subject from different perspectives. Take note though, due to the diverse writing and subjects given, there are instances of profanity and graphic descriptions; even so, the value of the material provided will be appreciated by serious researchers and those interested in the subject. High school and college libraries will want to consider this series for their collections.

Pam Webb, School Library Technician, Sandpoint, Idaho

American realism, edited by Christopher Smith. (The Greenhaven Press companion to literary movements and genres.) LCCN 99053714. San Diego: Greenhaven Press, 2000. PAP, 0737703237, \$14.96; LIB, 0737703245, \$22.96.

810.9'12. American literature--History and criticism; American literature--Handbooks, manuals, etc.; Naturalism in literature; Realism in literature. 208 p.

Victorian literature, edited by Clarice Swisher. (The Greenhaven Press companion to literary movements and genres.) LCCN 99038376. San Diego: Greenhaven Press, 2000. PAP, 0737702087, \$14.96; LIB, 0737702095, \$22.96.

820.9'008. English literature--19th century--History and criticism; Great Britain--History--Victoria, 1837-1901; Naturalism in literature. 208 p.

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Elizabethan drama, edited by Laura K. Egendorf. (The Greenhaven Press companion to literary movements and genres.) LCCN 99055871. San Diego: Greenhaven Press, 2000. PAP, 0737702044, \$14.96; LIB, 0737702052, \$22.96.

822'.309. Shakespeare, William, 1564-1616--Criticism and interpretation; English drama--Early modern and Elizabethan, 1500-1600--History and criticism. 189 p.

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Greek drama, edited by Don Nardo. (The Greenhaven Press companion to literary movements and genres.) LCCN 99029775. San Diego: Greenhaven Press, 2000. PAP, 0737702060, \$14.96; LIB, 0737702079, \$22.96.

882'.0109. Greek drama--History and criticism; Theater--Greece--History. 176 p.

This series by Greenhaven Press is yet another excellent addition to the family. Students are introduced to "groups of authors who shared certain cultural or historical experiences" (p. 7). Then students are guided to look for similarities and differences to their own culture and time. One of the lofty goals in this series is for the student to see the evolution of literature. Each book in the series begins with an introduction and a detailed overview. The text is easy to read. The bindings are durable. There is a chronology, information for further research, and a very helpful works consulted page. The index is detailed and useful. This series would be a wonderful addition to any library.

Elizabethan Drama covers the period of 1500 to 1600 which includes Shakespeare. It was a rapidly changing world then as there were earth shattering discoveries and world political systems were changing rapidly. So too were literature and drama. This book discusses the topics of characteristics of Elizabethan drama, Elizabethan drama as a reflection of Elizabethan society, an examination of William Shakespeare, and assessing Elizabethan drama. These essays are simplified for the high school reader but they are still challenging. The sub issues in each chapter are interesting and helpful for the student learning about this period or the instructor looking to refresh his/her mind.

As with the other texts in this series there is a wonderful overview of the material discussed in this edition. The prologue, "The Nature of the Evidence: Surviving Records of Greek Drama" was especially nice to open with. The chapters covered in this book are characteristics and conventions of Greek Drama, Greek Tragedy, Greek Comedy, and Greek Drama's living legacy. Instructors and students alike will enjoy reading the chapter about Greek tragedy as it has nice sections discussing Antigone and women in Greek dramas. While some of the material is adult in nature the average student will have little to concern himself/herself with in reading this book.

My favorite of the titles reviewed is the Victorian period. This covers the 19th century

basically and is well done. The chapters are: the era of reform, the character of Victorian writing, the poets, and the novelists. The last two chapters were joys to read and reminded the reviewer of old friends. Two classics, *Wuthering Heights* and *Jane Eyre* are analyzed as are the famous writers Charles Dickens and George Eliot. Again, a wonderful addition to a library.

The genre of *American Realism* is wonderfully covered in this volume. This book considers the development and contributions of American Realism to literature. There is no definite time frame for coverage of the material in this edition but the chapters are very informative. The chapters cover defining realism; the rise of Naturalism; class, race, and gender in American realism; national character in American realism, and realism after 1914. Chapter three, "Class, race, and Gender in American Realism" was a wonderful chapter. The students will enjoy the work of the essayist in this fine book.

Bianca Elliott, Educator, Linwood, Kansas

***Ethics*, edited by Brenda Stalcup. (Current controversies.) LCCN 99045248. San Diego: Greenhaven Press, 2000. PAP, 0737703377, \$14.96; LIB, 0737703385, \$22.96.**

170. Ethics. 160 p.

***Medical ethics*, edited by James D. Torr. (Current controversies.) LCCN 99034501. San Diego: Greenhaven Press, 2000. PAP, 0733701447, \$14.96; LIB, 0733701455, \$22.96.**

172'.4. Medical ethics. 176 p.

***Free speech*, edited by Scott Barbour. (Current controversies.) LCCN 99029107. San Diego: Greenhaven Press, 2000. PAP, 0737701420, \$14.96; LIB, 0737701439, \$22.96.**

342.73'0853. Freedom of speech. 206 p.

***Alcoholism*, edited by James D. Torr. (Current controversies.) LCCN 99037265. San Diego: Greenhaven Press, 2000. PAP, 0737701382, \$14.96; LIB, 0737701390, \$22.96.**

362.202. Alcoholism. 202 p.

***Suicide*, edited by Leslie A. Miller and Paul A. Rose. (Current controversies.) LCCN 99053091. San Diego: Greenhaven Press, 2000. PAP, 0737703172, \$14.96; LIB, 0737703180, \$22.96.**

362.28. Suicide. 154 p.

***Drug legalization*, edited by Scott Barbour. (Current controversies.) LCCN 99048084. San Diego: Greenhaven Press, 2000. PAP, 0737703350, \$14.96; LIB, 0737703369, \$22.96.**

364.1'77'0973. Drug legalization; Drug abuse; Narcotics, Control of. 186 p.

***Prisons*, edited by Bryan J. Grapes. (Current controversies.) LCCN 99041272. San Diego: Greenhaven Press, 2000. PAP, 0737701463, \$14.96; LIB, 0737701471, \$22.96.**

365'.973. Prisons; Imprisonment; Punishment; Prisoners; Convict labor. 176 p.

Titles in the Current Controversies series are highly focused and specific in examining controversies dominating the national and international scene. Articles and book excerpts included are chosen to ensure that the titles do not become quickly outdated.

Christian teachers and parents can utilize the discussion to contrast the view in some arguments with one's faith and whether it fits with biblical principles. For some titles like *Medical Ethics*, and *Ethics*, this is easy to do. Others in the series invite the teacher or parent to prepare an approach to deal with the varying views. The titles are well organized and the discussion flows so smoothly that one can find paths to do this without major effort. The wide range of scholarship evident in the chosen articles and excerpts adds to the depth of discussion. The absence of biblical scholars in the discussion leaves specific biblical concerns lacking in some of the discussions.

Medical Ethics looks at the role of the physician in death, what ethics should guide organ transplants, whether reproductive technologies are ethical, and what ethics should guide biomedical research.

Suicide discusses why people commit suicide, the place of euthanasia, and how suicide can be prevented.

Prisons focuses on whether prisons are an effective solution to crime, how inmates should be treated, whether prisons should be privatized, and whether prisons should use inmate labor.

In *Free Speech* authors debate where to draw the line between permissible and impermissible speech and expression.

Ethics looks at what motivates people to behave ethically, whether American business is becoming more ethical, whether modern biomedical practices are ethical, and how ethics behavior can be taught.

Drug Legalization examines the efficacy of drug prohibition, the advisability of liberalizing the nation's drug laws, and the morality of drug use.

Alcoholism debates the nature of alcoholism and the extent of alcohol-related problems, as well as what should be done to prevent them.

Leroy Hommerding, Director, Fort Myers Beach P.L. District, Fort Myers, Florida

***Readings on A farewell to arms*, edited by Gary Weiner. (Literary companion to American literature.) LCCN 99025705. San Diego: Greenhaven Press, 2000. PAP, 073770232X, \$14.96; LIB, 0737702338, \$22.96.**

813'.52. Hemingway, Ernest, 1899-1962. Farewell to arms.; World War, 1914-1918--Literature and the war. 159 p.

***Readings on Ethan Frome*, edited by Christopher Smith. (Literary companion to American literature.) LCCN 99047624. San Diego: Greenhaven Press, 2000. PAP, 0737701986, \$14.96; LIB, 0737701994, \$22.96.**

813'.52. Wharton, Edith, 1862-1937. Ethan Frome. 174 p.

***Readings on Native son*, edited by Hayley R. Mitchell. (Literary companion to American literature.) LCCN 99053746. San Diego: Greenhaven Press, 2000. PAP, 0737703199, \$14.96; LIB, 0737703202, \$22.96.**

813'.52. Wright, Richard, 1908-1960. Native son.; Afro-Americans in literature. 186 p.

***Readings on Our town*, edited by Thomas Siebold. (Literary companion to American literature.) LCCN 99010188. San Diego: Greenhaven Press, 2000. PAP, 0737701889, \$14.96; LIB, 0737701897, \$22.96.**

813'.52. Wilder, Thornton, 1897-1975. Our town.; City and town life in literature. 176 p.

***Readings on Fahrenheit 451*, edited by Katie de Koster. (Literary companion to American literature.) LCCN 99038379. San Diego: Greenhaven Press, 2000. PAP, 1565108566, \$14.96; LIB, 1565108574, \$22.96.**

813'.54. Bradbury, Ray, 1920- Fahrenheit 451.; Book burning in literature. 175 p.

***Readings on One flew over the cuckoo's nest*, edited by Lawrence Kappel. (Literary companion to American literature.) LCCN 98054650. San Diego: Greenhaven Press, 2000. PAP, 0737701846, \$14.96; LIB, 0737701854, \$22.96.**

813'.54. Kesey, Ken. One flew over the cuckoo's nest.; Psychiatric hospital patients in literature; Mentally ill in literature. 204 p.

***Readings on To kill a mockingbird*, edited by Terry O'Neill. (Literary companion to American literature.) LCCN 99021326. San Diego: Greenhaven Press, 2000. PAP, 1565105755, \$14.96; LIB, 1565105761, \$22.96.**

813'.54. Lee, Harper. To kill a mockingbird. 144 p.

***Readings on Twelve angry men*, edited by Russ Munyan. (Literary companion to American literature.) LCCN 99055869. San Diego: Greenhaven Press, 2000. PAP, 073770313X, \$14.96; LIB, 0737703148, \$22.96.**

813'.54. Rose, Reginald. Twelve angry men.; Rose, Reginald--Film and video adaptations; Trials in motion pictures; Trials in literature; Jury in motion pictures; Jury in literature. 156 p.

(Adult)

The Literary Companion to American Literature serves well those who are going beyond "Cliff Notes" research. Each book in the series covers individual works of what could be considered American classics. Presented in an anthology form, the books are a compilation of essays representing a diverse outlook on each title represented. The content thoroughly examines many aspects of the writing at hand, covering such areas as Critical Reception, Literary Technique, Characters, Sources and Setting, and thematic discussions. The sources come from national publications, such as Time, as well as the op-ed from local papers. Students and serious readers will appreciate the depth and dimension offered in each title covered.

The series also includes an illuminating author biography, along with a chronology, further research notes and an index. The annotated

table of contents is also a helpful resource guide. A valuable resource for literature students and teachers alike, Greenhaven has provided the means to better understand some of the great works in American literature. The titles represented themselves contain instances of profanity and strong images, which are carried over from the targeted writings. Nevertheless, the books are both a benefit and learning aide to the material at hand.

Pam Webb, School Library Technician, Sandpoint, Idaho

Readings on J.R.R. Tolkien, edited by Katie de Koster. (Literary companion to British authors.) LCCN 99034336. San Diego: Greenhaven Press, 2000. PAPER, 0737702443, \$14.96; LIBRARY, 0737702451, \$22.96.

828'.91209. Tolkien, J.R.R. (John Ronald Reuel), 1892-1973--Criticism and interpretation; Tolkien, J.R.R. (John Ronald Reuel), 1892-1973. Lord of the rings.; Tolkien, J.R.R. (John Ronald Reuel), 1892-1973. Hobbit.; Fantasy fiction, English--History and criticism; Middle Earth (Imaginary place). 176 p.

Greenhaven Press specializes in bringing together collections of essays representing a variety of points of view on topics of interest to young adults. For nearly half a century, the works of John Ronald Reuel Tolkien, best known as the author of *The Hobbit* and the three-volume *The Lord of the Rings*, have drawn high praise, intense scrutiny, and/or bitter castigation from literary critics. The excerpted essays in *Readings on J.R.R. Tolkien*, edited by Katie de Koster, reflect this disparity of views. Following a short biographical sketch, the book is divided into three chapters consisting of five essays each--Chapter 1: The Hobbit; Chapter 2: Meaning in The Lord of the Rings; Chapter 3: The Writer's Art: Style and Sources in The Lord of the Rings. A chronology, including additional works published posthumously by son Christopher Tolkien, a brief bibliography, and an index complete the volume.

In his essay on the popular trilogy, W.H. Auden observes "Nobody seems to have a moderate opinion: either, like myself, people find it a masterpiece of its genre or they cannot abide it, and among the hostile there are some, I must confess, for whose literary judgment I have great respect." The excerpted essays included here differ widely on the value of Tolkien's theme, the success of the style, the caliber of the poetry, and the presence or absence of key elements, etc. They vary in quality and usefulness. Two pieces from controversial Freudian and Jungian psychoanalytical perspectives, with their sexual symbolism, might be appropriate for graduate level intellectual speculation, but could confuse some young high school students and/or disturb their parents. Among the few short inserts excerpted from Tolkien's other writings are two paragraphs from his seminal essay "On Fairy Stories." That essay (now available in *The Tolkien Reader*--not listed in the bibliography!) could help balance some views expressed in the Greenhaven volume.

Donna W. Bowling, Graduate Institute of Applied Linguistics Library, Dallas, Texas

Readings on Othello, edited by Don Nardo. (Literary companion to British literature.) LCCN 99029219. San Diego: Greenhaven Press, 2000. PAPER, 0737701862, \$14.96; LIBRARY, 0737701870, \$22.96.

822.3'3. Shakespeare, William, 1564-1616. Othello.; Muslims in literature; Blacks in literature; Tragedy. 190 p.

Readings on The merchant of Venice, edited by Clarice Swisher. (Literary companion to British literature.) LCCN 99029478. San Diego: Greenhaven Press, 2000. PAPER, 0737701781, \$14.96; LIBRARY, 073770179X, \$22.96.

822.3'3. Shakespeare, William, 1564-1616. Merchant of Venice.; Venice (Italy)--In literature; Jews in literature; Comedy. 203 p.

Readings on Jane Eyre, edited by Jill Karson. (Literary companion to British literature.) LCCN 98023188. San Diego: Greenhaven Press, 2000. PAPER, 0737701765, \$14.96; LIBRARY, 0737701773, \$22.96.

823'.8. Bronte, Charlotte, 1816-1855. Jane Eyre. 170 p.

Readings on Gulliver's travels, edited by Gary Wiener. (Literary companion to British literature.) LCCN 99047985. San Diego: Greenhaven Press, 2000. PAPER, 0737703415, \$14.96; LIBRARY, 0737703423, \$22.96.

823'.5. Swift, Jonathan, 1667-1745. Gulliver's travels.; Satire, English--History and criticism; Voyages, Imaginary. 192 p.

Readings on A Christmas carol, edited by Jill Karson. (Literary companion to British literature.) LCCN 99047966. San Diego: Greenhaven Press, 2000. PAPER, 0737703393, \$14.96; LIBRARY, 0737703407, \$22.96.

823'.8. Dickens, Charles, 1812-1870. Christmas carol.; Christmas stories, English--History and criticism. 174 p.

Readings on Silas Marner, edited by Barbara A. Goodman. (Literary companion to British literature.) LCCN 99055867. San Diego: Greenhaven Press, 2000. PAPER, 0737703571, \$14.96; LIBRARY, 073770358X, \$22.96.

823'.8. Eliot, George, 1819-1880. Silas Marner. 186 p.

Readings on Tess of the Durbervilles, edited by Bonnie Szumski. (Literary companion to British literature.) LCCN 99016988. San Diego: Greenhaven Press, 2000. PAPER, 073770196X, \$14.96; LIBRARY, 0737701978, \$22.96.

823'.8. Hardy, Thomas, 1840-1928. Tess of the d'Urbervilles. 224 p.

Readings on A portrait of the artist as a young man, edited by Clarice Swisher. (Literary companion to British literature.) LCCN 99055868. San Diego: Greenhaven Press, 2000. PAPER, 0737703598, \$14.96; LIBRARY, 0737703601, \$22.96.

823'.912. Joyce, James, 1882-1941. Portrait of the artist as a young man.; Dublin (Ireland)--In literature; Young men in literature. 191 p. Literary companion to British literature. San Diego, CA: Greenhaven Press, 2000.

Readings on The taming of the shrew, edited by Laura Marvel. (Literary companion to British literature.) LCCN 99059318. San Diego: Greenhaven Press, 2000. PAPER, 0737702362, \$14.96; LIBRARY, 0737702370, \$22.96.

888.3'3. Shakespeare, William, 1564-1616. Taming of the shrew. 170 p.

(College, Adult)

From a library perspective when it comes to literary criticism, there never appears to be "enough." However, from a student perspective, the plethora of critical works (both monographs and periodicals) can be overwhelming at times. It is here that the above series finds its place. The Literary Companion to British Literature series provides literary analysis and criticism of the lives and works of significant British authors. Each of these books follows a prescribed pattern: introduction, biography of the author, a section on the characters and plot of the work, essays on a variety of aspects of the work itself, a chronology of the author's life and times, a bibliography, and finally, an index.

The editor, from a variety of sources, chooses the essays themselves: edited works, book chapters, journal articles and even unpublished treatises. Each chapter of the book is introduced letting the reader know why it was chosen, who the writer is, as well as a summary of the chapter's contents. These critical anthologies are available in both paperback and hardcover. They are well balanced, providing critical material on all aspects of the work at hand. Greenhaven Press is to be commended for providing this resource for students of high school and college/university age.

Ted Goshulak, University Librarian, Langley, British Columbia, Canada

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Readings on Crime and punishment, edited by Derek C. Maus. (Literary companion to world literature.) LCCN 99055780. San Diego: Greenhaven Press, 2000. PAPER, 0737702346, \$14.96; LIBRARY, 0737702354, \$22.96.

891.7'3. Dostoyevsky, Fyodor, 1821-1881. Prestuplenie i nakazanie. 202 p.

★

Readings on Night, edited by Wendy Mass. (Literary companion to world literature.) LCCN 99055870. San Diego: Greenhaven Press, 2000. PAPER, 0737703695, \$14.96; LIBRARY, 0737703709, \$22.96.

940.53'18'092. Wiesel, Elie, 1928- Un di oelo hoo geshoign.; Wiesel, Elie, 1928-; Holocaust, Jewish (1939-1945)--Personal narratives--History and criticism. 172 p.

(College, Adult)

"'Tis the good reader that makes the good book." Ralph Waldo Emerson penned these words and they appear in the forward to the literary companion series by Greenhaven Press. The goal in these anthologies of what distinguished people have written about specific classics provides the reader with quality analysis and criticisms of the text. These edited essays

provide the young reader with fodder for increasing their analytical thinking skills. Every effort is made by the editors to be sure a wide representation and significant time span is provided in each volume. The books are of the same quality and size as Greenhaven's *Opposing Viewpoints* series. The text is easy to read and the material presented by the essayist has been modified to both stay true to the intent of the writer and yet understandable to the average high school and beyond reader.

This volume begins with a brief biography of Dostoyevsky as well as an analysis of the characters and plot. The four chapters in this text cover the critical reception of *Crime and Punishment*, the composition and narration of *Crime and Punishment*, Raskolnikov on the couch: Psychological perspectives on *Crime and Punishment*, and Dostoyevsky's treatment of philosophical issues. This is not a text for your average reader. This book would be perfect for any Advance Placement student or instructors who would like to delve into this remarkable author and glean more to share with the class. The chapter regarding philosophy was this reviewer's favorite chapter because of how Dostoyevsky treats the society he lived in and tries to rationalize it with his belief systems.

As with *Crime and Punishment* the volume on Wiesel begins with a brief biography. There is a timeline version in the appendix for the visual learner. There are only a few characters to describe and the plot summary in the beginning of the book will help the student understand the material presented in the rest of the volume. The five chapters have topics such as: Major themes, the art of *Night*, relationships, literary interpretation, and the legacy of *Night*. The addition of material for further research is helpful as is the index. The essays within the text are difficult to follow at times unless the student has either a deep understanding of the material or has a reference (teacher, Cliffs Notes, etc.) to whom the student can go to when needed. The material discussed in this edition may disturb students but if they have read the book they should be already aware of the possible topics. This will be a welcome edition to any library.

Bianca Elliott, Educator, Linwood, Kansas

Another view:

This literary companion to Elie Wiesel's autobiographical novel of his concentration camp experience borders on being almost too academic for high school users; yet this critical interpretation will still benefit secondary readers, who are interested, and required to explore the themes of Wiesel's Holocaust experience. College students will find this collection of essays particularly useful.

While the essays concentrate on Elie Wiesel's *Night*, the subject of the Holocaust is covered enough to be of value to this area of study. A diverse, yet focused inclusion of topics cover to satisfaction various aspects of the themes contained in Wiesel's slim, compelling novel.

The Holocaust is a required subject in many school curriculums, with *Night* being a recommended selection. Students, teachers, and others interested in both understanding more of Wiesel's *Night*, and gain more insight into Holocaust literature will benefit from this critical companion reader.

Pam Webb, School Library Technician, Sandpoint, Idaho



American values : opposing viewpoints, edited by Jennifer A. Hurley. (Opposing viewpoints.) LCCN 99088159. San Diego: Greenhaven Press, 2000. P&P, 0737703431, \$14.96; LIB, 073770344X, \$22.96.

306'.0973. United States--Moral conditions; Social values. 224 p.



Problems of death : opposing viewpoints, edited by James D. Torr and Laura K. Egendorf. (Opposing viewpoints.) LCCN 00022621. San Diego: Greenhaven Press, 2000. P&P, 0737703490, \$14.96; LIB, 0737703504, \$22.96.

306.9. Death--Social aspects; Suicide; Abortion; Capital punishment. 189 p.



Addiction : opposing viewpoints, edited by Jennifer A. Hurley. (Opposing viewpoints.) LCCN 99010734. San Diego: Greenhaven Press, 2000. P&P, 0737701161, \$14.96; LIB, 073770117X, \$22.96.

362.29'0973. Drug abuse; Alcoholism; Tobacco habit. 192 p.



Education : opposing viewpoints, edited by Mary E. Williams. (Opposing viewpoints.) LCCN 99025737. San Diego: Greenhaven Press, 2000. P&P, 0737701242, \$14.96; LIB, 0737701250, \$22.96.

371.01. Public schools; School choice; Multicultural education; Religion in the public schools. 222 p.



Mental illness : opposing viewpoints, edited by Tamara L. Roleff and Laura Egendorf. (Opposing viewpoints.) LCCN 99055632. San Diego: Greenhaven Press, 2000. P&P, 0737703474, \$14.96; LIB, 0737703482, \$22.96.

616.89. Mental illness--Public opinion; Mental illness--Social aspects; Mental illness--Miscellanea. 191 p.



The Third World : opposing viewpoints, edited by Laura K. Egendorf. (Opposing viewpoints.) LCCN 99047189. San Diego: Greenhaven Press, 2000. P&P, 0737703539, \$14.96; LIB, 0737703547, \$22.96.

909'.09724. Developing countries. 221 p.

"The only way in which a human being can make some approach to knowing the whole of a subject is by hearing what can be said about it by persons of every variety of opinion and studying

all modes in which it can be looked at by every character of mind. No wise man ever acquired his wisdom in any mode but this."

John Stuart Mill's quote introduces every *Opposing Viewpoint* book. It reminds the reader that only when all sides are considered can something truly be known. Freedom to express and consider are key components to every book in this series. The editor strives to make sure that the thematic topic of the book has been examined by knowledgeable people within the theme and their position is presented in young adult levels. Each of the books in this series is not afraid to consider the controversial as well as the underrepresented voices in our society. Each book in the series is well bound and is easy to read with short, challenging chapters. There is a section starter similar to an abstract that will prepare the reader for the viewpoint presented. There are questions in the beginning as well to guide the reader in analyzing the position presented. At the end of each book in this series are deeper level thinking questions, appendices for further information, a detailed index, and addresses and web sites for further information. While the information is not Christian per se, Greenhaven Press does a good job of not presenting too many inappropriate words or concepts to the student. Some discretion is advised with some of the themes.

In the addiction theme the four viewpoints are: What factors contribute to addiction? Is addiction a serious problem? How should addiction be treated? How should the government deal with addiction? Within these viewpoints are such points and counterpoints as is addiction a disease, marijuana as a gateway drug, compulsive gambling is a national concern, methadone as treatment for heroin and legalization of drugs. The book is very balanced and the student will walk away with a deep appreciation for the complexity of this issue.

With *American Values* the reader is exposed to what values should America uphold? Is America in moral decline? How do the media influence America values? And what measures would improve American values? This book does take on some very delicate topics such as the role of the family, legislation of morality, and public education providing character education. It does not shy away from the contributions of Christianity and the Church in American society. The material will make students think long and hard about what they really believe about key issues in post Christian America.

The *Education* volume was the most interesting to the reviewer as she is a public school teacher. This book is a very balanced analysis of the state of public education in America. The topics a student will encounter in this book are: What is the state of public education? Should parents be allowed to choose their children's school? Are multicultural approaches good for education? What role should religious and moral values play in public education? And, how could

public education improve? Again, knowing what this reviewer knows about education I have no complaints regarding the balance shown in this book concerning the problems and possible solutions in public education. There are references to sex, drugs, and violence but there are never inappropriate or contrived.

Mental Illness was a great topical book to read and should be beneficial for most libraries to carry. The book gets information out and discussions will occur due to the material covered. The topics for this edition are: How should mental illnesses be defined? How should society deal with the mentally ill? What mental health issues do children face? And, what mental health treatments are beneficial? Due to some of the content (homosexuality, shock therapy, drugs, etc.), a librarian may want to take note of what students are checking this book out. The topic of Ritalin and its usage should be read by librarians before they make the book available, as it is very controversial.

Greenhaven Press is never afraid to go where many book companies would never stray, which is the principle reason the series is so helpful to high schools and public libraries. However, with *Problems of Death* the series truly does go to the edge. This book may need to stay in reference or limited loan. The topics covered in this edition are: Is suicide immoral? Should society condone physician-assisted suicide? Is abortion ethical? Is capital punishment just? While the topics are consistently covered with equality a young reader may misinterpret the material. This is an area of needed discussion but the material may not be suited for immature readers.

With *Third World* the reader confronts tough questions such as: What are the problems facing third world countries? How can third world development be achieved? Can third world nations form lasting democracies? And, what is the first world's role in the third world? Each of these chapters are riveting and makes the reader reconsider time worn belief systems regarding third world countries. Chapter four dealing with first world's obligations to the third world will be especially challenging to students.

Bianca Elliott, Educator, Linwood, Kansas

***The Middle East : opposing viewpoints*, edited by Mary E. Williams. (Opposing viewpoints.) LCCN 99010881. San Diego: Greenhaven Press, 2000. PAP, 0737701323, \$14.96; LIB, 0737701331, \$22.96.**

956.04. Middle East--Politics and government--1945-; Religion and politics--Middle East; Middle East--Foreign relations--United States; United States--Foreign policy--Middle East; Arab-Israeli conflicts--1993--Peace. 224 p.

***Domestic violence : opposing viewpoints*, edited by Tamara L. Roleff. (Opposing viewpoints.) LCCN 99047825. San Diego: Greenhaven Press, 2000. PAP, 0737703458, \$14.96; LIB, 0737703466, \$22.96.**

362.8292. Family violence. 176 p.

***Africa : opposing viewpoints*, edited by William Dudley. (Opposing viewpoints.) LCCN 99024848. San Diego: Greenhaven Press, 2000. PAP, 0737701188, \$14.96; LIB, 0737701196, \$22.96.**

960.3'2. Africa--Politics and government--1960-; Africa--Economic conditions--1960-; Human rights--Africa; Wildlife management--Africa. 212 p.

***Population : opposing viewpoints*, edited by Charles F. Hohm, Lori Justine Jones, and Shoon Lio. (Opposing viewpoints.) LCCN 99056750. San Diego: Greenhaven Press, 2000. PAP, 0737702915, \$14.96; LIB, 0737702923, \$22.96.**

304.6. Population. 224 p.

***Health care : opposing viewpoints*, edited by James D. Torr. (Opposing viewpoints.) LCCN 98055105. San Diego: Greenhaven Press, 2000. PAP, 0737701285, \$14.96; LIB, 0737701293, \$22.96.**

362.1. Primary health care. 221 p.

One of the strengths of *Opposing Viewpoints* is a presentation of views whereby the reader can critically compare and contrast authors' credibility, facts, argumentation styles, and persuasive techniques. The views also enable the reader to look at self held opinions and assumptions, and faith based truths. Another strength is that readers can gain a deeper understanding of the issues and an appreciation of the complexity of some issues when good and honest people disagree. The arguments are compelling and illuminating.

The five volumes reviewed present timely topics.

In the *Middle East* volume the region's tensions as well as its potential for peace are discussed.

In *Domestic Violence* the authors examine the severity and prevalence of domestic violence and ways to prevent it.

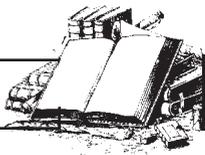
In *Africa* the discussion addresses some of the major problems facing the continent and most contributors offer possible solutions as well.

In *Population* the debate centers on how serious population growth is, and the state of the global environment.

In *Health Care* the authors probe health care reform and what initiatives could improve the system.

Christians can find much in this Series' discussion and debate that delves into issues. Christian teachers can utilize the various examples to highlight their consistency or lack of consistency with biblical truths. By probing the role of government in people's private lives, the challenges that the international community faces in helping other nations achieve stability and prosperity, the motivations of those on each side of the issue as well as solutions to end the hardship, readers can clarify ways we might address each of these issues. Since the discussion is characterized by insightfulness, clarity, and solid scholarship, there is much to be weaned from the readings.

Leroy Hommerding, Director, Fort Myers Beach P.L. District, Fort Myers, Florida



***Ain't no river*, by Sharon Ewell Foster. LCCN 00011347. Sisters, Ore.: Multnomah, 2001. PAP, 1576736288, \$11.99.**

F. African American women's Fiction; Teenage girls' Fiction; Grandmother Fiction; North Carolina Fiction; Christian fiction. 364 p. (High school)

Garvin Daniels, a successful lawyer, lives her life the way she wants, not letting herself be bound by the old-fashioned morality of her grandmother, Meemaw. But when Garvin is put on a leave of absence because of what she believes is racial prejudice, it proves to be the perfect time for her to return to North Carolina and check up on Meemaw. Garvin believes her grandmother is being preyed upon by her supposed beau GoGo, a money-hungry younger man.

Anybody living in Meemaw's house is required to go to church, so Garvin finds herself reluctantly in attendance, and even more reluctantly participating in a service project. The project requires her to reach out to Monique, an unwed teenage mother who gave her baby up for adoption. Things do not go well when Monique observes Garvin flaunting her body and throwing herself at GoGo, in an attempt to reveal his ulterior motives toward Meemaw. Gradually, however, through the prayers and wisdom of Meemaw, Garvin's heart is softened, and she releases the bitterness and anger she has harbored against God since the death of her mother years ago.

GoGo, struggling to leave his former life of "wine, women, and song," has been receiving spiritual counsel from godly Meemaw. As Garvin's spiritual life is renewed, she and GoGo are drawn together, and Garvin finds herself willing to surrender to God's parameters for her life.

Ain't No River, by Sharon Ewell Foster, although a contemporary story, is much like her book, *Passing by Samaria*, in that it is filled with wisdom and biblical truth for hard, every-day issues. The story is both humorous and incisive; above all, the characters are real. *Ain't No River* clearly illustrates how even the chief of sinners can be restored to the Lord, leaving the guilt and bitterness behind to be healed by God's willingness to forgive us.

Sherri Beeler, Teacher, Cascade Christian High, Medford, Oregon

***The Amazon quest*, by Gilbert Morris. (House of Winslow; 25) LCCN 2001000879. Minneapolis: Bethany House, 2001. ISBN 0764221175, PAP, \$10.99.**

F. Winslow family (Fictitious characters) Fiction; World War, 1914-1918--Veterans Fiction; Americans--Amazon River Region Fiction; Headhunters Fiction; Amazon River Region Fiction. 319 p.

In the twenty-fifth volume of The House of Winslow series, Emily's older brother and close friend, Jared, joins the military to fight in the foxholes of World War I, France. When Jared, respected and loved by his fellow soldiers for his heroism, is wounded and dying in the hospital, his friend, James Parker, begins writing home for him. Soon after Jared's death, James Parker returns to the States as the hesitant hero, who tried to save Jared's life on the battlefield. The Winslows, especially Emily, openly welcome James into the family, until he is revealed as a thief and a liar.

As Emily tries to forget James, she and her younger brother, Wes, begin writing articles for different magazines. When they are selected by National Geographic to do an article on a tribe of head hunters living deep in the Amazon forests of South America, only one man, Ian Marlowe, alias James Parker, is willing to risk guiding them to the tribal village. In a place where disease, violent customs, and poisonous vipers are daily threats, Emily and Wes get the story of a lifetime, find freedom in forgiveness, and learn to accept God's sovereignty.

Gilbert Morris has crafted a clear, concise, stand-alone historical novel with cinematic background and well-researched, three-dimensional characters. In an easy to follow style that neither drags nor is preachy, Morris presents the theme of the importance of forgiveness in our spiritual walk with God. Highly recommended for any collection.

Kim Harris, Librarian, Newman Riga Library, Churchville, New York

***An ancient strife*, by Michael Phillips. (Caledonia; 2.) LCCN 00008584. Minneapolis: Bethany House, 2000. ISBN 076422218X, PAP, \$13.99.**

F. Highlands (Scotland)--Fiction; Scotland--Fiction; Christian fiction. 542 p.

In this sequel to *The Legend of the Celtic Stone* Andrew Trentham, British Liberal Democratic Party leader, continues to search for his Scottish roots. With the aid of American BBC reporter Patricia "Paddy" Rawlings, who helped him to recover the fabled Stone of Scone, the puzzle pieces regarding the murder of Eagon Hamilton begin to come together and men at the highest levels of government are implicated. Andrew and Paddy discover that Scottish oil reserves, money and power lie at the heart of the murder and the Stone's theft.

Andrew travels incognito through Scotland doing historical research and he meets the clan of Finnlagan Gordon. Andrew is especially taken with the petite daughter of the family, Ginevra. The Gordons believe that their new friend is Andy Trent and when they find out his true identity, they assume that he is attempting to find reasons to block Scottish devolution.

As Andrew examines his own genetic and spiritual roots he finds his thoughts on Scottish independence changing and it soon becomes apparent that his vote on the issue will be vital. Can he be the man of integrity he needs to be and still win Ginevra?

In Michael Phillip's enthralling *An Ancient Strife* the reader is caught up in the modern day story of Andrew Trentham and the very real issues of Scottish independence, and is equally entangled in the history of Scotland. As in the first book, modern day chapters are juxtaposed with chapters on the history of Scotland from 843 to the mid 1700s. Some readers may find the style of jumping back and forth a bit disconcerting but not only is the main story very well told, but the shorter historical fiction stories are extremely involving, and the way that they illustrate the current situation in Scotland adds a nice touch.

Teresa O'Donley, Library Media Specialist, Baymonte Christian School, Scotts Valley, California

***Annie's trust*, Kay D. Rizzo. (Serenity Inn series; 6.) LCCN 00069673. Nashville: Broadman & Holman, 2001. PAP, 0805421327, \$7.99.**

F. Women pioneers--Fiction; Saint Joseph (Mo.)--Fiction; Christian fiction; Western stories. 277 p.

Freedom comes in many different packages. Up to this point, Annie believes that being a slave set free is the ultimate freedom, and she looks with excitement and a little trepidation toward her pending marriage. She imagines with delight the freedom of having her own home, a husband who loves her, and someday, children to raise in the freedom provided by that precious paper that reads, "Black slave set free".

Annie soon discovers however, that being married requires submission and compliance to another's desires. To add to her struggle, her husband, Ned, helps runaway slaves escape, a very dangerous occupation considering the ruthless bounty hunters that have a hatred for all blacks, and give no mercy to any runaway.

Fear becomes Annie's constant companion until she slowly releases her life to the care of the Lord. Through many dangers and heartaches, Annie's faith gradually grows until she at last

discovers where true freedom lies. "For whom the Son sets free is free indeed."

Annie's Trust, number six in the Serenity Inn series, takes the reader on a journey of new-found faith to solid, unshakeable trust in the Lord. Ron D. Rizzo weaves a detailed storyline as intricate as the fine needlework the main character, Annie, creates. The struggles, courage, and victories unveiled within this story will encourage any new believer to grow in his/her own trust and strength in God.

Mary McKinney, Former teacher, Freelance Writer, Editor, Port Orchard, Washington

Autumn return, Sally Brice Winterbourn. LCCN 00012142. Minneapolis: Bethany House, 2001. PAP, 0764223941, \$10.99.

F. Middle aged women--Fiction; Home ownership--Fiction; Homeowners--Fiction; Cornwall (England: County)--Fiction; Christian fiction. 271 p.

Devastated by the death of her husband, and disillusioned with God, fifty-three year old Lucy Summers leaves her home in London and moves to the little village of Tarran Bay. Determined to seclude herself to avoid being hurt, Lucy consumes her time with painting and redecorating her cottage and taking long walks on the beach. But the friendly villagers won't leave her alone, and she finds herself at church for the first time in a long time.

Lucy is drawn into a circle of friendship when she impulsively volunteers to care for the twin girls of a young woman undergoing a mastectomy. Under the gentle ministrations and encouragement of her neighbors, Lucy begins to release the hurts and bitterness of her past and comes to a closer relationship with the Lord than she has ever known. Relying on his strength, and not her own, Lucy overcomes the hurdles of her past griefs and finds that she is able to love and live again.

Autumn Return is Sally Brice Winterbourn's debut novel, and it is worth reading. The gently crafted characters, full of personal quirks and deep passions, create a homey, small-town atmosphere similar to Jan Karon's Mitford series. Winterbourn paints real people with real struggles who persevere with the Lord's enabling power.

Sherri Beeler, Teacher, Cascade Christian High School, Medford, Oregon

Awakening mercy, by Angela Benson. (HeartQuest.) LCCN 00026866. Wheaton, Ill.: Tyndale House, 2000. PAP, 0842319395, \$7.99.

F. Women real estate agents--Fiction; Single mothers--Fiction; Christian fiction; Love stories. 265 p. (High school)

Having been hurt once by a man she thought she loved, who then left her unmarried and pregnant, CeCe Williams guards her heart closely, determined not to be hurt again. However, when she meets Nate Richardson, director of Genesis House (a social services center), she knows she's in trouble when all she

can do is smile at him. Nate, also wounded by his ex-wife who deserted him to marry her old boyfriend, soon breaks through CeCe's barriers, and captures the heart of her young son as well.

As the two of them struggle to put together a wholesome relationship God's way, it becomes clear that CeCe needs to reconcile with her past before she can marry Nate. God walks both Nate and CeCe through a difficult time in their relationship, showing both of them changes needed in their spiritual lives that will also reflect on their relationship to each other and to their families.

Awakening Mercy, by award-winning author Angela Benson, is her first Christian novel. The story powerfully illustrates the importance of forgiving one's self, and, instead of focusing on our personal hurt, forgiving those who have wronged us. Her well-developed characters exhibit a genuine love for God, as they struggle to walk in His ways while dealing with the consequences of poor decisions made in the past. *Awakening Mercy* reminds readers of the wholeness and healing that God can provide to even the most wounded.

Sherri Beeler, Teacher, Cascade Christian High School, Medford, Oregon

Blue mist on the Danube, Doris Elaine Fell. (Sagas of a kindred heart; 1.) LCCN 99022961. Grand Rapids: Fleming H. Revell, 1999. PAP, 0800756770, \$11.99.

F. Musicians--Fiction; Vienna (Austria)--Fiction. 446 p.

Willows on the Windrush, Doris Elaine Fell. (Sagas of a kindred heart; 2.) LCCN 00062840. Grand Rapids: Fleming H. Revell, Baker, 2000. PAP, 0800757327, \$11.99.

F. Women chief executive officers--Fiction; Inheritance and succession--Fiction; Americans--England--Fiction; Fathers--Death--Fiction; England--Fiction; Love stories. 348 p.

Birth parents, adoptions, regrets, deceptions, hurt, and forgiveness weave in and out among the lives of a world-class violinist and a big corporation executive in *Blue Mist on the Danube* and *Willows on the Windrush*. Doris Elaine Fell sets these two stories, which include the intrigue of priceless art thefts, war orphans, and IRA connections, in Europe and England. The romantic outcomes do not surprise readers, but Fell leads the primary characters on a circuitous route to reach their decisions.

Blue Mist on the Danube, first in the series, moves slowly, but the story line in *Willows on the Windrush* picks up speed. Fell describes people and places clearly, including sights and sounds. Her plots hold enough interest to compel the reader to turn the pages, although she sometimes tells rather than shows which creates a distance between reader and story. Two secondary characters from *Blue Mist on the Danube* play more important roles in *Willows on the Windrush*.

Betty M. Hockett, Writer/Speaker/Teacher, Newberg, Oregon

★

The breaking of Ezra Riley, John L. Moore. LCCN 99055395. Nashville: Broadman & Holman, 2000. PAP, 0805423311, \$14.99.

F. Fathers and sons--Fiction; Farm life--fiction; Montana--Fiction; Christian fiction; Domestic fiction; Western stories. 833 p.

Setting, characters, plot, elements of a good story, glow in *The Breaking of Ezra Riley* like stars in a Montana night sky. John L. Moore places this story in ranch country near Miles City, Montana. Cowboys, horses, cattle, and predators take their place among seasonal details and active descriptions. A lengthy drought becomes part of the setting, as well.

Moore's primary characters include Ezra Riley, his wife Anne, and son Dylan. Six eccentric bachelor uncles play their part, but Ezra's life rotates around Jubal Lee Walker, and other interesting characters.

The plot takes shape when Ezra returns to the Riley ranch with Anne and Dylan after his father's death. He starts ranching to save the place. Moore then backtracks, showing Ezra's earlier life on the road with a young innocent, Jubal Lee Walker, who shows up in Miles City years later.

When Pratt, a man with sinister beliefs and intentions, and Diamond, a beaten down young woman, enter Ezra's life, he becomes the star of an intense drama that jeopardizes his life and the security of the ranch. Ezra survives a physical attack, and he sometimes senses an unseen presence. Feathers denoting certain symbols appear in odd places, and Anne continually gets a severe headache when she leads worship at church.

Jubal Lee Walker, from his prison cell, helps bring the story to its conclusion: the source of evil in the church becomes clear, Pratt dies in an unexpected way; life changes for Diamond, and Ezra makes a final decision about the land.

Moore writes forcefully, like a man familiar with cowboys, ranch life and language, as well as the territory. He carries the plot steadily upward to a high-pitched ending. Compassion and forgiveness, God's as well as human, and the consequences of sin, share a good balance in the story.

The print font and paper detract from the readability.

Betty M. Hockett, Writer/Speaker/Teacher, Newberg, Oregon

Cast a road before me, Brandilyn Collins. LCCN 00046739. Nashville: Broadman & Holman, 2001. PAP, 0805423435, \$12.99.

F. Young women--Fiction; Mothers--Death--Fiction; Cincinnati (Ohio)--Fiction; Kentucky--Fiction; Christian fiction; Bildungsromans. 320 p.

When her mother is killed in a car accident, Jessie moves to live with her Christian aunt and uncle in a small Kentucky mill town. Despite their gentle teaching and constant prayers over the years, Jessie remains convinced by a dream,

in which her mother appeared to her, that service to the poor will be her salvation. A labor strike occurs at the mill, and Jessie, a staunch pacifist, worries about the potential for violence. When a mill worker's house is burned down, Jessie is forced into an explosive situation when the workers gather at the mill owner's house and threaten violence. All the anger and rage she has stifled since her mother's death is unleashed, and she finds herself blindly attacking a man with enough passion and fierceness to kill him if she had had a weapon.

Jessie's shame is so overwhelming that she is eager to leave town immediately and start her new life working at the Cincinnati mission where her mother once worked. Despite the pleas of her aunt and uncle, and her sweetheart, Jessie hardens her heart and heads for Cincinnati. But the Lord answers the numerous prayers offered on her behalf; three hours out of town Jessie yields to the Holy Spirit and the call of the Lord on her life.

Cast a Road Before Me, by Brandilyn Collins, portrays the realistic struggle of one woman's journey to knowing a personal God who gifts her with salvation, rather than requiring her to earn it through good works. Written in first person, the reader is able to connect with Jessie personally as she asks questions and grapples with heavy spiritual issues. Her uncle reminds us of the importance of searching the scriptures and testing our beliefs and convictions against biblical standards.

Sherril Beeler, Teacher, Cascade Christian High School, Medford, Oregon

City of angels, Tracie Peterson and James Scott Bell. (Shannon saga; 1.) LCCN 00012017. Minneapolis: Bethany House, 2001. PAP, 0764224182, \$11.99.

F. Women lawyers--Fiction; Young women--Fiction; Aunts--Fiction; Los Angeles (Calif.)--Fiction; Historical fiction; Bildungsromans. 376 p.

Katherine "Kit" Shannon has kept her faith and direction since being orphaned at thirteen. Now, her tenacity is tested by life with her rich Aunt Freddy. It is 1903 in the City of Angels, Los Angeles, and Aunt Freddy's definite ideas for Katherine have to do with finding a suitable husband, not being a practicing attorney. Katherine wavers, particularly when attorney Heath Sloate, who appears to be her aunt's special friend, does not have the values and character she expects. Katherine gets an offer to be mentored by a decent family man who believes she can be a defense attorney in time. Earl Rogers has a reputation for winning, evidencing unusual thinking that surprises her. Through an "all things are possible with God" belief, Katherine brings her own store of surprises. She dupes the conniving Heath Sloate by besting him before even getting into court. Her penchant for defending the poor challenges her mentor, Rogers. When a murder does occur she helps the investigation much more than anyone expected; especially the opportunistic

Sloate who plans to ruin Rogers with planted evidence and bought witnesses. Katherine learns to trust the combination of talent and training, instinct and guidance that confirm her calling into law.

In a readable style with descriptive pictures of the life and thinking of a female lawyer, Tracie Peterson and James Scott Bell draw the reader into early struggles for women lawyers and real law in the West of 1903. They do not avoid the facts of prostitution, graft and corruption, murder and blood. But they do this without use of vulgar language or prurient detail. Hope and redemption are offered to a prostitute through the heroine, who appears as one of few followers of Christ. In two scenes Katherine is portrayed rebuffing men trying to seduce or take advantage of her. She forms a close bond with a servant woman that her aunt considers beneath her. While not always wise in exploring her calling, the heroine's passionate belief that God has called her into law gels as she experiences compassion, frustration, persistence, faith, and triumph. Aunt Freddy's character lacks full development, but the class-bound behavior that does not let her trust her own judgment or seek a loving God for help is as identifiable today as in 1903.

Carol B. Taylor, Freelance Writer/Certified Social Worker, Poulso, Washington

Crossfire, by Jeanette Windle. LCCN 00032703. Grand Rapids: Kregel Publications, 2000. PAP, 0825441161, \$14.99.

F. Drug traffic--Fiction; Bolivia--Fiction; Adventure stories. 617 p.

After a short, exciting romance and an even briefer wedding, Sara, a self-sufficient, yet lonely all-American beautiful blonde, is now Nicolas Cortez's wife -- his woman. Leaving America behind for the exotic Bolivia is not as difficult as adjusting to the pampered life Sara suddenly finds herself in. The Cortez family is one of power and great wealth, something Sara had no inkling of when she first met Nicky at the university they attended. She sees the incredible difference between the world the Cortez family lives in and those outside the privileged circle. She discovers quite painfully that cocaine is the driving force between power and poverty in the lush city of Santa Cruz. She also discovers that God is the bridge between joy and despair.

Crossfire is the ambitious first adult novel of Jeanette Windle. She puts to use her experiences as a child of South American missionary parents, and her own experiences as a missionary to Bolivia. Rich with detail, realistic settings and characters, and an intriguing plot, readers will be drawn into the frightening and fascinating world where cocaine is king.

Windle is adept at portraying the charismatic South American lifestyle alongside the more moralistic American point-of-view, and does so without stereotyping either. Americans unaware

of the drug battle that runs so strongly in Bolivia will get a glimpse of the difficulty the DEA has in stemming the flow of drugs from the jungles of South America to the streets of the United States.

Pam Webb, School Library Technician, Sandpoint, Idaho



A dangerous silence, Catherine Palmer. LCCN 00047966. Wheaton, Ill.: Tyndale House, 2001. PAP, 0842336176, \$11.99.

F. Virus diseases--Fiction; Christian fiction; Domestic fiction; Medical novels. 412 p. (High school)

Catherine Palmer writes an intriguing novel with an intricate plot involving bioterrorism, and the insidious danger of secrets in *A Dangerous Silence*. Marah Morgan, a successful pediatrician, must put her hold on practice to help out on the farm after her cantankerous father, Big Ed Morgan, has a debilitating accident. She has not been back since she left home eighteen years before. A bitter root of frustration threatens to mar her walk with God as she tries to untangle her feelings about her father. To further complicate the situation is the sudden arrival of three men with the Bureau of Indian Affairs, who claim they have the right to dig on Big Ed's land. Judd, a drifter farmhand, is hired and becomes woven into the mystery of what is taking place on the farm.

While the B.I.A. men dig up the past, Marah continues to dig up the artifacts of hers as well, as she searches for the initial estrangement between her and her father, and the real cause of her mother's death, some twenty-five years ago. Fast-paced, and character-driven, Palmer offers her readers a suspenseful read while addressing some deep spiritual issues.

Pam Webb, School Library Technician, Sandpoint, Idaho

Daughter of Jerusalem, Thom Lemmons. (Daughters of faith; 1.) LCCN 98050035. Sisters, Ore.: Multnomah, 1999. PAP, 1576734773, \$12.99.

F. Mary Magdalene, Saint--Fiction; Jesus Christ--Fiction; Bible. N.T.--History of Biblical events--Fiction; Church history--Primitive and early church, ca. 30-600--Fiction. 322 p.

Mother of faith, Thom Lemmons. (Daughters of faith; 2.) LCCN 00012756. Sisters, Ore.: Multnomah, 2000. PAP, 1576737942, \$12.99.

F. Church history--Primitive and early church, ca. 30-600--Fiction; Women slaves--Fiction; Ephesus (Extinct city)--Fiction; Historical fiction; Christian fiction. 306 p.

Woman of means, by Thom Lemmons. (Daughters of faith; 3.) LCCN 99088654. Sisters, Ore.: Multnomah, 2000. PAP, 1576736121, \$12.99.

F. Lydia (Biblical character)--Fiction; Bible. N.T.--History of Biblical events--Fiction; Women in the Bible--Fiction; Biographical fiction; Christian fiction. 346 p.

Daughters of Faith, a series of novels by Thom Lemmons, uses a fluid sense of time and dreams to present the thinking, choices, and consequent

lives of women affected by the coming of Christ. Their lives were as contemporaries with either Jesus of Nazareth, Paul of Tarsus, or John the last apostle. While the literary devices add some interest, attention must be focused to track the sequences of events and differentiate mental processing from real time experience of the characters. Details of daily life that differ from current norms help define the times. There are explicit passages describing several pagan religious rites. Culturally different names for money and people, food, and governmental positions help set the scenes and add to the challenge of absorbing the material. Each book presents needs met by the love of God.

Mary Magdalene loses her tenuous status as daughter in a house with little affection, by seeking love in the arms of a young man who then denies the event. Learning to manipulate men to survive, Mary flirts with voices of darkness, still yearning for clear thinking and real love. In *Daughter of Jerusalem*, an enslaved Mary loses a daughter sired by her master as the infant is ordered exposed, a common practice to rid a household of an unwanted child. Fleeing that house, she is drawn to a traveling teacher who defines love in very different terms. When Jesus is taken and executed, she finds herself wrapped in the love and hope found in the community of believers. While she still has many moments of doubt and fear, Mary finds purpose and healing sharing her faith. Eventually she learns that some partings are not forever and trust enables the blessing of a new future.

Lydia, the independent and headstrong *Woman of Means* recalls from her death-bed a life of dashed hopes and earned acumen and wealth in business. The household Lydia built after her soldier husband died became her family, as her own Greek family was never able to know her or be affectionate with her. She is drawn to the Jews for their beautiful language, close family bonds, and wonderful songs. Even as she had run from seeming indifference, she was not able to be the mother that her daughter needed. When Paul taught in the town, she became a believer in the Messiah and received the washing into the faith. Drawn by his boldness and absolute sureness in his faith, Lydia supported the apostle Paul and the spreading of the faith for many years. Mending of breached relationships, rising above grief to heal by helping others, evaluating relationships as more valuable than goods and status, Lydia matures in the faith.

A Nubian slave, Amanis finds she cannot allow the custom of exposing the unwanted infants to die. When her master Patroclus orders his girl child exposed, Amanis goes into the hills to find it. She takes the babe to a Jewish family whose compassion seems part of their religion. A slave trader, Scaevolus, who had once sold her, had sent his servant to get the child. For years Amanis is hounded by the slave trader. She can't understand the driving need for this man to

punish her for taking one slave from his clutches. The street performers who help her leave Ephesus become her family and they help each other survive. She juggles for coins, Tarquinius plays a shell game, and Othar, the German with large blond braids, acts as bouncer and nanny for the household. She hears about the Christ from John who teaches her on Patmos where the little troupe is shipwrecked for two years as they flee to Athens. There she keeps one little crippled boy who becomes her son, Damaris. After she joins the believers, she tells Christ's stories and teaches her son in the faith. Amanis has become a *Mother of Faith*, never birthing, yet knowing the love of many children whom she saved. Miracles of reunion and restoration strengthen her faith and teach Amanis that in the end love is all that is left.

Carol B. Taylor, Freelance Writer/Certified Social Worker, Poulso, Washington



***The devil's mouth*, Thomas Williams. (Seven kingdoms chronicles; 2.) LCCN 2001017610. Nashville: Word, 2001. 0849942675, \$12.99.**

F. Middle Ages--Fiction; Princes--Fiction. 434 p. (High school)

For those who have been eagerly awaiting book two in Thomas Williams' Seven Kingdoms Chronicles, *The Devil's Mouth* does not disappoint! When King Kor of Lochland is killed by the manipulations of the evil Morgultha, his son Lanson flees for his life. Against all logic, Lanson frees Evalonne, a beautiful prostitute, from a life of slavery, even though she stole his money and almost killed him in the process. Grateful to him beyond measure, Evalonne travels with him and cares for a baby Lanson found abandoned in the woods. Never having known such courtesy and respect from a man before, and eager to serve the man who redeemed her from the pit, she falls desperately in love with him.

Reared in Lochland, both Lanson and Evalonne are aware of the strong prohibition against pleasure, taught by the kirk to be evil. Punishment for immorality was severe, and Evalonne, having committed sins of the worst kind, lives in fear of being discovered, knowing she will be doomed to death in the fiery Devil's Mouth, a pit of molten lava burning inside Black Mountain.

When Lanson is restored to the throne of Lochland, Evalonne is captured and brought to trial before him. Lanson defies the church and pardons her, citing her changed life and commitment to the Master of the Universe. After being severely tested himself for his love for Evalonne, and his commitment to righteousness, he is able to lead his people in a new way of living, in appreciation for the beauty and pleasures of God, balanced by restraint.

The Devil's Mouth operates on a marvelously allegorical level, while maintaining an exciting

plot and rich development of characters. It reminds us that we should not be bound by legalism, or license; we should live freely in Christ. The book abounds with biblical truths, and fantasy lovers will appreciate this book that stands on its own, or can be read in conjunction with *The Crown of Eden*.

Sherri Beeler, Teacher, Cascade Christian High School, Medford, Oregon

***Driven with the wind*, Lynn Morris & Gilbert Morris. (Cheney Duvall, M.D.; 8.) LCCN 00011336. Minneapolis: Bethany House, 2000. PAP, 1556616996, \$10.99.**

F. Duvall, Cheney (Fictitious character)--Fiction; Women physicians--Fiction; Historical fiction; Christian fiction; Medical novels. 315 p.

In this eighth novel from the Cheney Duvall, M.D. series, Cheney Duvall, female doctor and Victorian era New York socialite, travels with Shiloh Irons-Winslow, newly wealthy plantation and ship owner, to attend the wedding functions of Cheney's close friend, Victoria de Lancie and adopted brother and partner, Dr. Devlin Buchanan. During the trip, Shiloh asks Cheney to marry him and she refuses, even though she loves him, because he is not a Christian. He is deeply hurt and gives himself over to wine, women, and song. Cheney conversely wraps herself in her medical practice and tries to ignore the daily news society columns. Meanwhile, Dev has discovered that his violent alcoholic father is in a mental institution. The common law wife Dev's dad has taken blackmails Dev and leaves her sickly newborn to die. Dev takes the baby into his care, realizing that this not only brings up his socially unsuitable past, but makes him the adopted father of his half-brother. He and Victoria, avoiding the truth of dark pasts, drift apart until they are forced to work together to save Shiloh and Cheney from the wicked plans of cousin Bain Winslow. Bain tries to destroy Shiloh's reputation by drugging him and accusing him of violently beating an actress, and Cheney's by kidnapping her and forcing her to spend the night in his brothel.

Lynn and Gilbert Morris have done their historical homework well. The scenes, characters, and outfits are well described and period appropriate. The plethora of characters, however, waters down and unnecessarily draws out the main story. Recommended for staunch Morris fans.

Kim Harris, Librarian, Newman Riga Library, Churchville, New York

***The end of act three*, Gilbert Morris. (A Dani Ross mystery.) LCCN 00011654. Wheaton, Ill.: Crossway, 2001. PAP, 1581342454, \$11.99; LP 0786234067, \$24.95.**

F. Ross, Danielle (Fictitious character)--Fiction; Women private investigators--New York (State)--Fiction; New York (N.Y.)--Fiction; Mystery fiction. 266 p.

Danielle Ross, private investigator, has been hired by Jonathan Ainsley to infiltrate the cast

and crew of his new play. According to him, Jonathan has had two death threats followed by two attempts made on his life. With the arrival of more threatening letters, superseded by suspicious "accidents," Dani calls in Ben Savage, her right hand man. When escalating events lead to the murder of the leading lady, Police Lieutenant Goldman joins the chase to catch a killer before someone else gets hurt. The chemistry between Dani and Ben looks like love one minute and war the next. There also seems to be some heat between Ben and Carmen, one of the actresses on the set. When another actor's death turns out to be a homicide, Dani, Ben, and Lieutenant Goldman, must closely review every angle, even if it means betraying a friend to put the murderer behind bars.

Gilbert Morris is a name well known for his Christian fiction for young adults as well as adults. His genres range from fantasy to murder to drama and romance, with backgrounds that vary from the frontiers of the old West to today's gritty, city streets. In the third novel of the Dani Ross Mystery series, Morris presents a good, if slow moving, story. Though not enough action to make this a real page turner, characters are thoroughly fleshed out and the killer is well hidden until the very end. Recommended for Christian collections.

Kim Harris, Librarian, Newman Riga Library, Churchville, New York

***Ezekiel's shadow*, David Ryan Long, LCCN 00012100, Minneapolis: Bethany House, 2001. PAP, 0764224433, \$10.99.**

F. Christian fiction; Suspense fiction. 394 p.

Sometimes life is a long journey and things don't turn out the way you expect them to. Author David Long's novel, *Ezekiel's Shadow*, introduces the famous horror writer, Ian Merchant, who has played out his creative reserve of man's inhumanity to man, and now faces a blank page. A powerful spiritual encounter seems to be at the root of his "writer's block," and the realization that life must have more meaning than just words on a page. Thus begins his new journey, a journey that unveils danger, mystery, and hope for something better. Shadowed by a hired stalker turned renegade, the story's only real victim is a porter on the commuter train to New York. Forgive as you have been forgiven is a strong theme in this book, but in a real world where non-Christian people mete out wrath on a daily basis, this story ends rather tamely considering the two antagonists are a pair of ex-convicts.

Ezekiel's Shadow gives a meaningful view of the struggle a couple would face if only one has accepted Christ as Savior. It also deals with relationships and how working with others can help you grow. Ian and Rebecca Merchant live again because of the challenges they face and the ready love of witnessing friends. The whodunit aspects of this novel are extensive, but the real saving grace is the renewal of the main characters.

Jim McKinney, Teacher, Pastor, Port Orchard, Washington

***Four of a kind*, Gilbert Morris. (A Dani Ross mystery.) LCCN 00011664. Wheaton, Ill.: Crossway, 2001. PAP, 1581342446, \$11.99; LP, 0786235454, \$24.95.**

F. Ross, Danielle (Fictitious character)--Fiction; Women private investigators--Louisiana--New Orleans--Fiction; New Orleans (La.)--fiction; Mystery fiction. 264 p.

When Reverend Alvin Flatt asks private detective Dani Ross for help, he has no way of paying her. All Reverend Flatt knows is that God sent him to New Orleans to start a church and he is not going to let the mob run him out. He believes when he works with God the Father, Jesus Christ, and the Holy Spirit he has a winning hand, *Four of a Kind*. Although the church is in the worst part of town, his little congregation is growing. But money is tight and there isn't enough to hire someone to find out who is behind the threats.

Dani Ross took over her father's detective agency after he had a heart attack. With the help of her partner, Ben Savage, she has been able to keep the business afloat. Dani almost turns down Reverend Flatt's request for free help. Impressed with his sincerity and faith she agrees to help him. Soon she is involved in the life of the little congregation. Although Dani isn't sure women should be pastors, when Flatt is attacked and injured she agrees to preach temporarily for him.

Mob boss, Lenny Valentine, is unwilling to give up. He wants the land the church is on. Soon Dani and Ben find themselves fighting not just for the church, but for their lives, too.

Gilbert Morris keeps the action moving and the suspense building. This is the fourth in the Dani Ross mysteries.

Barbara Bryden, Freelance Writer, Olympia, Washington

***Freedom's belle*, Dianna Crawford. (HeartQuest.) LCCN 00046703. Wheaton, Ill.: Tyndale House, 2001. PAP, 0842319182, \$9.99.**

F. Frontier and pioneer life--Fiction; Tennessee--Fiction; Historical fiction; Christian fiction; Love stories. 320 p.

The year is 1795 and Crystabelle (Belle) Amhearst is running away from an arranged marriage to an evil man. Belle, along with her slave Josie, must convince Reverend Bremmer, Wilderness Guide Drew Reardon, and freed slave, Bear, to hire her as a teacher. In route to Reardon Valley, Bear runs away with Josie, forcing Belle to learn how to dress herself, make a bed, and all those other chores that slaves have done for her. Drew finds himself helping Belle to teach the students, plus trying to keep prospective boyfriends away from the new schoolteacher. While Belle is trying to prove herself capable of teaching, her fiance and her Dad are tracking down the runaway bride and runaway slave, Josie.

Freedom's Belle is the third installment to the Reardon Brothers series. Although a part of a series, active Christian author Dianna Crawford has written it in such a way that the story can stand alone. Excitement, humor and danger are all portrayed, plus there is a surprise ending. Characters from the preceding two volumes are included in this story, but they are adequately described for readers unfamiliar with the Reardon family members.

Connie J. Weaver, Church & Reference Librarian, Newville, Pennsylvania

***Freedom's shadow*, Marlo Schalesky. (The winds of freedom; 2.) LCCN 2001000642. Wheaton, Ill.: Crossway, 2001. PAP, 1581342667, \$10.99.**

F. United States--History--French and Indian War, 1755-1763--Fiction; Washington, George, 1732-1799--Fiction; Indians of North America--Fiction. 333 p.

During the French and Indian War, three people must deal with the hatred that is ruling their lives. Warrior White Wolf is fighting alongside of his chief, Pontiac, in a fierce and gruesome battle against General Braddock. White Wolf and Pontiac abduct a white woman by the name of Annie Hill who despises Indians, since they murdered her entire family when she was only ten years old. Annie escapes the clutches of Pontiac only to be captured again. At the same time that Annie and White Wolf are battling each other, Jonathan Grant and his Indian wife are traveling the ocean to go back to his homeland of England to confront his much hated brother who has been wrongfully accused of being a spy. Upon arriving in England, Jonathan and his family will be destroyed by a diabolically evil plot if he is unable to track down the real spy.

Hatred, revenge and forgiveness are the key points that are portrayed with these three characters in *Freedom's Shadow*. Marlo Schalesky's continuing saga is full of the dark places souls will go when hatred rules their lives. The evils of torture and revenge are explicitly detailed by this award winning author.

Connie J. Weaver, Church & Reference Librarian, Newville, Pennsylvania

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***The glorious prodigal*, by Gilbert Morris. (House of Winslow; 24.) LCCN 00010797. Minneapolis: Bethany House, 2000. PAP, 0764221167, \$9.99.**

F. Winslow family (Fictitious characters)--Fiction; Ex-Convicts--Fiction; Christian fiction. 317 p. (High school)

In *The Glorious Prodigal*, the suave, dark haired musician, Stuart Winslow, captures Leah's heart. If his reputation is less than sterling, she knows that her love will change all of that. Despite numerous warnings that she is making a mistake, Leah agrees to become Stuart's wife. It appears that Stuart is attempting to settle down, but a lack of a true occupation and his internal restlessness soon draws him away from his wife

and son. Always a womanizer, Stuart involves himself in an affair with a woman named Cora. Ultimately, that relationship results in Stuart being confined to prison for life. Only when Stuart has lost everything, does he realize his need for Jesus. Through a fellow prisoner, Stuart realizes that he has lived his life in pure selfishness and that he has hurt those he loves. After a miraculous pardon, Stuart returns to his family, but finds that Leah is not so anxious to have him back. Will Leah find it in her heart to forgive Stuart? Will Cora, once again, secure Stuart in her clutches?

Gilbert Morris continues the Winslow Saga with a story that is interesting and familiar. One can easily relate to Leah's innocence, determination, and anger. Stuart portrays a man who cannot change except through the power of Christ. Themes include forgiveness and reconciliation, not only with his immediate family, but with his extended family. Although adultery and murder is in the book's contents, little detail is given.

Tammy Williams, Social Worker, Freelance Writer, Port Orchard, Washington



Go down to silence : a novel, G. K. Belliveau. LCCN 00010211. Sisters, Ore.: Multnomah, 2001. PAP, 1576737365, \$11.99.

F. Holocaust, Jewish (1939-1945)--Fiction; Fathers and sons--Fiction; Jewish men--Fiction; Aged men--Fiction; Psychological fiction; Christian fiction. 343 p. (High school)

Go Down To Silence, by G.K. Belliveau, is a poignant tale of realization and reconciliation. Once a frightened Jewish boy hiding from the Nazis during WW II, Jacob Horowitz is now a wealthy American businessman. However, happiness eludes him as his past pursues him. Hiding his childhood and former life from his family, Jacob continues his stoic existence as a survivor, but with a price. Embittered, grief-laden, estranged from his second born son, and now dying of prostrate cancer, Jacob realizes he must reconcile his past with his present.

When the summons comes from an old friend from Jacob's past, Jacob sets events in motion. He valiantly tries to become a grandfather, a father-in-law, and a father almost too late as he tries to atone for his past mistakes. He invites his estranged son, Isaac, to accompany him to Belgium. Whether Isaac will accept Jacob's outstretched attempt at peace, or not, is interwoven with Jacob's narrative of his childhood ordeal of trying to survive and understand the war, the death, the horror, on account of his heritage.

A moving, artfully wrought novel exploring the complexities of belief and faith, *Go Down To Silence* will stay with the reader long after the last page is turned as a reminder of the determination of the soul to survive, and how reconciliation is the balm to wounds that lay deep within the soul.

Pam Webb, School Library Technician, Sandpoint, Idaho

Iron sceptor, Andrew M. Seddon. LCCN 00192614. Philadelphia: Xlibris, 2000. PAP, 0738838128, \$16.00.

F. Science fiction. 262 p.

The year is 2495, and Major Novacek is stationed on the planet Lenore, trying to convince the independent-minded inhabitants to comply to Hegemony rule. Terrorist attacks, secret war vessels, and alien beings all add up to a very unstable environment. The first alien entity ever, the Gara-nesh, arrive to make that first most-important contact with human beings. What is Novacek to do with the many variants he must deal with, especially when his commander has ordered him to "start a war" involving the aliens, so that all will unite against a common cause, rather than fight the domination of the interplanetary Hegemony rule?

To add to the stress, a beautiful young lady called Allison Kinnaird has come onto the scene. Her peaceful yet determined mission is to find a way to keep her fellow-Lenorians free from outside rule. Somehow she breaks through Novacek's hard exterior where he finds that he has a conscience that won't allow him to just throw these human beings into interstellar war. Risking his life and career, he and Allison set out to rescue the kidnapped Alien Ambassador and expose the treachery that threatens to destroy, not only the peaceful lives of Lenore, but his own moral well-being.

Iron Sceptor is Andrew Seddon's second sci-fi thriller, having published *Red Planet Rising* in 1995. He has a good handle on the futuristic lingo and concepts that make for interesting sci-fi reading. His story presents an age-old idea of using war to distract and unite others around a common cause, but his characters aptly expose the fallacy of this type of thinking. There are several misprints within the book, but they are only a mild distraction to the storyline. Seddon presents an interesting storyline that confirms that though the specifics may change, human kind continues to face the dilemma of moral issues concerning the sanctity of life.

Mary McKinney, Former Teacher, Freelance Writer, Editor, Port Orchard, Washington

Lady of light, Kathleen Morgan. (Brides of Culdee Creek; 3.) LCCN 00067351. Grand Rapids: Fleming H. Revell, Baker Books, 2001. PAP, 0800757556, \$10.99.

F. Scottish Americans--Fiction; Women pioneers--Fiction; Married women--Fiction; Colorado--Fiction; Historical fiction; Western stories. 334 p. (High school)

Claire and Ian Sutherland are left orphaned and in the care of a cruel and lecherous uncle. When he attacks Claire, Ian defends her honor with a stout stick whose blows are lethal. The two run to Strathnaver, Scotland, in the year 1898 to find a place to call home and escape the consequences of their uncle's death.

Vowing never to trust a man again, Claire finds work at Father MacLaren's church as a housekeeper. Claire keeps her vow until the American stranger arrives in town seeking to locate long-lost relatives. Evan MacKay and Claire fall in love and after only two months marry and head to America, Ian with them. On one occasion in the frustration and worry of preparing for her wedding and packing to leave for America, Claire resorts to profanity. "God rot" is the literal meaning of drat.

In the small Colorado town of Grand View the town folk gather for a Fall Festival Social and dance, which Claire looks forward to. But it provides the backdrop for what may tear her and Evan apart.

Kathleen Morgan is an award-winning author with sixteen published novels. In *Lady of Light*, the third in her *Bride of Culdee Creek* series, Kathleen gives us more than a romance. *Lady of Light* looks deep into the struggle of newlyweds. Do you keep secrets from each other even for the best of reasons? How do you fit into the extended family? What do you do about previous loves? Claire discovers only reliance on God gives the answers and holds her new family together.

Myrtlemary P. Crane, Freelance Writer, Editor, & Speaker, Alderwood Manor, Washington

The long awaited child, Tracie Peterson. LCCN 00012968. Minneapolis: Bethany House, 2001. PAP, 0764222902, \$11.99.

F. Adoption--Fiction; Childlessness--Fiction; Foster parents--Fiction; Teenage pregnancy--Fiction; Juvenile delinquents--Fiction; Christian fiction. 270 p. (High school)

Tess and Brad Holbrook have been trying to have a baby for ten years. When her doctor tells her they have exhausted all the known scientific possibilities, Tess sinks deeper into a self-absorbed depression.

The Long Awaited Child tells of her childhood with an absent father and an addict for a mother which has left Tess with many scars, one of which is an emptiness she feels that only having her own child will fill. Kim, her best friend, is adopting a baby. Tess withdraws from the friendship, unable to share her friend's joy.

Although claiming to be Christian, there is little evidence that she finds any comfort in her relationship with Christ. For over two hundred pages Tess continues her "poor me" attitude, not understanding that her husband is also suffering. Nor does she find any room in her heart to love the pregnant fourteen year old whose child she decides to adopt.

Infertility is a problem many women face. Author Tracie Peterson has tackled a difficult subject, but Tess wallows so in her self-pity it is hard to find the redeeming quality of God's love that is necessary to overcome all sorrows.

The book concludes with a no-surprise happy ending

Myrtlemary P. Crane, Freelance Writer, Editor, & Speaker, Alderwood Manor, Washington

***The long way home*, by Lauraine Snelling. (Secret refuge; 3.) LCCN 2001001317. Minneapolis: Bethany House, 2001. PAP, 1556618417, \$11.99.**

F. Women pioneers--Fiction; Overland journeys to the Pacific--Fiction; Christian fiction; Western stories. 288 p. (High School)

In 1863, the Civil War is driving families from their homes. Jesselynn Highwood has left Kentucky with her youngest brother and some of their freed slaves. Taking the wagon train to Oregon, she hopes to start her own horse ranch using Ahab and the other horses she has brought from Kentucky. Grey Wolf Torstead has turned the wagon master job over to another as he feels he must leave to find his mother's people, the Oglala band under the leadership of Red Cloud.

About every other chapter in *The Long Way Home* switches from the trek of Jesselynn to those who stayed behind in Kentucky. The beautiful home on Twin Oaks has been burned to the ground and Louisa has moved in with her Aunt Sylvania where they are taking care of soldiers recuperating from wounds received on the battlefield. That is not her only contribution to the war effort. Louisa and her older brother, Zachary, make trips through the Union lines to secure quinine and morphine to help the Confederate soldiers.

Zachery fumes at not being able to serve in the military any longer. He is home from battle missing his right eye and one leg. Unknown to Louisa, Zachery uses their trips to take messages across enemy lines.

Lauraine Snelling has done another great job in showing the reader the life and setting of 1863. Great description and good dialogue keep the story moving. As book three of A Secret Refuge series it stands pretty well on its own.

Myrtlema P. Crane, Freelance Writer, Editor, & Speaker, Alderwood Manor, Washington

***The maiden of Mayfair*, Lawana Blackwell. (Tales of London; 1.) LCCN 00011574. Minneapolis: Bethany House, 2000. PAP, 0764222589, \$11.99.**

F. Teenage girls--Fiction; Aged women--Fiction; Orphans--Fiction; London (England)--Fiction; Historical fiction; Bildungsromane. 409 p.

Widowed and very wealthy, Mrs. Blake decides to search out her deceased son's illegitimate daughter. With no other family, Mrs. Blake hopes to atone for turning the pregnant servant out. Her search for the girl leads to orphan Sarah Matthews. Although the orphanage director is aware that Mrs. Blake's granddaughter is dead, she passes Sarah off as the woman's family. Over the years, Sarah becomes a treasured member of the household. Even after discovering the truth, Mrs. Blake continues to love and claim Sarah as her own. Due to Sarah's distinctive birth defect, her birth father finds his long-lost daughter in a miraculous way. When the unscrupulous Mr. Knight tries to win Sarah's heart, his grab for a

life of leisure is nearly successful. Instead Sarah finds true love with an old friend.

Set in London in the late 1800's, *The Maiden of Mayfair* gives the reader a taste of life during this time. Author Lawana Blackwell has created a memorable story with interesting characters and a Christian theme. There are many characters in the story and all are at a different place in their walk with Christ. Blackwell develops the characters and their Spiritual growth in a natural way. Many historical details are provided in an entertaining fashion in this well-crafted tale. Readers will look forward to the next installment of the Tales of London series.

Elizabeth Coleman, Freelance Writer, Tumwater, Washington

***The miracle maker : a novel*, Murray Watts. LCCN . Grand Rapids: Fleming H. Revell, Baker Books, 2001. PAP, 0800757661, \$10.99.**

F. Biblical fiction; Tamar (Biblical character)--Fiction; Jesus Christ--Fiction. 295 p.

Tamar is a very sick little girl who has a fascination with the carpenter (Jesus) whom she sees while on her way to visit the Doctor. Not only is Tamar in the vicinity of the house where a man is lowered from the roof so that Jesus may heal him, she is also present when his feet are bathed in perfume. Jairus, Tamar's father has serious concerns about this Jesus since the man has been accused of healing on the Sabbath. Rachel (Tamar's mother) wants to believe in Jesus' ability to heal since her poor daughter is so very ill. However, Rachel cannot go against her husband's wishes until Tamar is close to death. Once Tamar is completely healed, the family encounters Jesus in various other prominent events.

According to the author, Tamar is present when Jesus is told about the death of Lazarus, she is present when he is hanging on the cross, and during his ascent to Heaven. *The Miracle Maker* is Tamar's story of how she encounters Jesus and his teachings before and after her return from the dead.

Playwright and BBC screenwriter Murray Watts has written his fictionalized version of the miracle in which Jesus brings a little girl back from the dead. In each chapter, the tale jumps from Tamar's thoughts to Jesus' history. This determined little girl is shown as having an unshakeable belief in Jesus which in turn convinces her family. Tamar's story portrays her as having quite an impressive role in Jesus life, not the least of which she is holding his hand right before the crucifixion.

Connie J. Weaver, Church & Reference Librarian, Newville, Pennsylvania

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***The negotiator*, by Dee Henderson. (O'Malley series; 1.) LCCN 99058861. Sisters, Ore.: Palisades, Multnomah, 2000. PAP, 1576736083, \$11.99.**

F. Government investigators--Fiction; Hostage negotiations--Fiction; Romantic suspense novels; Christian fiction. AF.

***The guardian*, Dee Henderson. (O'Malley series; 2.) LCCN 00011830. Sisters, Ore.: Palisades, Multnomah, 2001. PAP, 1576736423, \$11.99.**

F. United States marshals--Fiction; Western stories; Christian fiction. 292 p.

***The truth seeker*, by Dee Henderson. (O'Malley series; 3.) LCCN 2001001863. Sisters, Ore.: Multnomah, 2001. PAP, 1576737535, \$11.99.**

F. United States marshals--Fiction; Serial murders--Fiction; Romantic suspense fiction; Christian fiction. 330 p.

(High school)

Seven children who grew up together in an orphanage legally created their own family: the O'Malley family. Kate, the second oldest, is a crisis negotiator known for her calm indifference under pressure, and her willingness to put herself into incredibly dangerous situations. But when she becomes the target of a man who blew up a plane with 214 people on it, she must learn to surrender a little of her feisty independence to the men who protect her; notably FBI special agent Dave Richman. Kate is good at what she does because she is able to control her emotions, and a childhood of abuse has made her wary of letting down her guard. Kate learns to trust not only Dave's love for her, but also God's love for her, as she wrestles with the issues of justice and mercy in the process of solving the case.

In *The Guardian*, book two of the O'Malley series, U.S. Marshal Marcus O'Malley finds himself challenged to renew his childhood faith in God as he struggles to protect Shari Hanford, the only witness to a shooting that wounded her brother, and killed her father and a federal judge. Though she has many questions and fears, Shari's faith sustains her during this time of difficulty. Between her gentle ministrations, and the quiet strength of his Christian sister Jennifer, who is battling cancer, Marcus is forced to re-evaluate his perspective of how God answers prayer, and comes to recognize God's deep love for him.

Book three, *The Truth Seeker*, follows Lisa O'Malley, a forensic pathologist who helps U.S. Marshal Quinn Diamond track down a serial killer, who also ends up being the man who murdered Quinn's father twenty years ago. As the two of them unravel the mystery, Lisa is challenged by Quinn to pursue answers to some hard questions regarding her troubled childhood and her disbelief in the resurrection, which hold her back from accepting a relationship with Christ. Once she recognizes God's love for her, she is also able to accept Quinn's love fully.

Of the three O'Malley books by Dee Henderson, *The Negotiator* is the most compelling, balancing the suspense and action of the case with the development of relationships among the various characters; *The Truth Seeker* does likewise. *The Guardian* falls a bit short with its

thinner plot line regarding the murder mystery, focusing instead on the relationship between Marcus and Shari. In all her books, Henderson allows the reader incredible insight into her characters, detailing them so thoroughly one feels as if one knows them personally, quirks and all. The only weakness is the slightly "too good to be true" characterization of all Henderson's main male characters as being more patient, intuitive, and insightful than even an exceptional woman. Romance and adventure/suspense readers alike will enjoy these books.

Sherri Beeler, Teacher, Cascade Christian High School, Medford, Oregon

The Nephilim seed : a novel, James Scott Bell. LCCN 2001025059. Nashville: Broadman & Holman, 2001. PAP, 0805424385, \$12.99.

F. Medical ethics--Fiction; Human experimentation in medicine--Fiction; Mothers and daughters--Fiction; Single mothers--Fiction; Women lawyers--Fiction; Kidnapping--Fiction. 375 p.

Janice, an up and coming lawyer, and her young daughter Lauren, are beginning to adjust to their new life after Janice's husband, Sam, announces he will not tolerate her return to the church. After moving out, he further stuns Janice by divorcing her. Janice is perplexed by the abrupt and cruel side Sam now shows. And when Lauren is kidnapped prior to the custody hearing, Janice suspects her ex-husband. But this is far more than a custody battle, for Sam is involved in an organization hoping to create a super-race and willingly provides his daughter as the sacrificial guinea pig.

Bring into the plot Jed Brown, a bounty hunter looking to track down his brother's murderer, and Data, a computer wielding Trekkie fan. Together Janice, Jed, and Data uncover UniGen's experimentations while searching for Lauren.

The Nephilim Seed by James Scott Bell, has a timely theme speaking to issues about DNA technology, but lacks strong character development. The plot is not too credible and lacks convincing dialogue. The message of what happens when man interfers with God's creation gets weighed down by the heavy ongoing character diatribe against Christianity. It is not until the very end that the book points out man cannot be separated from God, and vice versa; to separate the two is to put the soul in jeopardy.

Pam Webb, School Library Technician, Sandpoint, Idaho



No eye can see : a novel of kinship, courage, and faith, by Jane Kirkpatrick. (The kinship and courage historical series; 2.) LCCN 00043869. Colorado Springs: WaterBrook, 2001. PAP, 1578562333, \$11.95.

F. Women pioneers--Fiction; Blind women--Fiction; Widows--Fiction; California--Fiction; Historical fiction; Christian fiction. 388 p.

No Eye Can See, Book Two in the Kinship and Courage Series, follows the group of widows and other women "bound together by the deaths of their husbands and brothers and loved ones." Their story begins in Book One, *All Together in One Place*. Now led by Seth Forrester, a young man who "knew an easier way through the Sierras," they follow the trail to forge new lives in Shasta City, California.

Suzanne Cullver, the blind, former photographer and wife, focuses on a plan for her future: she determines to remain independent and care for her two sons without help. It takes several mishaps and at last a stranger's words to convince her otherwise. Adora Wilson, thrilled with an early marriage for her daughter, Tipton, falls right in with her prodigal son, Charles, when he shows up unexpectedly with not a "repentant bone in his body." Elizabeth Mueller and her widowed daughter, Mazy Bacon, assemble their livelihood in business and farming. Several other interesting characters emerge from the pages.

Jane Kirkpatrick's inspiring story of faith and courage includes actual people who lived and worked in Shasta City in 1852. Careful attention to daily life details gives readers an on-the-spot view of life at that time.

Kirkpatrick's skillful writing draws readers close, allowing them to experience the story through whichever character she highlights in each scene. She allows the right degree of suspense to make sure readers turn every page, and she weaves Scripture verses unobtrusively into the story's natural flow. Chapter by chapter, anticipation builds with surprises at the conclusion.

Betsy M. Hockett, Writer/Speaker/Teacher, Newberg, Oregon

The note : a story of second chances, Angela Hunt. LCCN 2001026120. Nashville: Word, 2001. PAP, 0849942845, \$12.99.

F. Christian fiction. 301 p.

The "Heart Healer" is the name of Peyton MacGruder's Florida newspaper column, but unlike her predecessor, Peyton is reserved and emotionally distant from the subjects she writes about. She is given two weeks to make improvements in her column that will increase her readership. When a reader brings her a note which reads, "I love you. All is forgiven", preserved in a ziplock bag that washed ashore from the worst plane wreck in American history, Peyton is determined to track down the intended recipient, and cover the story in her column.

What initially starts out as a self-serving ploy to gain a larger readership turns into a life-changing search as Peyton finds three people the note might belong to. Each person reacts differently. A successful minister claims he has no need of his father's forgiveness, so the note can't be for him. A melancholy, popular songwriter desperately needs her father's forgiveness, but refuses to accept the note and its forgiveness. Another man claims the note falsely, simply to bolster his position in the public eye. More importantly, when approached by a fourth person, the true recipient of the note, Peyton completes her own internal transition from distance and bitterness toward her own father, to reconciliation and the ability to love again.

The Note is part of the Women of Faith fiction line. As author Angela Hunt indicates, the book is an allegory describing how God offers forgiveness. Some people see no need for it; some people figure that their sins are too great to be covered; and others seemingly embrace God's offer, having "a form of godliness" but no inward change. Hunt's story, which includes discussion questions at the end, also shows how those who accept God's forgiveness can be reconciled to God the Father, and can be made whole again.

Sherri Beeler, Teacher, Cascade Christian High School, Medford, Oregon

On holy ground : an angelwalk novel, [Roger Elwood]. LCCN . Shippensburg, Pa.: Destiny Image, 2001. PAP, 0768421144, \$11.99.

F. Angels--Fiction; Violence--Texas--Fiction. 148 p.

At Wedgewood Baptist Church, on September 15, 1999, Larry Ashbrook shoots and kills several people, before turning his gun on himself ending his life. Two angels, Darien and Stedfast, are sent to witness the event, bring comfort to families, and escort Christian victims into the Kingdom of Heaven. Three victims, Sydney Browning, Kim Jones, and Shawn Brown, are chosen to bring shame of crime to life. Thirty-six-year-old, Sydney Browning is a teacher with a deep love and caring for each of her high school students, a beautiful singing voice, and a cheerful disposition. Kim Jones, in her early twenties, is vibrant, bright, and has recently been delivered from a troubled past into a faithful, growing relationship with the Lord. And twenty-three-year-old Shawn Brown, nicknamed Braveheart for his commitment to the Lord, no matter how difficult the task, leaves behind a loving wife.

Roger Elwood has good intentions in describing the victims, and shooter, in dimensions that lift them out of the statistics pool. Using an introduction, author's note, foreword, and two prologues before starting the story, Elwood thoroughly indoctrinates the reader in how to interpret the events of the story. In the afterward, Elwood presents a philosophical, step-by-step salvation treatise. Although the

message is sound, with biblical backing, intense research, and personal involvement, the story sounds more like a sermon or a group study, than a fiction novel. Each tidbit of information is carefully chewed and re-chewed before being spoon-fed to the reader. Recommended only as a group discussion guide or sermon help.

Kim Harris, Librarian, Newman Riga Library, Churchville, New York

Out of the shadows, Sigmund Brouwer. LCCN 00054478. Wheaton, Ill.: Tyndale House, 2001. HBB, 0842330372, \$16.97; PAP, 0842342400, \$12.99.

F. Maternal deprivation--Fiction; Mothers and sons--Fiction; Charleston (S.C.)--Fiction; Christian fiction. 334 p.

Out of the Shadows by Sigmund Brouwer is a powerful psychological suspense/thriller that explores what can happen to darkness when it's exposed to truth's light. Nick Barrett, exiled from his hometown as an adolescent, comes back as a man searching to destroy the shadows of his past. The setting of gentility backed by corruption, lies, and deceit will keep readers transfixed.

Sigmund Brouwer is adept at interweaving plot upon plot while interjecting the truth of Christ. Nick's need to uncover the truth about his mother becomes almost as desperate as his need to reveal his need for his heavenly father. Brouwer is skilled at moving the plot through character interaction. Each character, no matter how minor, comes centerfront in importance, be it two little old ladies sipping tea in their antique shop, or an aged African-American minister providing comfort to the little boy hidden in a hurting man. Brouwer's novels tend to show the darkness of humanity, yet, at the same time they emphasize how God's grace transforms and dispels shadows into light.

Pam Webb, School Library Technician, Sandpoint, Idaho

Oxygen, by John B. Olson & Randall Ingermanson. LCCN 2001001374. Minneapolis: Bethany House, 2001. PAP, 0764224425, \$11.99.

F. Women astronauts--Fiction; Twenty-first century--Fiction; Mars (Planet)--Fiction; Space flight--Fiction; Sabotage--Fiction; Science fiction. 368 p.

Authors John Olson and Randy Ingermanson have combined science, fiction, and faith, producing a first-rate read, *Oxygen*. Its fast-paced plotting, dynamic characterization, and incredible technical detail will leave readers breathless.

Set in the near future of 2012, the plot centers on Valkerie, a dedicated scientist and a Christian, who is chosen at the last minute to be part of the Mission to Mars team. As the team readies itself for the mission they must learn not only how to trust one another but trust themselves. Another central character is Bob, who struggles with his past and his belief in God. The other characters play background support, yet have a depth that

gives a satisfying wholeness to the story's entirety.

Along with the difficulties of flying a mission to Mars, an explosion destroys one of the ship's solar panels. This not only jeopardizes the crew's physical survival, it jeopardizes the crew's mental and emotional well-being, for now the crew must contend with the reality there is a possible saboteur on board. Or is it Houston oriented? Readers won't know the outcome until the last few pages.

Olson and Ingermanson are adept at keeping the various sub-plots balanced, and succeed in giving each distinctive character room to develop. Scientists themselves, the authors confirm how science and faith can mutually exist, and actually thrive together.

Oxygen will appeal to Ray Bradbury fans, as well as Agatha Christie readers. A whodunit set in space, this is a science fiction novel that has suspense, depth--and best of all it has soul.

Pam Webb, School Library Technician, Sandpoint, Idaho



Passing by Samaria, Sharon Ewell Foster. LCCN 99053211. Sisters, Ore.: Multnomah, 2000. PAP, 1576736156, \$11.99.

F. African American women--Fiction; African Americans--Fiction; Chicago (Ill.)--Fiction; Mississippi--Fiction. 382 p.

Having grown up in a loving, Christian family, Alena lived a rather sheltered life in Mississippi until her best friend returned home as a war hero in 1919, and was strung up by a small, secretive group of militant white men in her town. Alena is outraged when no family or friends protest this atrocity. When her family bundles her off to her aunt in Chicago to keep Alena from stirring up trouble by speaking out, she feels angry and betrayed. Determined to care for no one but herself from that point onward, Alena is spiteful to everyone she comes in contact with.

Alena finds herself alternately attracted to James, a gentle newspaper writer for the colored community, and Pearl, a slick-talking worldly-wise man who wants her to run away with him. When James and others are caught up in the Chicago race riots, Alena arrives at a turning point, surrendering her hurts and angers to the Lord as best she can, and returning home to reconcile with her parents. Once home, she is nearly killed by the same man who killed her best friend, but the Lord miraculously intervenes, and her attacker accidentally fatally shoots himself. At the funeral, the black and white communities come together in an incredible way, beginning the healing so desperately needed between the races, and the liberation that comes with forgiveness, love, and unity in Christ.

Passing by Samaria, by Sharon Ewell Foster, is a powerfully written book dealing with deep-seated prejudices and the power of forgiveness. Foster takes the issue far beyond race, and

applies it to all relationships of life, showing how irreconciled relationships with God cause divisiveness among mankind. Poetically written, with lilting dialect throughout, the book contains meaty sections (delivered by Alena's mother, aunt, and a young pastor) that are packed with truth, wisdom, and spiritual insight. This is a book to savor.

Sherri Beeler, Teacher, Cascade Christian High School, Medford, Oregon

A perfect persecution : a novel, James R. Lucas. LCCN 2001018081. Nashville: Broadman & Holman, 2001. PAP, 0805423001, \$12.99.

F. Dystopias; Christian fiction. 403 p. (High school)

We don't think of children, the elderly, or the sick as subjects for persecution. However, in the chilling novel, *A Perfect Persecution*, James R. Lucas extends current news stories on stem cell research and organ transplants to a speculative and terrifying conclusion. In a sinful world gone terribly awry, Leslie Adams takes up her father's crusade in the Movement to save innocent babies designated as "meat" by those who would use them in horrible experiments. In the process she discovers how far the government and some in the medical community have gone to guarantee organs for transplant. With long waiting lists for kidneys, eyes, and livers, those who are deemed to be less than perfect, no matter what their age, quietly disappear. The quality of life an individual can attain becomes the deciding factor in whether they may live.

Desperate to make a difference and live out her faith, Leslie attempts a massive rescue of babies who were aborted, but are still alive. Caught before she can complete her mission, she learns what it is like to be a modern martyr.

Set in the not too distant future, *A Perfect Persecution* will keep the reader on the edge of his chair. Based on sound biblical principles, *A Perfect Persecution* takes common worldview thoughts and phrases and puts them into a setting that shows the error of that line of thought. Descriptions of the various types of abortions and some other medical situations are graphic.

Barbara Bryden, Freelance Writer, Olympia, Washington

Picture rock, Stephen Bly. (Skinners of Goldfield; 3.) LCCN 2001000056. Wheaton, Ill.: Crossway, 2001. PAP, 1581342543, \$11.99.

F. Gold mines and mining--Fiction; Goldfield (Nev.)--Fiction; Nevada--Fiction; Christian fiction; Domestic fiction; Western stories. 252 p. (Middle school, High school.)

What power does God have to work through a Christian family in a gold rush community? If those people have a heart to serve Him alone and to live by His precepts then God can do much. From cooling tension in labor strikes, feeding a town full of people from a "broken" restaurant, to surviving back injury and

assassination attempts, this family learns of God's ever present ability to touch man and his circumstances.

Picture Rock is the third book in the series about the Skinner family trying to get from Colorado to California and getting held up in Goldfield, Nevada. God has work for them to do as they earn their way, and His plans include much.

Stephen Bly's style is unique in that he tells this story almost entirely through dialogue between his interesting characters. From the youngest to the oldest, the Skinners, their friends, and their enemies walk their talk as they live the ups and downs of fortune in this story based on the lives of real pioneers. History usually follows the major events and people, and tends to ignore the impact of principled people doing the everyday things that come their way in true faith. This novel tries to put some of that right and certainly gives a book of Acts' feel to their lives. In God's hands even the little things we do can be turned into *Picture Rock*. Read alone or in the series this book is a good read for upper elementary to adult.

Jim McKinney, Teacher, Pastor, Port Orchard, Washington

***A place called Bliss, Ruth Glover.* (Saskatchewan saga; 1.) LCCN 00053349. Grand Rapids: Fleming H. Revell, Baker Books, 2001. PAP, 0800757432, \$10.99.**

F. Frontier and pioneer life--Fiction; Scots--Canada--Fiction; Social classes--Fiction; Saskatchewan--Fiction; Historical fiction; Domestic fiction. 239 p.

When Sophia married wealthy Hugh Galloway, she knew he and his overseer, Angus Morrison, planned to leave Scotland and begin fresh in Toronto, Canada. When Sophia and Angus' wife, Mary, both go into labor on board the ocean liner, their lives become forever entwined. Sophia's girl, Margo, lives and Mary's boy is stillborn. Mary's mother, Kezzie, who harbors a family secret, stays with the Galloways to care for Margo. Arriving in Canada spring 1878, the Galloways build a large estate in Toronto and the Morrisons travel by ox cart to the town of Bliss. Nearly twenty years later when her father dies, Margo is left nothing but a small piece of land in Bliss. While traveling to the bush country to discover why her father left her in virtual poverty, Kezzie's secret is revealed and Margo discovers her true heritage.

Book one of the Saskatchewan Saga series, *A Place Called Bliss*, provides a great deal of historical information about Canadian territorial settlement -- so much information, that the storyline often becomes secondary. Author Ruth Glover has done a great deal of research on life in the 1800's. Unfortunately, her attention to the details of her characters wasn't as thorough. For example, the character's ages don't match with the number of years that have passed as the book progresses.

Key themes are forgiveness and salvation. As Kezzie struggles with the secret she keeps, she is certain God will never forgive her. Finally she comes to realize that God forgives, no matter

what has been done. At that point she can accept the gift of salvation. An historically interesting book with a Christian message.

Elizabeth Coleman, Freelance Writer, Tumwater, Washington



***The promise, by Jim & Terri Kraus.* (The circle of destiny; 3.) LCCN 00047968. Wheaton, Ill.: Tyndale House, 2001. PAP, 0842318372, \$10.99.**

F. Women medical students--Fiction; Women physicians--Fiction. 405 p.

Hannah becomes a doctor in 1850, New England, with no support from either her parents, or her husband, Robert. As Robert's wealthy business begins to fail, he is unfaithful, uses up Hannah's trust fund, and beats and rapes her. Before she decides to tell him that she is pregnant with his child, he dies of influenza. Soon after his death, Hannah loses the baby and becomes bitter toward God. Lenders demand repayment for Robert's debts, so she sells the house and its contents, moves into a tiny apartment on the seedy side of town, and lives in poverty until Robert's debts are paid in full.

When Hannah receives a letter from an old friend offering her an opportunity to become director of a new hospital he is building in Monterey, California, she accepts, seeing the move as a new start for her newly found faith. Shortly after she arrives, Hannah receives a letter from another friend who needs her help to stop an epidemic in the Sandwich Islands. Hannah finds hope and love there, but, before long, is reminded that she must first trust herself and her heart to God.

Jim and Terri Kraus present vividly exquisite descriptions of New England, Monterey, and Maui. This third book in "The Circle of Destiny" series can easily stand alone. Though the cliffhanger ending is frustrating, the story is easy to follow, not overly religious, and is well written, with a strong plot and flowing style. The book's recurring theme concerns promises in relationships with God and man. Highly recommended for all collections.

Kim Harris, Librarian, Newman Riga Library, Churchville, New York



***The remember box, by Patricia Sprinkle.* LCCN 00043279. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2000. PAP, 0310229928, \$11.99.**

F. Presbyterian Church--Clergy--Fiction; Spouses of clergy--Fiction; Historical fiction; Christian fiction; Domestic fiction. 412 p.

It all starts when Abby delivers Aunt Kate's Remember Box to Carley. From it they pull out treasures, bits of their history that force memories, both pleasant and ugly, to the surface. The next day Carley writes down the account of that "dreadful spring" in Job's Corner.

When Bethel Church at Job's Corner calls Uncle Stephen to be their new pastor, eleven-year-old

Carley goes along with him for what she thinks is only to help him and her Aunt Kate move. She discovers however, that the move is permanent. Now she must connect with the people of Job's Corner which proves to be very challenging: Preston, who "smelled worse than a mule," but later saves Uncle Stephen's neck at the church trial; Sue Mary and her invisible friend, Velma; Mr. Mayhew and his bomb drills, and many more folks who make up the small town.

The day Carley hears Uncle Stephen and Big Mama fighting, she figures out nobody wants her. But when she confronts her uncle, he tells her the truth that forces her to make a difficult decision.

All of this combines with soured personal relationships, kidnapping, a murder, and Bethel Church's 200th anniversary with Uncle Stephen stirring up feelings because he's "bound and determined" to have the whites and blacks worship together for that occasion. Patricia Sprinkle brings all the elements to a satisfying conclusion.

Racism, love, loyalty, and hatred all play their own tunes in *The Remember Box*, a story from 1949. Sprinkle's unique and skillful way of showing Carley's past creates an intriguing can't-put-it-down story. Her charming, girlish point of view brings humor into the story along with poignancy as readers feel Carley's yearnings and anxieties. Characters move through each scene as real people in a real setting, i.e. North Carolina -- complete with smells as well as sights and sounds. Sprinkle endows her people with emotions appropriate for the intense situations at Job's Corner, and their actions spring naturally from those feelings.

Superior writing places *The Remember Box* in the literary fiction classification.

Betty M. Hockett, Writer/Speaker/Teacher, Newberg, Oregon

***Searching for Paul, by Terri Wood Jerkins.* LCCN 00048657. San Antonio, Tex.: LangMarc, 2000. PAP, 1880292637, \$10.95.**

F. Donation of organs, tissues, etc.--Fiction; Psychics--Fiction; Widows--Fiction; Psychological fiction; Christian fiction. 196 p.

This rather unlikely story by Terry Wood Jerkins is filled with dialogue and very little description or characterizations. Although there is an interesting twist to the ending, that is not the unlikely part but rather a nice touch; it is the entire premise that seems improbable.

Maggie Brophy is a young, depressed widow when she decides to take up horseback riding again to help deal with her grief. The instructor, Jaime McKellar, is brusque and almost rude with an imperious attitude, but within a few hours he has changed to a lovable terry bear who is madly in love with Maggie. He also has a tragedy in his past, the death of his wife and daughter when he was driving, and the temporary blindness that occurred because of

his injuries. Guilt troubles his life, he may have had too much to drink prior to the accident but just doesn't remember. What follows is a whirlwind romance with both partners (but especially Maggie) vacillating back and forth. "Do I love him? Is this real? Should we get married (after a few days)? Should we have a sexual relationship?" Maggie's friends and family are concerned yet interference only make it worse. Dizzied by the middle of the book, the story ends with all the strings tied neatly together.

There is some mention of attending church in *Searching for Paul* but the Lord and Christianity is merely part of the background. Additionally, the back cover description is misleading, making you feel you will read about Maggie's search for the organ donors from her first husband, Paul. This evidently occurred before the story we read which begins with Maggie's meeting with Jaime McKellar, and runs from there.

This book may enjoy a small audience but is certainly not recommended as a necessary purchase for a library.

Ceil Carey, Young Adult Librarian, Plano, Illinois

***The senator's other daughter*, Stephen Bly. (Belles of Lordsburg; 1.) LCCN 00011620. Wheaton, Ill.: Crossway, 2001. PAP, 1581342365, \$10.99.**

F. Presidents--Election--Fiction; Fathers and sons--Fiction; Young women--Fiction; Legislators--Fiction; New Mexico--Fiction; Iowa--Fiction. 236 p.

Stephen Bly, author of over fifty novels in several different fiction series for adults and children, hits a home-run in this early western novel set in 1884, the first in a new series, *The Belles of Lordsburg*.

Under mysterious circumstances, Grace Denison arrives in New Mexico, far away from her family in Iowa where her father is a prestigious senator running for president who makes it clear he wants to protect his reputation. On a gold chain, Grace wears a locket bearing a photo of an infant girl, causing readers to wonder why.

After getting past a lengthy fifteen-page introduction when we meet some of the town's colorful characters while Grace attempts to reach the local boarding house, Bly finally hits a perfect pace and takes us on an adventure filled with humor, intrigue, and insight. Grace settles into her new life, starting her job as the town's night telegrapher, an unusual occupation for a woman. When messages from other second-shift telegraphers welcome her "online," she decides to keep her gender secret, allowing for some fun banter and misunderstandings. One night, a man is killed outside the train station where Grace works, and later, a bag of stolen bank money is recovered. Grace wonders if Colt Parnell, the man she first met when she arrived in town, is involved in the robbery and maybe the murder. Secretly, she hopes he isn't, but she begins to fear the worst as a vigilante

team organizes, targeting Parnell. She prays about her concerns, and we watch as her faith becomes more important to her and has an effect on her growth as a woman to take action rather than passive acceptance. Bly skillfully weaves together a variety of characters and events that keeps us interested to the satisfying end when we learn who the infant girl is, who committed the robbery and murder, and whether Grace and Colt have a future together.

Kimm Swenson Gollnick, *Writer, Speaker, and Teacher (Marion Independent Schools), Marion, Iowa*



***Shock talk : a novel*, Bob Larson. LCCN 00069530. Nashville: Thomas Nelson, 2001. PAP, 0785270094, \$12.99.**

F. Television personalities--Fiction; Mothers and daughters--Fiction; Spiritual warfare--Fiction; Talk shows--Fiction; Christian fiction. 241 p.

Single mother, Jenny, and her troubled daughter, Allison, appear on a television shock talk show, as a last ditch effort to stay a family. Allison does hard drugs, ditches responsibilities, and shows signs of being suicidal. Billy McBride, show host, identifies with Allison in that both were abandoned by their fathers at an early age. When Billy arranges a second show in which psychic, psychologist, and minister meet with Allison to discuss her problems, demonic and multiple personalities surface in Allison scaring off all but the minister, Dr. Kingman. With the help of an angel, Dr. Kingman begins to unravel and help heal not only Allison of past hurts and oppression, but Billy, as well. From television studio to rodeo ring-side seats, this spiritual thriller rarely slows down.

Radio talk show host, Bob Larson, has been interviewed on such television talk shows as *Oprah*, *Politically Incorrect*, and *Larry King Live*. He is author of nearly thirty books, both fiction and nonfiction, and has three bestsellers. Larson, using more than doctrinal theories, shows biblical backing for the casting out of demons and generational curses, as he walks the reader through the spiritual battlefield. He cautions that, though miraculous, this is not an instant cure all, that further therapy and spiritual encouragement must be sought, and that a close relationship with Jesus Christ must be maintained. Though professionally written and researched, this easy to read and understand page turner is definitely not for the faint of heart. Recommended for all Christian collections. Author's note offers web address and phone number for additional help.

Kim Harris, Librarian, Newman Riga Library, Churchville, New York

***Silent pledge*, Hannah Alexander. LCCN 00011335. Minneapolis: Bethany House, 2000. PAP, 0764224441, \$10.99.**

F. Emergency medical personnel--Fiction; Women physicians--Fiction; Physicians--Fiction; Christian fiction; Medical novels. 349 p.

In *Silent Pledge*, Dr. Lukas Bower and Dr. Mercy Richmond once more match their medical wits against hard-to-work-with administrators, patients who don't always cooperate, and less-than-competent emergency room staff. They also again confront their personal feelings for each other. Tedi, Mercy's daughter, and Theodore Zimmerman, her former husband, help Lukas and Mercy make an important life-changing decision.

Readers first met these doctors and some of the same patients in *Sacred Trust* and *Solemn Oath*. Obese Clarence Knight heads toward thin with the help of Mercy's mother, Ivy Richmond. Rough and loud bikers bring suspicion upon themselves with their outrageous behavior in the emergency room. Catcher, one of them, later changes Lukas's opinion. What happens to Delphi Bell when she runs away from Abner, her abusive husband? Who takes baby Jerod when his mother dies? Can Mercy help Shannon Becker, teen-age rape victim? How will Crystal and her great-grandma, Odira, make it through their illnesses?

Hannah Alexander connects many story lines to Mercy's clinic in Knolls and to the E.R. in Herald, Missouri, where Lukas has signed on to work while he waits for the new E.R. at Knolls Community Hospital. From one emergency to another, readers cheer at signs of patients' recovery, chuckle when Clarence tries to fool Ivy, shudder at unpleasant pranks directed at Lukas, and agonize as Lukas wonders if he should willingly sacrifice his love for Mercy, even as she ponders reconciliation with Theo.

Hannah Alexander, the pseudonym for Cheryl and Melvin Hodde, writes authentically, but in a way that does not repel non-medical readers. The authors create real-life situations for their wide variety of character personalities. Their writing style, short scenes that leave readers on the edge, keeps interest high throughout the book. They include clear descriptions, realistic dialogue, as well as endow Lukas and Mercy with doubts and feelings true to their situations. The message of God's love, forgiveness, and restoration shows clearly through the intricate story.

Betty M. Hockett, *Writer/Speaker/Teacher, Newberg, Oregon*

***So shall we stand*, Elyse Larson. (Women of valor; 2.) LCCN 2001001320. Minneapolis: Bethany House, 2001. PAP, 0764223755, \$11.99.**

F. World War, 1939-1945--England--Fiction; World War, 1939-1945--Women--Fiction; Americans--England--Fiction; Women--England--Fiction. 352 p.

Nella Killian, recently widowed and living back in the manse with her parents and baby daughter, Livie, finds herself in the center of trouble when she determines to discover the real cause of Rufus Johnson's death. She feels certain the young soldier did not commit suicide, and after she reads a letter he wrote before his death, her resolve deepens.

Soon Nella receives an anonymous, threatening note: she must leave home or she and her family will suffer the consequences. Keeping the note a secret, Nella joins the Land Army in hopes the assignment will take her far from home. Instead, authorities send her nearby to Whitestone, the Westmoreland family holdings. Several near-fatal accidents make Nella realize someone wants her out of the way. Meanwhile, she cannot understand her changing feelings toward Bryan. He admits his love for her, then suddenly circumstances show him in an entirely different light. Nella wonders "how she could've been so deceived."

A concurrent plot carries Peggy, a teacher, into her own vocational and emotional turbulence that centers around Annie, a deaf student, and Laurie Barringer the Fourth, a young man she remembers from an unhappy childhood encounter.

Elyse Larson ties all the strings together in *So Shall We Stand* with a fast-paced conclusion that opens love to Nella and Peggy, brings death to Nazi agents, and confirms the truth about Rufus Johnson's death.

Because Larson researches carefully, readers find out fascinating facts, such as the Land Army and also about World War II activities in Great Britain. The descriptions and dialog sound authentically British. Primary characters, Jean Thornton Kagawa and Giselle Munier, from book #1 in the series become secondary characters in book #2. Larson's explanations, however, make *So Shall We Stand* interesting for readers who have not read *For Such A Time*.

She does a skillful job with balancing the lives of both Nella and Peggy, yet intertwining them.

Betty M. Hockett, *Writer/Speaker/Teacher, Newberg, Oregon*



***Sun dance, Sigmund Brouwer. (Sam Keaton; 3.)* LCCN 00011558. Minneapolis: Bethany House, 2001. PAP, 0764223674, \$8.99.**

F. Keaton, Sam (Fictitious character)--Fiction; United States marshals--Fiction; Laramie (Wyo.)--Fiction; Dakota Indians--Fiction; Dakota women--Fiction; Wyoming--Fiction. 303 p.

Sam Keaton, marshal of Laramie, Wyoming, is nearing the end of the long winter's separation from Rebecca, the half English, half Sioux woman who has won his heart. He greatly anticipates their reunion and hopes that she will accept his proposal of marriage. A shotgun blasts through his office window, killing an Indian Scout. In order to catch the killer, Sam is persuaded to be the scout's replacement for the U.S. Cavalry unit assigned to forge a safe trail for settlers to travel through Sioux territory. When four soldiers turn up dead in an uncharacteristic "Sioux" attack, Sam begins to be suspicious about the real purpose of the expedition.

Branded an "Injun lover" because of his liaison with Rebecca, Sam is bound by cavalry

members and forced to witness the brutal slaughter of innocent Sioux women and children. Still bound, Sam must then witness the revenge of Sioux warriors returning home to find their dead families. Sam is set free, but loses Rebecca to a Sioux warrior. Wracked with the guilt of the witnessed slaughters and the sorrow at losing Rebecca, he spends the next few weeks in the nightmare of a whiskey blur. With the help of his good friends Doc, the town doctor, Jake, his part time deputy, and Suzanne, the saloon girl with a soft spot for Sam, he begins to recover and uncover the fiendish plot that lead to the massacres.

In the third novel of the Sam Keaton: Legends of Laramie series, Sigmund Brouwer's storytelling technique quickly and cleanly draws and keeps the reader involved in the story from start to finish. Brouwer represents Sam as a real human being with frailties, as well as strengths, inviting the reader to identify with him. Highly recommended for all libraries.

Kim Harris, *Librarian, Newman Riga Library, Churchville, New York*

***Sweet boundless, by Kristen Heitzmann. (Diamond of the Rockies; 2.)* LCCN 2001001302. Minneapolis: Bethany House, 2001. PAP, 0764223828, \$11.99.**

F. Women pioneers--Fiction; Mine accidents--Fiction; Married women--Fiction; Colorado--Fiction; Christian fiction; Western stories. 350 p.

Carina and Quillan are married, mainly, in name only. Quillan has no love for anyone since being deserted by his birth parents and given to a religious couple, who treated him cruelly. As a freighter, he leaves for months at a time to carry goods over the dangerous mountain pass to and from Crystal, Colorado. Carina starts a successful Italian restaurant in the back of the house she has claimed from a fake land deal. When her absent husband's mine explodes, killing several miners, Carina tries to provide for the families through the harsh winter. Due to the no-provisions-for-deaths-or-injuries precedent at local mines, Carina's actions incur the wrath of local miners and mine owners. Meanwhile, Quillan learns the truth about his birth and foster parents. The Lord helps Quillan to forgive, rather than get the revenge he has planned for years, but he is almost to late to save Carina and their frail marriage.

Kristen Heitzmann paints an historically realistic picture of the hard times and lives of the miners and families of the old West. All must work hard, many just to get by, with no compensation for injuries or deaths. The second novel in the Diamond of the Rockies series eludes to many happenings from the first book, but does not explained them in detail. Recommended for purchase within series for all libraries.

Kim Harris, *Librarian, Newman Riga Library, Churchville, New York*



***Thunder voice, Sigmund Brouwer. (Sam Keaton; 4.)* LCCN 00012016. Minneapolis: Bethany House, 2001. PAP, 0764223682, \$8.99.**

F. Keaton, Sam (Fictitious character)--Fiction; United States marshals--Fiction; Laramie (Wyo.)--Fiction. 298 p.

In the fourth novel of the Sam Keaton: Legends of Laramie series, Samuel Keaton, one time gunslinger, mountain man, and guide, has become the marshal for the town of Laramie, Wyoming. With his friends Jake, part time town deputy, and Doc, the only doctor in town, Sam finds keeping the peace out on the plains more like hosting a bed and breakfast for drunks, than running a jail. The plot thickens quickly, as a stranger in town is mysteriously and brutally murdered. Sam, Jake, and Doc manage to convince the townspeople that death was accidental, in hopes of catching the real murderer. Nearly a year later, two Texas Rangers and a beautiful Eastern widow show up asking questions about the victim. When Jake and Sam investigate, they are beaten, incapacitated, and left, with the widow, to die in a cattle stampede. Rescued by Doc, Sam accepts an offer to travel East with the widow to solve the mystery. He becomes embroiled in a sinister scheme that involves an ex-circus strong man, lawyer, wealthy business man, as well as a train robbery, orphanage, politics, and newspapers. As Sam attempts to unravel this cross-country rubics cube, he is arrested, beaten, thrown in jail, and nearly killed, several times. Only the memory of Rebecca, his lost love, keeps him on the straight and narrow, as he is tempted by wealth, beauty, and a world that reminds him how very small he really is and how easily sucked under by the fierce current of corruption.

Sigmund Brouwer has once again managed a savory mix of mystery, murder, and mayhem. The grace of God, well done, the picturesque history of the old West, and East, and a touch of romance, produce a book that is easy to follow and tough to put down. Highly recommended for all libraries.

Kim Harris, *Librarian, Newman Riga Library, Churchville, New York*

Time Shift, by Phillip Ellis Jackson. Baltimore: America House, 2000. ISBN 1588514331, PAP, \$19.95.

F. Future--Fiction; Science Fiction; 211 p.

The year is 2416, and planet earth is groaning under a virile, mutant ash that is deadly to its frail inhabitants. Driven underground and into a few hermetically-sealed buildings on the surface, the survivors live in a sterile environment, only able to view, by holographic imagery, the once verdant beauty of the world. Several hundred years earlier the country had separated into an accommodating yet divided East and West United States. Now, both sides seem agreeable to discover a solution to the ever-encroaching ash. They use the vehicle of time jumps which use BETA light, a medium

that has recorded the past and hopefully a solution. Unfortunately, a conspiracy is uncovered that threatens to overthrow the governments and submit the two nations to the fanatical power of a would-be dictator.

Paul Thorndyke, a brilliant, young mathematician, finds himself fully involved in the BETA light jumps, but in this revered position, soon discovers that all is not well. Murder, false convictions, and imminent take-over, all combine to present a fast-paced, thought-provoking storyline.

In good sci-fi lingo, Phillip Ellis Jackson presents a technological world within *Time Shift* that tantalizes the reader with possibilities and warnings. The reader will find some rough language amid the conspirators, and the idea of marriage is as foreign to relationships as we find in some circles today. However, Jackson does redeem the holy vows by the end, as the main characters declare their extraordinary love by choosing to be wed. God is also mentioned, but the majority of people in this society don't have a clue how to relate to such a concept. However, in the second book, *Between Two Worlds*, out in October, the reader will enjoy watching how the concept of God and moral values become more viable to everyday life as the search for answers through technology is increasingly thwarted and futile. For the sci-fi fan, *Time Shift* will entertain and entice, as well as stretch the imagination with its creative images.

Mary McKinney, Editor, writer, conference speaker, Port Orchard, Washington

True believers, Linda Dorrell. LCCN 2001025044. Grand Rapids: Baker Books, 2001. PAP, 0801063620, \$10.99.

F. Women--Southern States--Fiction; Charity--Fiction; Southern States--Fiction; Christian fiction. 208 p. (Middle and high school)

Linda Dorrell has written an interesting novel about the 1950's South. Peggy Nickles is a cotton heiress and has decided her share of the family money will be used to offer Otha Lee, local black preacher, the deed to an old church and cemetery and then to financially support the restoration of that church and property. Otha begins the work aided by a drifter named Joseph; work that is quickly opposed by Peggy's older sister Eva and the racist community.

True Believers starts slow and lazy, almost like the post war community itself in the blazing heat of the South Carolina summer. Soon the reader becomes hooked by secrets told and secrets hinted at and even some romance thrown into the mix. Along the way we're part of not only the restoration of a church and cemetery, but more importantly, the restoration of broken lives. Although the romance between Peggy and Joseph seems slightly contrived, Dorrell's fiction will be enjoyed by women, middle school age on through adult. The gospel message is given, albeit not in a crystal clear form and a surprising twist at the end brings this to an enjoyable conclusion, making *True*

Believers a good addition to any library collection.

Cecil Carey, Young Adult Librarian, Plano, Illinois

★

Velma still cooks in Leeway, Vinita Hampton Wright. LCCN 00039751. Nashville: Broadman & Holman, 2000. PAP, 0805421289, \$12.99.

F. Restaurateurs--Fiction; Women cooks--Fiction; Restaurants--Fiction; Cookery--Fiction; Christian fiction. 294 p.

Life and a living all come to Velma Brendle through Velma's Place in Leeway, Kansas. There, townspeople gather for coffee, gossip, and Velma's daily "except Wednesday and Sunday" specials. When teenager, Shellye Pines, next door neighbor, turns up on Velma's doorstep to say she's pregnant, a broad set of events begin.

Many friends and church people star in these events. Cousin Howard Bendle from Wichita, arrives "on his way to death" to live in Velma's home. Grady Lewis, a promising young man from the Jerusalem Baptist Church, courts and marries Shellye. Velma, however, feels uneasy about him. Months later after a tragedy she understands "that Grady's devotion had a dangerous edge to it."

Velma's high school rival, Sissy Fender, shows up in Leeway after her husband, Mr. Scott, dies. Her presence unnerves Velma, especially when Sissy buys the building that houses Velma's Place. Velma feels certain Sissy intends to work Velma out of that location. Despite these and many other troubles, she decides "to cook in spite of everything."

The story moves quickly to Shellye's baby, domestic violence, murder, Howard's healing, and Sissy's news about plans for the building.

Reading *Velma Still Cooks in Leeway* brings the kind of pleasure one feels when sinking into a comfortable chair before a fireplace fire. Wright tells this story in a quiet voice that nonetheless commands the reader to turn the page. She gives a lot to think about long after the story ends. Forgiveness stands out as a major theme in many of the relationships Velma encounters for herself and in others.

Outstanding writing that presents a complex but readable story puts *Velma Still Looks in Leeway* in the literary fiction category. Wright divides the chapters with recipes, which make the book a keeper for more than one reason.

Betty M. Hockett, Writer/Speaker/Teacher, Newberg, Oregon

★

Winter passing, Cindy McCormick Martinusen. LCCN 00036411. Wheaton, Ill.: Tyndale House, 2000. PAP, 0842319069, \$10.99.

F. Holocaust, Jewish (1939-1945)--Austria--Fiction; Jews--Austria--Fiction; Austria--History--1938-1945--Fiction; Historical fiction; Religious fiction. 377 p. (High school)

Darby Evans puts her successful photography career on hold to come home and spend a few last weeks with her beloved, dying grandmother. As Darby tends to the needs of the older woman, she hears an unfamiliar name whispered aloud. Who is Tatianna and why is her grandmother asking Darby to make things right for this stranger?

That last dying request puts Darby in the middle of a mystery that extends across time and two continents. With the monetary bequest left by Grandma Ceila, Darby travels alone to Austria to try and unravel the puzzle. She is full of fear and yet encumbered with commitment to accomplish her grandmother's wish to restore Tatianna's identity. In Austria, Darby enlists the aid of Brant Collins who represents the Austrian Holocaust Survivors' Organization. But even Grandma Celia's recently uncovered letters from the war do not change his mind about Darby's relative. According to Brant's resources, Celia was not who she claimed to be and misled her family. Further complicating the mystery are rumors of valuable gold coins and an Empress's priceless brooch "part of Darby's inheritance", and an unscrupulous man who stops at nothing to acquire them.

Cindy McCormick Martinusen's first novel blends the poignant drama of a granddaughter's promise fulfilled, a European adventure, the search for buried treasure, and love awakening with a journey of faith in a powerful tale staged in Northern California and wartime Austria. Set between both present day and Nazi occupied wartime, the novel reveals the nature of man "both good and evil", and reminds us to remember the past in order to mold a better future. A well-written, compelling, and thought-provoking book, *Winter Passing* was nominated for a 2001 Christy Award.

Cathy M. Elliott, Freelance Writer, Anderson, California

With love from Bliss, Ruth Glover. (Saskatchewan saga; 2.) LCCN 00067352. Grand Rapids: Fleming H. Revell, 2001. PAP, 0800757440, \$10.99.

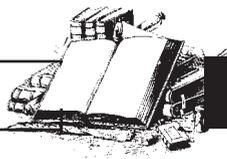
F. Frontier and pioneer life--Fiction; Scots--Canada--Fiction; Love stories; Saskatchewan--Fiction; Historical fiction; Domestic fiction. 235 p.

Raised by an alcoholic father in the slums of Toronto, Canada, Kerry Ferne's first nine years were pretty bleak. With little to entertain her while her father slept off his latest binge, Kerry took to reading the Bible. When her father dies, Kerry is sent to live with her wealthy Aunt Charlotte. Speaking in almost constant biblical quotes, Kerry is quite a shock to the childless Charlotte. Although Franny, another niece, has lived with Charlotte and her husband for years, Franny is frail and mostly bed-ridden. As Kerry matures and becomes more refined, Charlotte, Franny and the hired help come to love her. When Franny's heart is broken by a secret correspondence and she subsequently dies, Kerry vows to find the man who spurned Franny. Traveling to Saskatchewan, Kerry and

her maid Gladdy set their plan in motion. Almost from the moment they arrive in Bliss, their plan begins to unravel. Gladdy sees an opportunity to start a life of her own instead of being a servant. Kerry realizes that although she has peppered her speech with Scripture, she has no relationship with Christ and no understanding of the references she uses. This is a good lesson for many Christians; the words must accompany the act of accepting Christ or the words are meaningless. The truth about Franny's long-distance relationship is eventually revealed, and both women must deal with the surprising outcome.

With *Love From Bliss* is book two in Ruth Glover's Saskatchewan Saga. Many interesting historical facts about Canada and life in the 1800's are presented. Often the details overshadow the characters and plot. The story lacks full development in places and the historical information is not always integrated smoothly, making for an uneven read.

Elizabeth Coleman, Freelance Writer, Tumwater, Washington



200's—Religion



Stories Jesus still tells : the parables, John Claypool. LCCN 00064398. Cambridge: Cowley, 2000. PAP, 1561011851, \$12.95.

226.8'06. Jesus Christ--Parables; Christian life--Anglican authors; Spiritual life--Episcopal Church. 156 p.

Through fifty-one years of ministry, John Claypool has found great meaning in the parables of Jesus. The challenge that Jesus faced was to create in his followers a true perception of God, and to turn them away from the false perceptions that had crept into Jewish life and belief. To do this, he chose a storytelling tradition with deep roots extending all the way back to the prophet Nathan convicting King David of sin by means of a story.

Jesus' parables had three characteristics: they used familiar images from everyday life; they had intriguing plots; and they contained an element of surprise. In this way, Claypool says, "Parables begin as portraits of other people, and then suddenly turn into mirrors in which people see things about themselves that they had not seen before" (p.5)

In *Stories Jesus Tells* (a revised version of a book originally published in 1993), Claypool selects parables which are familiar--the vineyard, the talents, the rich fool, the pharisee and the publican--and some which are not so familiar. Claypool shows the context of these stories in Jesus' culture, and how they were accessible to first century hearers. More important, perhaps, is that these stories are equally accessible to us. The stories are timeless

in that we also can see ourselves in them. And what we see isn't always pretty.

Claypool does an excellent job of teasing out sometimes unexpected meanings. Sometimes the parables may not mean what we think they do; they may mean very much more. Claypool's book enables the parables to be read with new and fresh eyes.

Andrew M. Seddon, Physician/Author, Billings, Montana

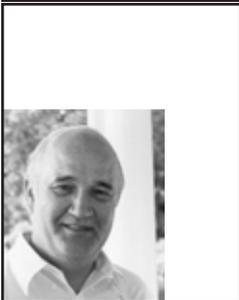


Speaking of sin : the lost language of salvation, Barbara Brown Taylor. LCCN 00047391. Cambridge: Cowley, 2000. PAP, 1561011894, \$10.95.

234. Sin; Salvation; Christianity--Terminology. 102 p.

The language of sin, laments Barbara Brown Taylor, has disappeared from many churches

A Note from the Editor: by Ray Legg



A Dilemma

I have a dilemma. It is one I have encountered before. While living in Chicago, the city decided to have a parade in honor of Viet Nam veterans. There was a great hoopla and many turned out to greet parade participants. It was quite a spectacle and it received extensive coverage in the local media.

I did not attend. When a friend asked my opinion of what was happening, I told him it was nice, but it was ten years too late. I did not want to be negative but I could not enter into the festivities as did the people around me.

I felt the same way when our troops returned from Kuwait to a hero's welcome. I felt a sense of relief to see them home but I also wanted the furor over their return to die down so we could get on with life.

Not until my son started to school did my feelings toward these matters begin to change. Unbeknownst to me, his elementary school has a special Veterans Day program as part of the day's activity. He invited me to attend. Expecting to watch the festivities from the bleachers with my son, when I got to the gym, I was invited to take a seat behind the podium with other veterans of other wars. At an appropriate time, we are asked to stand and we were given a long, hardy ovation by several hundred children, teachers, and staff members. Standing in front of that crowd, I began to weep, silently. Not long after that I began to receive cards and e-mail "Thank You" notes from a former student every Veterans Day. Tears fill my eyes then, too.

My dilemma? Why the tears? I had never

felt them before. Was it that I was finally being given what I had not received when I returned from Viet Nam in 1970? Was it because the "Thanks" was coming from my son for whom I had waited so long? Or was it just part of a long healing process that I had to go through? I am not sure even now.

If history teaches nothing else, it teaches that war and conflict are recurring themes in the human experience. But it also teaches that there are several ways to respond to the citizen-soldiers who fight the battles as they return to their homes, their families, and their jobs when the battles are over.. Poised as we are on the brink of yet another war, my hope is that the men and women called upon to fight it will never question their decision to do so, nor will we for whom they fight will ever give them pause to doubt that it was the right thing to do. My hope is that they will never be faced with a dilemma like mine. I hope their tears will be tears of joy at a job well done.

which instead emphasize. God's grace. But, she cautions, "abandoning the language of sin will not make sin go away" (p.5). Why has this happened? In *Speaking of Sin*, Taylor, an Episcopal priest, discusses why sin is no longer talked of as it once was, and she analyzes the trends of pluralism, secularism, and postmodernism that have contributed to this neglect, and the substitute terminologies that are offered in place. She looks at the human experiences that underlie sin, "sin" versus "sins," and concludes with a reflection on repentance.

Why is it important to talk about sin? Aren't there better things to discuss? Taylor notes the importance of language-if we stop speaking of something, we tend to forget about it. And sin, she says, is actually a word of hope, because when we understand our position we can comprehend better God's ability to lift us up.

She notes a change from the "language of sin" to the "language of spirituality"-sin has been "de-evolved" and is commonly referred to under metaphors, such as that of illness. But these metaphors take the sting out of sin, and remove our sense of responsibility. If we are honest with ourselves we recognize that, like Adam and Eve, we have all sinned-we have committed acts of individual and corporate disobedience, missed the mark, rebelled, and acted from wrong intent. Sin becomes a way of life.

Speaking of Sin is very easy to read and written in a conversational manner. While Taylor could, perhaps, engage in a detailed theological discussion, she resists this temptation and keeps her book simple (but not simplistic) and relevant. Her message is comprehensible and profound-she calls us back to a recognition of who we are so that God can make us what he wants us to be. Our Christian heritage is rich, and while we may not agree with all the emphases of the past, we do well to recognize foundational truths of our faith, and refuse to allow changing fads of language and metaphor to obscure or dilute their meaning.

Andrew M. Seddon, Physician/Author, Billings, Montana



***Unshakable foundations*, Norman Geisler & Peter Bocchino. LCCN 00009487. Minneapolis: Bethany House, 2001. PAP, 0764224085, \$16.99.**

239. Apologetics; Christianity--Miscellanea. 413 p.

What has happened to Absolute Truth? Has it "stumbled in the streets"? (Isaiah 59:14). Is my family equipped to defend our Christian faith in a society which promotes as "truth" the ungodly doctrines of agnosticism, relativism, and pluralism?

Norman Geisler and Peter Bocchino's new 400-page book, *Unshakable Foundations*, is a most scholarly, significant, and urgently needful book of the new millennium.

Geisler and Bocchino begin by laying a foundation for all subsequent arguments with thorough explanations of self-evident first principles of logic from Aristotelian ethics. Establishing theism as a credible worldview, the authors explain opposing worldviews (atheism and pantheism) and look at them through a theistic "lens of truth." A realistic dialogue between a Christian college student and his atheistic professor will enlighten young people.

The book concludes with five more chapters about Jesus in history, his deity, questions about ethics and morals, the true meaning of life and heaven, true misery and hell, and first principle (logical) responses to ethical questions: abortion, euthanasia, biomedical issues, and human cloning. It also contains a bibliography, scriptural index, and main index as well as charts, diagrams, illustrations, and anecdotes from life enable the reader to understand abstract concepts easily.

Unshakable Foundations belongs in every Christian library, in every Christian school, in every pastor's study, and on every Christian's bookshelf. Geisler and Bocchino have given us a masterpiece, and we need to apply it in our Christian schools, churches, and homes to teach our children to defend the Truth-before it's too late!

Rhonda Marie Lackey, Writer/Teacher/Former Librarian, Tukwila, Washington

***The New Age movement and the biblical worldview : conflict and dialogue*, John P. Newport. LCCN 97045909. Grand Rapids: Wm. B. Eerdmans, 1998. PAP, 0802944308, \$.**

239'.93. Christianity and other religions--New Age movement; New Age movement--Relations--Christianity; New Age movement. 614 p.

Sensational literature, some of dubious veracity, has proliferated modern society. To help readers understand the issues more clearly, John Newport, Professor Emeritus of Philosophy of Religion at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, examines the New Age in detail, avoiding the hype and excess found in popular works. Each chapter looks at the nuances of New Age thought, and then contrasts them with the Biblical worldview.

By its syncretistic nature, the New Age has garnered broad appeal. But it is based on foundations other than that of Christianity-some of these foundations may seem to be attractive, at first sight, but Newport points out where they fail and why the Biblical worldview is superior. Newport has presented a fact-filled reference work written in a well-reasoned manner that should stand as a significant resource on the New Age for a considerable time. The book, however, lacks a bibliography, and the index is inadequate, making it difficult to locate information quickly.

Andrew M. Seddon, Physician/Author, Billings, Montana

***Subversive Jesus, radical grace : relating Christ to a new generation*, Robert Thornton Henderson. LCCN 2001030057. Colorado Springs: NavPress, 2001. PAP, 1576832775, \$.**

243. Evangelistic work; Church work with youth; Church work with young adults; Generation X--Religious life. 192 p.

Robert Thornton Henderson introduces a cast of articulate young adults in *Subversive Jesus, Radical Grace* and comments on their conversations throughout the book. Chip is a seeker in our "vigorously secular and pagan" culture: biblically illiterate, without moral absolutes, a model of rebellion and confusion.. He agrees to meet with Christians-Kate (a university instructor), Jong (a Korean scientist), and Barbara (an African American lawyer)-to talk through his doubts and fears about Christianity, the church and Jesus Christ himself.

Henderson lists fifteen questions which he calls "the questions behind the questions that reflect the human longing for the transcendent"-that spiritual hunger that keeps a person seeking answers-and believes that the answers to these questions are "the ultimate good news."

The author would require the church to preach not only the promises and "data" of the gospel but the demands as well. He discusses the "dirty word," sin, and the violent love of the cross. He throws in a bit of history (Essenes, Zealots, Herodians, etc.). He presents the Christian community as a counterculture itself. His loose paraphrase of the ten commandments, all begin: "The good news for you is...." He discusses the mystery of the church and contrasts ways the church has failed to live the gospel (Crusades, Inquisitions, Anti-semitism, etc.) with its successes in the areas such as hope, hospitality and justice.

The group of people Henderson assembles seems somewhat contrived, but their conversations do express the questions seekers hold. Eager to reach a young generation with the gospel, Henderson offers a clear (but not simple) gospel and the need for becoming a new creation.

Jeanette Hardage, freelance writer, South Carolina

***Growing in the family : 8 vital relationships for the growing Christian*, Evan Tell; foreword by R. Larry Moyer. LCCN 00042332. Grand Rapids: Kregel Publications, 2000. PAP, 0825431735, \$.**

248.4. Christian life; Theology, Doctrinal--Popular works. 139 p.

Evan Tell is an international evangelistic association that provides outreach conferences, training seminars, and evangelism resources for churches and individuals. *Growing in the Family* is designed to be used in discipleship training classes and small group Bible studies. Individual reading is intended to prod the believer to grow in understanding one's personal understanding in the Lord. Christian church

small groups can utilize this title well, for the exercises lend themselves to group sharing and examples.

Chapters are intended to look at our relationship with God, Jesus Christ, the Holy Spirit, the Word, the Church, our families, the world, and finally, evangelism. Those needing a tool to reinforce prayer and sharing with others will find this a ready resource. The blend of reflection, biblical insight, and personal application helps to offer a title adaptable to longer periods of group discussion, and also breaks up into individual segments for personal study/prayer.

Recommended for small groups, for church libraries, and for pray-ers studying the Bible and those encouraging new believers. Church educators could utilize this with younger and older adults.

Leroy Hommerding, Library Director, Fort Myers Beach Library District, Fort Myers, Florida

★

***More than rubies : becoming a woman of Godly influence*, by Debra White Smith. LCCN 99057993. Kansas City, Mo.: Beacon Hill Press of Kansas City, 2000. PAP, 0834118130, \$12.99.**

248.8'43. Wives--Religious life; Mothers--Religious life. 147 p.

More than Rubies challenges women to become a woman of godly influence. Debra White Smith speaks from her heart, openly sharing her pain, struggles and triumphs. Like an onion, she peels away layer by layer things that distract or discourage us from being the women of God we are called to be. She invites women to seek God with their whole heart, spend consistent time in prayer, pray for their husbands and children, and evaluate their priorities. Debra White Smith asks hard questions, some that readers may not want to answer, but, if they do can bring about great change.

More than Rubies is clear and concise. Following each chapter are questions to assess where each individual reader is at regarding the issues raised in that particular chapter. Each issue is strongly based on scripture and is relevant to women of today. The real life experiences that are shared are interesting and thought provoking. This particular book could be used for personal study, or adapted for a Bible study for women who desire to become women of godly influence.

Tammy Williams, Freelance Writer, Teacher, Port Orchard, Washington

***Bright days, dark nights*, by Elizabeth Ruth Skoglund; with Charles Spurgeon; foreword by Ken Connolly. LCCN 99055498. Grand Rapids: Baker, 2000. PAP, 080106192X, \$13.99.**

248.8'6. Spurgeon, C.H. (Charles Haddon), 1834-1892; Suffering--Religious aspects--Christianity. 222 p.

Many evangelical Christians believe stress-related maladies such as depression, loneliness, and despair are signs of a weak faith. Those who struggle with emotional problems are presumed to conceal personal weakness and perhaps even a flaw in their character. Elizabeth Skoglund proves the naysayers wrong in this short book. Skoglund is a Christian, a counselor, and author and as such she demonstrates her expertise with this new offering on Charles Spurgeon, the "prince of preachers." In *Bright Days, Dark Nights*, she presents the thoughts of a great Christian statesman who struggled with emotional maladies during the highest points of his spiritual journey and during the most productive days of his expansive ministry.

English-speaking Christians recognize Spurgeon as one of their heroes of the faith: he is an icon of our faith and heritage. Many are aware that Spurgeon struggled with great bouts of depression and long times of darkness throughout his life. Skoglund does an admirable job of weaving together lengthy direct quotations from Spurgeon's letters, lectures, essays, and sermons with her own anecdotes and observations. Her research is extensive. Surprisingly, Spurgeon left us much advice about how a person of faith must approach depression, anxiety, loneliness, and other fears.

Skoglund provides introductory material for each chapter, transitional phrases between lengthy quotations, and pivotal comments to present the preacher's principles with a clear, authentic voice. The end result is a delightful book that can be consumed in short, daily devotional doses or pursued vigorously as an academic introduction to Spurgeon's "theology of psychology."

The author's previous books have focused on great Christians who overcame or struggled with mental health issues. This book continues to establish her reputation for bringing readers the advice of historic Christians to the contemporary world.

Daniel S. Brown, Ph.D., Professor of Communication, Grove City College, Grove City, Pennsylvania

***When life hurts : a three-fold path to healing*, Brian C. Stiller. LCCN 00033452. Scottsdale, Pa.: Herald Press, 2000. PAP, 0836191498, \$11.99.**

248.8'6. Suffering--Religious aspects--Christianity; Healing--Religious aspects--Christianity. 183 p.

When Life Hurts invites the reader to consider a journey to healing (note: journey to; healing is not automatic). Stiller's writing style is masterful with a way of drawing in the reader to such a point that one hardly realizes how time has passed and how far into the book one is. Stiller does not shy away from the hard questions like "Why does God allow hurt?" or "What can I do to end this pain?" or "Who will help?" The personal examples, the conviction and faith that are conveyed in the discussion, and the advice given, are so convincing that this book will become a favorite for re-reading.

Death, guilt, broken relationships, financial failure, injustice, stress, moral failure, no time, illness, change, misunderstandings, and unrealized dreams serve to draw us at one time or another to the need for a path to healing--Stiller handles each throughout the book. Adults, parents, ministers, teachers, and seekers will find genuine care and real hope. He avoids self-help formulas, New Age chants, or a plethora of psychological services--instead Stiller helps the reader see who one is and to understand our connection both to the rest of creation and to the eternal wisdom of the ages.

This title deserves a treasured place in every Christian home, and in church libraries. Those ministering to the sick can find insight and comfort. Teachers can utilize for personal enrichment as well as having an approach to handle student/family pain. When pain or crisis happens, this is a valuable resource to share.

Leroy Hommerding, Library Director, Fort Myers Beach Library District, Fort Myers, Florida

***A light in the shadows : emerging from the darkness of depression*, William L. Coleman. LCCN 00023352. Ann Arbor, Mich.: Vine, Servant, 2000. PAP, 1569551510, \$.**

248.8'625. Depression, Mental--Religious aspects--Christianity; Depressed persons--Religious life. 192 p.

The preface of *A Light in the Shadows* clearly explains what to expect from this book. "This is not an ABC book on how to defeat depression. Rather, it is a book of 'connecting,' written by someone who has been there, many times over." This book illustrates what it is to be chronically depressed, to struggle with depression, to find ways to cope and conquer depression.

William Coleman communicates the experience of depression and this book will be of use to both those who suffer from depression or to their friends and family. The reader who has experienced depression will benefit from seeing that others have had similar experiences. Friends and family may reach a better understanding of what their loved one experiences and how to react in a positive manner. Even though this book does not claim to be a self-help book or to solve the problem of depression, it assists the reader in understanding depression and presents many responses that may assist the reader in coping with depression. As the author points out, each individual is unique and what works for one, may not for another. The chapters are short, usually only two pages. This allows the reader to digest this book in small or large doses as needed.

Karla J. Castle, Public Services Librarian, Warner Pacific College, Portland, Oregon

***Holy invitations : exploring spiritual direction*, by Jeannette A. Bakke. LCCN 00027896. Grand Rapids: Baker, 2000. PAP, 0801063272, \$16.99.**

253.5'3. Spiritual direction. 287 p.

The continued interest in spirituality and spiritual growth has produced a large number of publications in the past few years. Jeannette Bakke's *Holy Invitations* is a welcome and significant addition to the mix. As an educator and practicing spiritual director she offers a helpful blend of academic research together with pragmatic insight.

Holy Invitations is the product of more than fifteen years of study, giving and receiving spiritual direction, and teaching. The book is divided into three parts: (1) an introduction to spiritual direction; (2) subjects which frequently arise in spiritual direction sessions; and, (3) possible complications and benefits derived from spiritual direction. The book ends with a thorough, annotated bibliography, which provides many avenues for further reading and reflection.

Two aspects of the book merit special mention. First, the conclusion of each chapter includes a reflection section comprised of questions and tasks, which move the reader towards further investigation. Second, Bakke uses spiritual direction scenarios throughout the book, where director and directee interact on a particular subject. Both of these features contribute to the value of the work.

In light of the fact that the concept of spiritual direction is largely unknown in evangelical Protestant circles, this is a significant book. It both challenges and informs us to the value and limitations of the spiritual direction experience.

Ted Goshulak, University Librarian, Langley, BC, Canada

Christians in a .com world : getting connected without being consumed, Gene Edward Veith, Jr. and Christopher L. Stamper. LCCN 00009617. Wheaton, Ill.: Crossway Books, 2000. PAP, 1581342187, \$.

261.5. Internet--Religious aspects--Christianity; Cyberspace--Religious aspects--Christianity. 190 p. (High school)

Christians in a .Com World, a Christian view of the Internet, serves as a good introduction to this fast growing phenomenon. The first section gives history of the computer and networking, and then tells of the beginnings and growth of the Internet. The next section discusses the pros and cons of the Internet, and the final one gives a Christian response to it, including how it can be used to further the church's work.

The book is well written for its purpose, giving the information in a way that even beginning users can understand, without talking down to them. It discusses the prizes and problems of the technology honestly, even while seeking to make a case for its use by Christians. The book includes notes, index, and a bibliography for further reading, which are helpful in exploring this topic.

The writers seem very knowledgeable about their subject and have tackled an issue that Christians need to know about and think about, as we go further into the Information Age. The

book faces the problems of the Internet with an honest Christian view, but also tells how it can be used to further the message of Christ and His church. It is a nicely done book that will help those who want to learn more about this subject.

Betsy Ruffin, Librarian/Teacher, Cleburne, Texas



Harry Potter and the Bible : the menace behind the magick, Richard Abanes. (And the Bible series; 5.) LCCN 00135126. Camp Hill, Pa.: Horizon Books, Christian Publications, 2001. PAP, 0889652015, \$11.99.

261.5. Rowling, J.K.--Criticism and interpretation; Children's literature--Religious aspects--Christianity; Potter, Harry (Fictitious character)--Religious aspects--Christianity; Children--Books and reading--Religious aspects. 275 p.

The Harry Potter books by British author J.K. Rowling have smashed sales records in the past few years. Many educators have highly praised them as captivating books that encourage children to read instead of watching TV. They have also received many challenges, particularly in school curriculum and libraries, from concerned citizens and parents. Richard Abanes, an author of other books on cults and the occult, has meticulously examined the first four books in the Harry Potter series. In *Harry Potter and the Bible: the Menace Behind the Magick* he begins with two chapters on each of the first four books in the series. The first chapter gives an excellent in-depth summary of the book, followed by a chapter that comments on the amount of material which draws on or relates to historical and current occult sources, ethical concerns about the protagonist's behavior, and the age-inappropriateness of some episodes.

In the last part of the book Abanes compares and contrasts different varieties of occult beliefs--paganism, witchcraft or Wicca, and Satanism--with their self-centered priorities. One teen-age boy's distressing experiences demonstrate the extremes to which his involvement with the occult led.

Rowling's books involve her main characters with several standard occult practices. Abanes describes the extensive promotional efforts of booksellers to market the Harry Potter books and educational specialists to use their popularity to teach children research skills--into the occult! Abanes notes that highly regarded Christians who have praised the Harry Potter books are not specialists on occult issues. He contrasts Rowling's work with the fantasy of such Christians as C.S. Lewis and J.R.R. Tolkien. Although he clearly sees the Harry Potter books as potentially dangerous, he reminds Christians with concerns to express those concerns in an informed Christian manner. Detailed endnotes include bibliographical references. No index.

Donna W. Bowling, Library/Educational Consultant, Dallas, Texas

Portraits of freedom : 14 people who came out of homosexuality, Bob Davies with Lela Gilbert. LCCN 2001024036. Downers Grove, Ill.: InterVarsity Press, 2001. PAP, 083082331X, \$.

261.8'357660922. Christian biography--United States; Homosexuality--Religious aspects--Christianity. 192 p.

This reader-friendly book contains fourteen stories addressing different aspects of homosexuality, such as loneliness, rejection, denial, and childhood sexual abuse, and gives hope for change. Davies writes, "Homosexuality is a surface symptom of more deeply rooted spiritual and emotional issues that must be resolved in order to see real and lasting change." Each story illustrates a facet of this complex problem and instills hope in the possibility for change.

Another issue addressed in the book is why one chooses to leave a homosexual lifestyle. Davies writes, "Simply seeking a straight lifestyle is a flawed motive." He urges a higher goal, one of reaching toward spiritual maturity and conforming to Christ. Then if change doesn't happen quickly enough or same-sex attraction remains for a while, there is deeper motivation to stay on the path of recovery.

The authors also reveal a source of biblical hope. Paul in 1 Corinthians 6:11 writes, "And this is what some of you were." Those in recovery see this verse as evidence and motivation for change because Paul includes homosexuality as a listed sin in the previous passage, 1 Corinthians 6:9.

This excellent resource should be in every library and home for an accurate, unbiased view of what homosexuality is, how it happens, and why an individual can choose to change.

Gail Welborn, Reporter/Freelance Writer, Everett, Washington

Going home : an invitation to Jubilee, Frank T. Griswold. (Cloister books.) LCCN 00064520. Cambridge: Cowley, 2000. PAP, 156101186X, \$8.95.

263. Christian life; Jubilee (Judaism). 81 p.

Frank Griswold is the 25th presiding bishop of the Episcopal Church in the USA, and this book is based on meditations he gave at the Episcopal General Convention in 2000. He wishes to see the concept of jubilee expressed in personal terms in congregations, dioceses, the church as a whole, and even in society. Jubilee is seen as a special example of the transforming power of Christ. To "go home" is to be in communion with Jesus. Jubilee is considered to be the center of Jesus' mission of release, freedom, reconciliation, and re-creation.

While there is much of value in this book, there is also a sense (perhaps because of its genesis) of disjointedness. The current buzzword "radical" receives frequent use. There is also a sense of uncritical acceptance and tolerance, and of relativism (as when Griswold refers to "another's truth.") Griswold is right to focus on grace, compassion, forgiveness, and

overcoming fear, blindness, and isolation, but surely Christians are called not to overlook, tolerate, or embrace the world's ills and opinions but to confront them and show God's alternative. Postmodernism asserts that all viewpoints and opinions are of equal value; Jesus asserts that he is truth. Jubilee can only come when Christ's people are committed to allowing Christ to live his life through them, to the exclusion of all other desires, motives, and agendas.

Andrew M. Seddon, Physician/Author, Billings, Montana



***Discipling nations : the power of truth to transform cultures*, by Darrow L. Miller; with Stan Guthrie. LCCN . Seattle: WYAM Publishing, .. PAP, 1576580156, \$14.99.**

266. Missions. 308 p.

"Everybody has a story," begins Darrow L. Miller in his eye-opening work *Discipling Nations*, and the story a culture believes is the key to its future. Miller, Vice President of Staff Development at Food for the Hungry International, makes his case as, with the thoroughness of a detective, the deduction of a philosopher and the insights of a theologian, he examines the three major worldviews of all time, Animism, Secularism, and Theism, and traces their influences on the cultures which embraced them. Taking the old adage "if you give a man a fish, you feed him for the day, but teach him how to fish and you've fed him for life" a step further, Miller asks what do you do if that man believes that fishing is evil?

The primary problem missions and development agencies have to solve, Miller contends, is that of the intransigencies of cultures based on false worldviews, a problem which can only truly be addressed by the power of the truth of the Gospel.

Discipling the Nations is not primarily for those contemplating a career in missions. It is a mini-course in philosophy, theology, and apologetics as it applies to every culture, including that of 21st century America. The text is attractive and large, accompanied by thoughtful illustrations that help the reader visualize the worldviews and their attributes. Miller builds his case in slow, solid stages, including study questions at the end of each chapter for those who want to absorb its contents to the fullest. The glossary at the end ensures that readers unfamiliar with philosophical and religious terminologies are on the same page as the expert; and the entire work is copiously footnoted, quoting sources from ancient works to recent magazine articles. Excellent for an adult Sunday School class or Bible study, a Christian high school course, or personal study, *Discipling Nations* is an excellent source for acquiring the tools needed to accurately understand our world and move forward in transforming it into the Kingdom of God.

Pamela A. Todd, English Teacher/Librarian, Chaldeon Christian School, Cumming, Georgia

***Missions in a new millennium : change and challenges in world missions*, W. Edward Glenny and William H. Smallman, general editors. LCCN 00062938. Grand Rapids: Kregel Publications, 2000. PAP, 0825426987, \$.**

266. Missions—Theory; Baptists—Doctrines. 411 p.

Missions in a New Millennium approaches this important subject by providing a biblical and historical foundation for new work and times in missions. Essays by various authors are grouped in three sections: Biblical Studies, Theological Studies, and Strategic Studies. The first covers the biblical foundation for missions, the second discusses doctrinal issues, and the third gives strategies in missions.

Obviously well researched, the book delves deep into the issues it covers, giving theological and historical perspectives as they relate to missions today. The authors of the pieces have impressive credentials in both missions and scholarship, and it shows in their essays. The pieces go in-depth in the area covered by each. They are not light reading, but are well worth the time and thought required for those who want to research this important subject. Study questions and chapter notes are given for each essay. Many of the notes go beyond bibliographic citation to give further information on the piece.

The book would work best as a reference shelf addition to aid those wishing for through study of mission's perspectives. It would also serve well as a textbook for study or college courses on mission foundations. There is a wealth of information here for those who want to mine it. The book serves as an encouragement to really think about Christian missions in this 21st century, a vital subject for all believers.

Betsy Ruffin, Librarian/Teacher, Cleburne, Texas



***Finney on revival*, V. Raymond Edman. LCCN 00010799. Minneapolis: Bethany House, 2000. PAP, 0764335123, \$.**

269'.2. Finney, Charles Grandison, 1792-1875; Revivals. 221 p. (College)

Although Charles Finney died more than a hundred years ago, his ideas on revival are still pertinent. This is an excellent book for anyone interested in seeing revival in their church or area.

Finney On Revival is divided into three sections: the man, the method, and the message. Edman introduces Finney to the reader in the first. The background information on his life and ministry provide the historical setting for the reader. From the day he received the Holy Spirit in 1821 until he died in 1875 he preached and taught revival. Great spiritual awakening occurred in America and Britain as a result of his

lectures on the principals of revival, which were collected and published.

In this book, Edman includes a list of sources and recommended books for reading. Some are out of print, but can still be found in libraries.

Barbara Bryden, Freelance Writer, Olympia, Washington

***Revolution! : the call to holy war*, Michael L. Brown. LCCN 00034157. Ventura, Calif.: Regal, 2000. PAP, 0830726403, \$.**

269'.2. Evangelistic work--United States; Revivals--United States; Revolution--Religious aspects--Christianity. 339 p.

Author Michael Brown fills thirteen chapters with God's call to evangelize in His Name. Each chapter draws on Scripture, current research, and Brown's personal experiences to make its points. *Revolution!* is a worthy effort, dedicated to a worthy cause. What Christian believer can remain unmoved or unexcited about living a life of achievement and fruitfulness for Him?

Revolution! The Call to Holy War is a perplexing book. Despite all of its strong points, it remains a plodding, difficult reading experience. With so many excellent points, it is frustrating to report that the work could afford to be much shorter. Brown's intended audiences are already believers in Jesus Christ. He belabors each point he raises, and defends them in a plethora of ways, but I am sure he will impact this generation. That impact will be implemented through a work that more truly captures his energy and passion for God's Kingdom.

Kirk Hunt, Instructor, Pima County Community College-Business & Industry Division, Tucson, Arizona

***My soul in silence waits : meditations on Psalm 62*, Margaret Guenther. (Cloister books.) LCCN 00043191. Cambridge: Cowley, 2000. PAP, 1561011819, \$9.95.**

269'.6. Bible. O.T. Psalms LXII--Criticism, interpretation, etc.; Spiritual retreats. 139 p.

In our hurried world it can be hard to slow down, wait, and listen for God's voice in the silence. Spiritual director Margaret Guenther begins her latest book with a call for us to retreat from the bustle and crowds that surround us and seek out a time of spiritual renewal. Even Jesus found it necessary to break away from the constant demands made upon him. There are different ways of taking a retreat—one need not even leave home—and *My Soul in Silence Waits* is adaptable to a variety of formats.

Guenther offers eight meditations on Psalm 62 that have themes of waiting on God's presence with patience, trust, and expectation. Her chapters are on longing, silence, waiting, imagining, enemies, refuge, weighing in, and listening. The psalms have been beloved by Christians for millennia, and Psalm 62 is a considered to be a contemplative psalm.

Guenther is a well-known spiritual director and this book is written in a manner that offers direction and insight. It is a book well suited to its task of being accessible for a personal retreat.

Andrew M. Seddon, *Writer and Physician, Billings, Montana*



***I am a Palestinian Christian*, Mitri Raheb; translated by Ruth C.L. Gritsch; with a foreword by Rosemary Radford Ruether. LCCN 95005483. Minneapolis: Fortress, Augsburg Fortress, 1995. PAP, 080062663X, \$16.00.**

275.694. Raheb, Mitri; Palestine in Christianity; Christianity--Palestine; Palestine in the Bible; Israel (Christian theology); Palestine--Church history--20th century. 164 p.

In *I Am a Palestinian Christian*, Mitri Raheb, Pastor of the Evangelical Lutheran Christmas Church in Bethlehem, presents the reality of the Palestinian Christian community which has existed since before the invasion of Islam. Dr. Raheb was born and grew up in Bethlehem, which had been a nominally Christian area for many centuries. In the first part of his book, "On Being a Palestinian Christian," he highlights events in the history of the region particularly relevant to his own experience as an individual, and to the minority Christian Palestinian community in general.

In Part Two, "On Interpreting the Bible in the Israeli-Palestinian Context," he discusses key theological assumptions regarding Israel (e.g. election, land), which are commonly held in Israel and the West, and suggests biblically-based alternative perspectives. He concludes with his hopeful dream of justice and peaceful cooperation between Israel and an Arab Palestinian state where believers in the three monotheistic religions live in their historical homeland with mutual respect.

This book was translated from German and many of the citations are from German sources. (The author's theological education was in post-Holocaust Germany.) Dr. Raheb has traveled and spoken in the United States, as well. Appendices include texts of official documents plus statements by church leaders decrying violence, followed by endnotes, bibliography, and an index of Bible citations and references.

Donna W. Bowling, *Graduate Institute of Applied Linguistics Library, Dallas, Texas*

***Boiling point : it only takes one degree : monitoring cultural shifts in the 21st century*, George Barna and Mark Hatch. LCCN 00045978. Ventura, Calif.: Regal, Gospel Light, 2001. HBB, 0830726500, \$; PAP, 0830726519, \$.**

277.3'083'01. Christianity--United States; Twenty-first century--Forecasts; Church growth--United States; United States--Church history. 327 p.

George Barna is well known for producing specialized research about religious trends, cultural movements, and other developments on the spiritual landscape since the mid-1980s through his Barna Research Group and the Barna Institute. *Boiling Point* is a follow-up to Barna's earlier book, *The Frog in the Kettle*. The current book, co-authored with futurist and entrepreneur Mark Hatch, is written in a

conversational tone and echoes both Alvin Toffler [*Powershift* (1991) and *Futureshock* (1991)] and John Naisbitt [*Megatrends* (1982) and *Megatrends 2000* (1991)]. The difference in the Barna and Hatch book is, of course, that they are writing with an unapologetic Christian worldview to an audience of culturally sensitive Christian leaders.

The premise of *Boiling Point* is simple: The Church, rather than being distinct from and a challenge to the prevalent culture, is most often indistinguishable from mass culture. Drawing upon extensive sociological research (some original from the Barna Group, some from government or other sources) the authors repeatedly establish their position while defining trends in population growth, lifestyles, values, technology, entertainment, medicine, and faith.

A foundational chapter entitled "America's Evolving Values" outlines the changes that have occurred within the culture and the church as we have moved away from a moral consensus (there are moral absolutes and we can know them) to the prevailing belief (there is no truth). Since truth no longer is believed to exist, all that matters is meeting the individual's short-term (often economic) goals rather. The greater needs of a culture, society, or an eternal idea (i.e., truth) have become irrelevant.

Barna and Hatch provide anecdotal, statistical, and personal evidence that these changes have occurred within the church and other Christian institutions. Far from painting a dark picture and wandering away to leave their readers to ponder our bleak future, the authors provide outstanding, thoughtful guidelines and suggestions at the end of each chapter. They provide a thought-provoking look at the future of the Kingdom of God and, perhaps more importantly, they issue clear pastoral challenges to all of us to make a difference in today's world.

Daniel S. Brown, Ph.D., *Professor of Communication, Grove City College, Grove City, Pennsylvania*



***Your people shall be my people*, Don Finto. LCCN 00045979. Ventura, Calif.: Regal, 2001. PAP, 0830726535, \$.**

289.9. Jewish Christians. 204 p.

Don Finto uses the story of Ruth as a symbol of Christians who have come to faith in Jesus. Ruth pledged to Naomi that your people shall be my people. Ruth left all of her Moabitish ways behind and married Boaz. Unlike Ruth, the church accepted Jesus, but choose not to leave her Gentile ways behind. As persecution of the Jews increased, the early Christian church sought to separate themselves from their Jewish roots. Unwilling to be linked to Jewish tradition, the church soon demanded Jewish believers become Gentile in their outlook and practices. In their fear the Gentile Church forgot they were grafted into Israel.

Finto presents a strong argument for reconciliation, and he encourages the reader to ask God for forgiveness for his sins and the sins of his ancestors against Israel.

Well written, *Your People Shall Be My People* progresses through the centuries to present an overview of the Gentile Church and its relationship with God's chosen people. Finto calls the church to look beyond individual denominations to the King.

Finto provides scripture references to back his views. Each chapter has extensive endnotes. There are four appendixes. Appendix one is an explanation of Toward Jerusalem Council II. This is followed with recommended reading, a list of Messianic Jewish movements and congregations, and a statement of repentance to the Jewish people in America and the nations of the world.

Barbara Bryden, *Freelance Writer, Olympia, Washington*

300's—Social Sciences

***The executed God : the way of the cross in lockdown America*, Mark Lewis Taylor. LCCN 2001018775. Minneapolis: Fortress, Augsburg Fortress, 2001. PAP, 0800632834, \$16.00.**

364.6'0973. Punishment--Religious aspects--Christianity; Imprisonment--Religious aspects--Christianity; Capital punishment--Religious aspects--Christianity; Criminal justice, Administration of--United States; Christianity and justice--United States. 208 p.

Theologians have spoken of Jesus' death as a crucified God, but Taylor here suggests that it is helpful to speak of an executed God. Why this difference? Taylor discusses the similarities between the current prison system in the United States and that of imperial Rome, where Jesus and His followers were considered a criminal element. The state sanctioned Jesus' killing and Taylor challenges the reader to evaluate if our view of God and our stance on capital punishment is compatible. If ancient Rome used crucifixion to deter and control the poor and slaves, is our culture of "lockdown society" doing anything less?

Taylor portrays our prisons as unjust and often racist. He addresses prison rape, long sentences, and capital punishment, using the example of Jesus as a means of transforming this system in need of repair and change. He suggests that as more and more people are in prison, our freedom for society as a whole is diminished. Christians are challenged to review their position on capital punishment, and whether this is really in line with what Jesus invites us to.

Recommended as a powerful title for parish and congregation libraries, for study groups, and for individual reading. His active, passionate discussion makes for a controversial and moving read.

Leroy Hommerding, *Fort Myers Beach Library District*

600's—Technology (Applied Sciences)

***Coaching your kids in the game of life*, by Ricky Byrdson; with Dave and Neta Jackson; foreword by Lute Olson. LCCN 0008001. Minneapolis: Bethany House, 2000. HBB, 0764223534, \$17.99.**

649'.1. Child rearing; Parenting; Parent and child. 228 p.

Byrdson's message is loud and clear: parents need to create a team with a purpose. They need to call out their kids, give them a vision for who they can be and what they can do, and then equip them to do it. Such an aim is a tall order! However the author, now deceased having died in a random shooting, lived a family life that makes the advice and suggestions applicable and true. Ideas offered for parents are couched in the language of basketball and coaching for Byrdson spent 18 years as a college basketball coach while also raising with his wife, Sherilyn, three children. The language can help to reach more male readers.

Playing for keeps, skills and drills, rules of the game, rebounding, half-time adjustments—these approaches illustrate some of the chapters that all help to offer advice in a manner that is enlightening and easy to digest. This title will serve well in public library collections, as well as on the shelves of home libraries. Churches could utilize this for parents of teenagers as well as for their teachers. The advice is practical and endeavors to teach teamwork, tolerance, discipline, and love.

Leroy Hommerding, Director, Fort Myers Beach P.L. District, Fort Myers, Florida

***Dare to raise exceptional children : give your kids a sense of purpose, a sense of adventure, and a sense of humor*, by Clint Kelly. LCCN 2001270707. Tulsa, Okla.: Albany, 2001. PAP, 157778152X, \$12.99.**

649.1. Parenting; Parenting--Religious aspects--Christianity; Parent and child; Family. 226 p.

Advocating a worldview of parents and children who can be friends during growing up years, Kelly brings a refreshing new look to child rearing at a time when only 67% of our nations' children can talk about, "life with father," according to, Gallup News Service April 1999. Kelly's reader friendly suggestions, embellished with his unique humor enable sixteen chapters with snappy titles like, "How To Be Crazy Without Going There," and "Budding Sexuality and How To Nip It," draw the reader to Kelly's philosophical stance.

Readers will smile in agreement at humorous anecdotes that illustrate his role as head of the house, a position he fills with reality checks, honesty, and love. He considers his family his flock, treating them with humility and tenderness coupled with how the real world works through examples of work and play. He writes, "Let the children taste the salt of your tears and be tenderized by them."

The book gives parents tools and examples to help their children work, cope and survive when they enter adulthood. Kelly gives tips on how to

appreciate your child as a unique individual, one God created for a specific plan and purpose.

Gail Welborn, Reporter/Freelance Writer, Everett, Washington.

700's—The Arts and Recreation

***No compromise : the life story of Keith Green, Melody Green and David Hazard*. LCCN 00268659. Eugene, Ore.: Harvest House, 2000. PAP, 0736903194, \$.**

782.25'164'092. Green, Keith, 1953--; Contemporary Christian musicians--United States--Biography. 382 p.

Nearly twenty years after the death of her husband, Melody Green shares Keith's life story with us in *No Compromise*—the good and bad, the ups and downs of a musical career, his search for spiritual truth, and later, his expanding ministry to the lost, and controversial challenges for Christian leaders. Reading about Keith's intense devotion to God, this book does what Keith did in life—challenge us to seek a closer walk with God the Father, and to honor Christ through our actions, not just words.

Read this book and you will be changed. Photos appear throughout the book with numerous excerpts from Keith's personal journals; chapters bear titles from Keith and Melody's songs. To see Melody's speaking schedule or to get Keith's music, visit www.LastDaysMinistries.org.

Kimm Swenson Gollnick, Writer, Speaker, and Teacher (Marion Independent Schools), Marion, Iowa

800's—Literature & Rhetoric

***Reading the classics with C.S. Lewis*, by Thomas L. Martin. LCCN 00058680. Grand Rapids: Baker Academic, 2000. PAP, 0801022347, \$.**

823'.912. Lewis, C. S. (Clive Staples), 1898-1953--Knowledge--Literature; English literature--History and criticism--theory, etc.; Criticism--England--History--20th century. 410 p.

Readers of C.S. Lewis are drawn to his works for a number of reasons. Some enjoy his style; others, his ability to create worlds and people them with beings who are at once as familiar to us as they are foreign. Still others are intrigued with the depth of his intellect and the breadth of his knowledge. But how did Lewis come to have such broad appeal? What went into making him what Michael Price calls "a 20th century Samuel Johnson"?

Critics have long held that the key to understanding the appeal of Lewis can be found in his ability to incorporate the greatest characteristics of "Classic" literature into his own masterpieces. In other words, he learned from what he read. That perspective is the one from which *Reading the Classics with C.S. Lewis*, edited by Thomas Martin, is written. Because, as Martin believes, reading both informs the way we think and helps us understand the thinking of others, he has compiled a series of 20 essays by noteworthy scholars (among them, Leland Ryken-Wheaton College and Gene Edward Veith-Concordia University), each of which is intended to

enhance the reader's understanding of Lewis and his writing. Beginning with Ryken's "Reading Literature With C.S. Lewis," and ending with Martin's own, "Lewis: a Critical Prospective," the essays reflect the same breadth of interest as the works of Lewis themselves. That said, readers should not be put off some of the topics because they are either too critical or not critical enough. That is the genius of Lewis reflected in criticism of him and his writing.

This book of essays will be of interest to all readers of C.S. Lewis. It will serve fan, student, and scholar alike, and maybe, just maybe, it will also encourage greater diversity in the interests of its readers.

Dr. Raymond E. Legg, Asst. Professor/English, Dayton, Tennessee

***Children of disobedience : the love story of Martin Luther and Katharina von Bora*, by Asta Scheib ; translated by David Ward. LCCN 97033475. New York: Crossroad, 2000. PAP, 0824516958, \$19.95.**

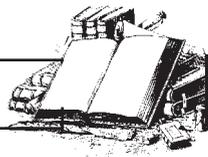
833'.914. Luther, Martin, 1483-1546--Fiction; Luther, Katharina von Bora, 1499-1552--Fiction. 242 p.

On April 4, 1523, nine young nuns slip out of Cloister Marienthron's dormitory determined to find freedom in the outside world. Leonhard Koppe is waiting for them with a wagon. If he is caught he will be killed. Katharina von Bora's father sent her to the cloister when she was five years old. Now nearly twenty years later she has chosen to escape. The nuns have all read the copies of Martin Luther's papers smuggled into the cloister. Luther's papers have given them the courage to leave.

Asta Scheib describes the anger directed against these *Children of Disobedience*. Scheib's knowledge of life in the early 16th century is extensive. Hardships of the time, illnesses and their cures, relationships between husbands and wives are all included as is life in a cloister. Although the nuns were forbidden to even think of anything sexual, that did not stop them. Scheib includes detailed descriptions of the sexual activity in the cloister.

Scheib uses many flashbacks to tell the story, however they are not necessarily in chronological order. The story is told from Katharina's point of view and ends with Luther's death.

Barbara Bryden, Freelance Writer, Olympia, Washington



000's—Generalities

The Facts on File dictionary of computer science, edited by Valerie Illingworth, John Daintith. (Facts on File science library.) LCCN 00055555. New York: Facts on File, 2001. HBB, 0816042853, \$; PAP, 0816042861, \$.

004'.03. Computer science--Dictionaries. 249 p.

Covering topics from Active X to mapped drives to zip, *The Facts on File Dictionary of Computer Science* can aid anyone who uses computers to learn the language, but it will be especially helpful to students and schools dealing with this area.

The dictionary has more than 1500 entries and has programming languages, World Wide Web terms, personal computer terms, and error/command terms and others among its listings. About 50 line drawings and tables help illustrate ideas including network configurations, flowcharts, and others. An appendix section includes domain names, file extensions, number conversions.

The dictionary goes into some depth in computer terminology. Its extensive listings delve into high-level concepts, and because of this some terms will be hard for casual computer users to understand. However, the reference is a valuable tool to anyone who deals with computers on a regular basis, even the amateurs.

Betsy Ruffin, Librarian/Teacher, Cleburne, Texas

200's—Religion



The Kregel pictorial guide to the Bible, Tim Dowley. LCCN 00042331. Grand Rapids: Kregel, 2000. PAP, 082542464X, \$.

220.5'1. Bible--Handbooks, manuals, etc. 32 p.

The Kregel Pictorial Guide to the Bible is more appropriately the guide to the life of the people in biblical times. Amazingly clear illustrations carefully detail the many aspects of historical Bible life. The tent of meeting, God's house, the Synagogue, and a normal household have cutaway illustrations that include labeled descriptions. Color maps enable the reader to see various lands and boundaries of the territory that Jesus and his ancestors traveled. Styles of clothing are portrayed for both men and women with an explanation of how some of the various articles were worn. Charts list the Kings and prophets, the parables of Jesus and the miracles of Jesus plus the corresponding books of the Bible.

Associated with the University of Manchester, Dr. Tim Dowley has written an informative yet

brief explanation of how the Bible was first written along with an interesting peek into early Christians' lifestyle. Not only is an index included but also a short glossary of who was who in the Old and New Testaments.

Connie J. Weaver, Church and Reference Librarian, Newville, Pennsylvania

Kregel Bible handbook : a full-color guide to every book of the Bible, by William F. Kerr. LCCN 00042330. Grand Rapids: Kregel, 2000. PAP, 0825429862, \$.

220.6'1. Bible--Handbooks, manuals, etc. 160 p.

This pocket-sized reference guide is filled with interesting facts, charts, photographs, and historical details. It begins by describing the uniqueness of the Bible among all other books, with specifics that bring truth to light and gives the believer a very useful tool. Every book of the Bible is presented, from the Old Testament through the New. It introduces the possible authorship, the historical background, and the main themes of each book. A study guide outline is also presented for each book that gives the reader a clear picture of the unfolding themes and subjects covered. Excellent maps present a visual guide to important events throughout biblical history, such as the ancient near east in Old Testament times, the actual route the Israelites took out of Egypt, the Divided Kingdom spoken of in 1 and 2 Chronicles, Paul's journeys, etc.

William Kerr does an excellent job including fascinating pictures of ancient landmarks and monuments, as well as modern life in this ancient land. An index of illustrations is included in the back. *Kregel Bible Handbook* is a very useful tool for the Bible student as well as the curious new believer. Its 160 pages are presented in a small, compact size, easy to read and chock full of information and visual delights.

Mary McKinney, Former Teacher, Freelance Writer, Editor, Port Orchard, Washington

The Kregel pictorial guide to church history, John D. Hannah. LCCN . Grand Rapids: Kregel, 2000. PAP, 0825427983, \$.

270.1. Church history. 24 p.

Professor of Historical Theology, John D. Hannah writes a very abbreviated history of the Church. Colored pictures, maps, and photographs help the reader to see some of the Church's past. A pullout time-line covers the early Church of A.D. 33 to the present Church of 1983. *The Kregel Pictorial Guide to Church History* discusses how the early Church began,

the emergence of Islam, the Crusades, the Church of England, the Methodist Movement, and the decline of Evangelicalism. Noteworthy men who are mentioned are: Martin Luther, John Wycliffe, Menno Simons, William Tyndale, John Wesley, and Dwight L. Moody.

This 24 page book is written at a college level using theological terminology. An index is included. Due to the brevity of the book, certain areas of the Church's history are only able to be given a few words.

Connie J. Weaver, Church and Reference Librarian, Newville, Pennsylvania

Concise dictionary of the occult and New Age, Debra Lardie; Roy B. Zuck, consulting editor. LCCN 96030481. Grand Rapids: Kregel, 1999. HBB, 0825430909, \$.

299'.93. Occultism--Encyclopedias; New Age movement--Encyclopedias. 302 p.

This dictionary admirably presents the claims of individuals, groups, and religions that come under the umbrella of New Age. It presents the diverse New Age and occult beliefs, and gives Christians the opportunity to see their claims in relation to Christian beliefs and practices. This easy-to-use reference highlights the background and ideas of ancient and modern New Age and occult movements, including an explanation of the symbols and icons used in jewelry and clothing referring to the occult.

Appendices enable the reader to review Scriptural passages relating to these New Age or occult beliefs, and also offer the methods and procedures to assure that Scripture is interpreted in line with what God's Word teaches.

Recommended for Christian colleges and high schools. Helpful for those adults seeking to grasp the place of New Age/occult influence in the world, and how to adequately recognize its roots and manifestations. The descriptions found in the A to Z listing empowers Christians to deal with the positive and negative developments in these cults.

Leroy Hommerding, Director, Fort Myers Beach P.L. District, Fort Myers, Florida

500's—Natural Sciences & Mathematics

Encyclopedia of world scientists, Elizabeth H. Oakes. LCCN 00029419. New York: Facts on File, 2000. HBB, 081604120X, \$.

509.2'2. Scientists--Biography--Encyclopedias. 450 p.

The Encyclopedia of World Scientists is a comprehensive reference tool for learning about 500 famous scientists and their work. It includes the well-known scientific giants of

history as well as contemporary scientists gaining respectability, including over 200 female and minority scientists.

Entries are arranged alphabetically by surname with around a 750-word essay detailing basic biographical information and an explanation of their work. One will meet the discoverer of radioactivity, Boyle's law, the inventors of the light bulb and computer, and be treated to insights such as what determines whether a living person will be male or female.

Closing pages offer a listing of the scientists by field, e.g. astrophysics or meteorology, by year of birth, by country of birth, and also by the country of their major scientific activity. A timeline lets the reader/researcher visualize chronologically the time the scientists lived starting in 400 B.C. to the present. An index is of particular help in locating scientists when one knows only the subject or interest. Recommended for all Christian school libraries from high school and beyond.

Leroy Hommerding, Director, Fort Myers Beach P.L. District, Fort Myers, Florida

The Facts on File dictionary of earth science, edited by John O.E. Clark and Stella Stiegeler. LCCN 00061772. New York: Facts on File, 2000. HBB, 081604287X, \$; PAP, 0816042888, \$.

550'.3. Earth sciences--Dictionaries. 362 p.

This easy-to-use and authoritative dictionary with over 3400 entries in A to Z format covers the terminology of earth science. The short appendix lists the chemical elements. One can find the familiar, e.g., dew-point, and the not so familiar, e.g., diastrophism. Both are explained in a way that enables high school students and beyond to grasp the meaning.

Diastrophism is defined as movement within the lithosphere, including folding, faulting, orogenesis ... The student could check the entries for lithosphere, folding, faulting, or orogenesis in case any of these are unfamiliar. One hundred line drawings illustrate some of the more complex concepts.

Since this edition, based on an edition first published in 1976, was extensively revised and extended, Christian schools can feel comfortable in adding this as a reference resource that will last at least three to five years.

Leroy Hommerding, Director, Fort Myers Beach P.L. District, Fort Myers, Florida

Marine science on file, the Diagram Group. (Facts on File science library.) LCCN 00047686. New York: Facts on File, 2001. LLE, 0816042519, \$.

551.46. Marine sciences. 1 v. (loose-leaf).

This extensive binder on the subject of marine science is inclusive. It is a valuable study resource for students or teachers and is divided into nine principal sections. Also included are appendices, a comprehensive glossary, and an index. The material is written on an adult level

but could be comprehended by a high school student. The information is clear and concise and the format makes it instantly accessible. The loose-leaf sheets are designed to be photocopied, which makes studying or teaching these up-to-date facts and figures a simple procedure.

Marine Science on File is arranged to be used in three ways. First of all, it is a guide to the structure and disciplines concerned with the oceans. Secondly, it is an accurate source dealing with the terminology and underlying science of those disciplines, and thirdly, it is a practical source of maps and data, and is filled with explanatory diagrams for use in classwork, homework, or other study assignments.

Four useful appendices enhance the function of this file: conversion tables, a glossary, an index, as well as an extensive Internet Resource which provides website addresses for major organizations and institutions involved in the field of marine science and ocean management. An excellent resource for anyone interested in or studying this field of marine science.

Ceil Carey, Young Adult Librarian, Plano, Illinois

Weather and climate on file, the Diagram Group. (Facts on File science library.) LCCN 00062299. New York: Facts on File, 2001. LLE, 0816043965, \$.

551.5'022'3. Meteorology--Charts, diagrams, etc.; Climatology--Charts, diagrams, etc. 1 v. (loose-leaf).

Weather and Climate on File places up-to-date weather and climate facts and figures for quick reference in loose-leaf photocopyable sheets in a three ring binder format. Illustrated and explained are the structure of the atmosphere (clouds, winds, types of precipitation and optical phenomena) and the mechanisms of weather systems (pressure belts and air masses to cyclones and weather fronts).

By describing the world's extremes of temperatures and rainfall, and the devastating phenomena of hurricanes, tornadoes, floods, and droughts, students will be drawn to understand the terminology and underlying scientific principles.

Teachers can utilize its review of the impact of human activities on the atmosphere, weather, and climate to foster practical application and make the summary reference charts a tool for projects.

How does rainfall vary (see section 2.30), when were billion-dollar US floods (see 4.20), what meteorological instruments are used in weather prediction (see 5.07) and what is the weather like in any of 80 world cities or 100 US cities (see chapters 7 and 8).

Appendices offer conversion tables, a glossary of weather terms and Internet resources for more links to information. Recommended for Christian high schools, as it's a practical resource for use in class, homework, and for individual study.

Leroy Hommerding, Director, Fort Myers Beach P.L. District, Fort Myers, Florida

Animal life cycles : growing up in the wild, Tony Hare. (Facts on File natural science library.) LCCN 00069191. New York: Facts on File, 2001. HBB, 081604595X, \$; PAP, 0816045968, \$.

571.8'19. Mammals--Life cycles. 160 p.

Ranging from the common hamster to the endangered giant panda, *Animal Life Cycles* introduces the life patterns of some seventy species of mammals. Each animal highlighted represents a lifestyle successful in its environment, and each profile offers information on the reproduction, birth, parental care, and growth of the species. The alphabetical A to Z presentation also discusses the strategies that these animals have developed, their interaction with members of the same species, and how they with ingenuity and wonder survive.

Text is attractively laid out and enables one to focus on central points. Each animal has a chart that outlines their 'from birth to death' cycle, and another section focuses on amazing or interesting facts about the animal. Each animal receives two pages of coverage and the center diagrams in color the life pattern.

Genuses of the mammals are covered on one page in the rear of the book, and an index makes it easy to locate mammals under different names.

Christian high schools and libraries can utilize this title with confidence. The multiple points of interest for each animal help to reach a wider audience.

Leroy Hommerding, Director, Fort Myers Beach P.L. District, Fort Myers, Florida

Deserts, Michael Allaby. (Ecosystem.) LCCN 00041749. New York: Facts on File, 2001. HBB, 0816039291, \$45.00.

577.54. Deserts. 214 p.

Want to see deserts in a different and more informed manner? Then try Allaby's title. *Deserts*, a volume in the Ecosystem series, begins by describing where on Earth deserts are found and the ways in which one type of desert differs from another. A major part of the continuing and intriguing discussion deals with the economics of desert nations and industries, the possibilities of climatic change, and the management of desert lands.

While a fair amount of scientific and technical detail enters into the discussion, the information is presented clearly and is simple enough for high schoolers to follow. Technical terms are generally avoided, though where needed they are defined in simple language. A list of sources at the end of the books enables further information. Colorful pictures and charts interspersed throughout the presentation makes it visually appealing in addition to the textual information.

Recommended for Christian school libraries and for home schooling families seeking a comprehensive and timely approach to deserts, and for libraries seeking to have a current work on this subject that is both a tribute to fine scholarship and easy to understand.

Leroy Hommerding, Director, Fort Myers Beach P.L. District, Fort Myers, Florida

***Dragonflies through binoculars : a field guide to dragonflies of North America*, by Sidney W. Dunkle. (Butterflies [and others] through binoculars field guide series.) LCCN 99034854. New York: Oxford University Press, 2000. PAP, 0195112687, \$.**

595.733'0973. Dragonflies--United States--Identification; Dragonflies--Canada--Identification. 266 p.

Sydney Dunkle, Professor of Biology at Collin County Community College in Texas, has put together an extremely useful field guide to the dragonflies of North America. With over 300 species covered, this guide provides both detailed species accounts as well as forty-seven color plates; it is in a class of its own. The species accounts, while focusing on user identification in the field, also present detailed information on breeding habitat, flight season, mating rituals, and behavior patterns of these elusive creatures. The color plates consist of photographs, many of whose images have not previously been published elsewhere, as well as range maps on the facing pages. Prior to the species accounts is a thirty-page introduction; this section alone is worth the price of the book. Here, Dunkle gives the reader a concise overview of the life cycle, anatomy (with diagrams), behavior, habitat requirements, geographic distribution, and conservation needs of this family of insects. He also presents helpful information on building your own backyard pond in order to attract dragonflies, and photography tips for capturing these critters on film. Overall this is truly a working field guide; all you need are binoculars and time in nature to watch and identify!

Ted Goshulak, University Librarian, Langley, British Columbia, Canada

***Butterflies of British Columbia, Washington, Oregon and Idaho*, Crispin S. Guppy and John H. Shepard. LCCN 2001430829. Vancouver: UBC Press, 2001. HBB, 0774808098, \$95.00.**

595.78'9'09711. Butterflies--British Columbia; Butterflies--Northwest, Pacific. 414 p.

***The birds of British Columbia, vol.4*, by R. Wayne Campbell... [et al.]. LCCN 91167436. Vancouver: UBC Press, UBC Press, 2001. HBB, 0774806214, \$125.00.**

598'.09711. Birds--British Columbia.

While both of these books are regional in nature, they represent the increasing number of high level "guides" which are presently coming on to the literary marketplace. Guppy and Shepard's work covers 187 species, 264 subspecies as well

as nine hypothetical species found in the Pacific Northwest; this represents the largest and most diverse butterfly fauna in Canada. With 1200 color photographs as well as distribution maps, glossary and bibliography, this book represents a leap forward as a source for naturalists, biologists, and butterfly watchers and gardeners. In addition to an extensive general introduction to the study of butterflies, the authors provide a complete reassessment of the taxonomy of the species. The species accounts are thorough, informative and readable.

The Birds of British Columbia is the culmination of more than twenty-five years of researching and writing by the seven main authors. With the assistance of over 11,000 volunteers they have created a massive database, which forms the foundation of the four-volume work. Volume 4 describes 102 species of birds found in British Columbia, including warblers, sparrows, grosbeaks, blackbirds, and finches. Hundreds of color illustrations, maps and photographs, together with detailed species accounts provide the reader with a well-rounded understanding of the diversity and complexity of this piece of geography. Ian McTaggart-Cowan, one of the primary authors, was featured in a recent Vancouver Sun article. At the age of ninety-one, this biologist, zoologist and Dean Emeritus (Graduate Studies), UBC, is going strong, and exemplifies the dedication put in this cumulative work. While the first volume contained a history of ornithological study in B.C. as well as the environment of the province in general, this fourth volume ends with a synoptic look at the status of the birds of B.C. going into the 21st century. The data and information gathered in the four volumes is synthesized into a challenging look at the conservation needs of the new millennium.

As examples of well-researched and well-written natural history guides, both of these works display great acumen. The authors, as professors in their fields, have gathered together impressive amounts of information and presented them in a manner which is definitive yet readable.

Ted Goshulak, University Librarian, Langley, British Columbia, Canada

***Animal habitats : discovering how animals live in the wild*, Tony Hare. (Facts on File natural science library.) LCCN 00068132. New York: Facts on File, 2001. HBB, 0816045933, \$; PAP, 0816045941, \$.**

599.1564. Mammals--Habitat; Mammals--Adaptation. 192 p.

Hare has taken a representative cross section of mammals to show how the requirements of varying habitats have led to different forms of animal behavior. Each of the fifty entries describes the habitat characteristic to the animal and how it copes with ecological factors such as shrinking natural surroundings, seasonal migration, and competition for feeding grounds.

Color photographs enable the reader to not only be sure what the mammals looks like, but also how it lives in its habitat. Charts, special inserts, and highlighted areas call attention to pertinent and interesting facts. A 'neighbors' illustration pictures related creatures in the mammal's habitat.

The A to Z alphabetical organization of mammals in the book plus the index enables even junior high students to readily find a particular animal. The overall layout keeps the attention of the reader who likely will make discoveries about a mammal.

Recommended for Christian junior and high schools and a helpful title for school and home libraries.

Leroy Hommerding, Director, Fort Myers Beach P.L. District, Fort Myers, Florida

800's—Literature & Rhetoric

***The company of the creative : a Christian reader's guide to great literature and its themes*, by David L. Larsen. LCCN 99036565. Grand Rapids: Kregel Publications, 1999. ISBN 0825430976, HBB, \$29.99.**

809. Literature--History and criticism; Christian literature--History and criticism; Christians--Books and reading; Christianity and literature; Literature--Themes, motives; Best books. 639 p.

For years Professor David L. Larsen taught a course in "Preaching Resources in Literature." *The Company of the Creative* reflects the content of that course in a "theologically nuanced look at books and plays that have made a difference" as they impacted our culture. Chapter one sets forth "What's at stake in Christian exposure to great literature?" Beginning with the Greek and Roman classics, succeeding chapters are arranged chronologically, with further divisions by literary genre and nationality as needed. Chapters are further divided into sections and subsections, with separate subsections on more than 250 individual authors. Author subsections typically run from one to three pages, beginning with a short quotation from that author. To assist in understanding their works, Larsen presents something about the family background (including religious association) and physical, emotional, moral and theological difficulties experienced by each author at different periods in his or her life. Major works and their themes are briefly discussed, with perhaps a paragraph apiece. (Many subsections conclude with bulleted paragraphs about other authors dealing with similar concerns.) Notes at the end of each subsection include supporting bibliographical references, recommendations for further study on the author, and occasional additional quotations from that author. The only illustrations are seven black-and-white timelines interspersed as relevant within the text. For each time period, three parallel lines feature "A:

Historical Events; B: Arts and Philosophy; C: Revelation and Preaching."

Significant works discussed by Larsen include history, biography, philosophy, and science, as well as poetry, drama, novels, and essays. Among the 250 authors are representatives from areas within Europe, Russia, Asia, and Latin America., along with several African-Americans, and twenty-four women. Separate chapters discuss key subjects of biographies, and works concerning the Jews and Israel. The chapter on Shakespeare features individual subsections discussing eight of his plays and their themes. Having taught for years at Trinity Evangelical Divinity School, Larsen frequently editorializes as he considers the views of the various authors on such issues as the deity of Jesus Christ and His saving work on the cross. But his regret about those who do not share his theological views does not prevent him from acknowledging the significance of their insights into the human condition. Larsen's style is necessarily condensed, but the subsection subtitles, with their frequent alliteration, reflect creativity.

In a Christian high school or college library, *The Company of the Creative* could appropriately stand beside *Invitation to the Classics*, another work from a Christian point of view (CLJ 5 (1): 67). Although many of the authors in *Invitation* also are discussed in *Company*, their treatment is quite different. *Company* emphasizes personal background of the literary authors, while *Invitation* goes into much greater detail on individual titles. This reviewer found a few errors in *Company* which suggest alertness in using such a valuable title. Appendices include "Suggestions for Further Reading," and "Greek and Roman Mythology." Includes an extensive select name index; select title indexes for poems and collections of poetry, and for prose and theatrical works; a subject index; and a timeline index.

Donna W. Bowling, Graduate Institute of Applied Linguistics Library, Dallas, Texas

***Literary converts : spiritual inspiration in an age of unbelief*, by Joseph Pearce. LCCN 99068463. San Francisco: Ignatius Press, 2000. HBB, 0898707900, \$24.95.**

820.9'3823. Authors, English--20th century--Biography; Christianity and literature--Great Britain--History--20th century; English literature--Christian authors--History and criticism; English literature--20th century--History and criticism; Christian converts--Great Britain--Biography; Christian biography--Great Britain. 452 p.

Literary Converts is an extensive collection of biographical facts regarding the influence of Christian writers of the twentieth century. The author has compiled information on various writers to demonstrate their influence on the culture during an age of unbelief. Some of the literary converts are familiar -- i. e. Dorothy Sayers, C. S. Lewis, etc., but others are perhaps unknown to the general reader. The author was thorough in his research, demonstrated by

indexes following each chapter and found at the conclusion of the book.

Joseph Pearce's work may be best used as a reference for compiling college papers, sermons, and the like. The language used is geared toward an educated person with the need to research a particular period or author. It is definitely not light reading!

Tammy Williams, Social Worker, Freelance Writer, Port Orchard, Washington

900's—Geography, History, & Biography

Historical atlas of expeditions, Karen Farrington. LCCN 00030005. New York: Checkmark, Facts on File, 2000. HBB, 0816044325, \$35.00.

911. Explorers--History--Maps; Discoveries in geography--History--Maps; Voyages and travels--History--Maps; Atlases. 192 p. (Elementary, Middle school)

Readers will be engrossed in Karen Farrington's colorful and illuminating reference book, *Historical Atlas of Expeditions*. Even though it comes in at just under 200, pages it still carries weight in terms of coverage and presentation. Filled with bright inserts such as maps, photographs, illustrations, and timelines, along with captivating text, the subject is treated with seriousness, yet has a light touch, making it appealing to both younger and older students.

Arranged chronologically, from continent, the entries highlight explorers specific to time and place. Enough information is given to frame out simple reports; however, a reader comes away intrigued to read more about the explorer. There is an excellent distribution of famous men and women, along with lesser known explorers, giving the book a balanced depth. The thorough index is a helpful aid, as is the complete contents table.

Readers will come away enlightened. There is an awe and a respect due those who attempted to conquer the unconquerable, and an appreciation of the valiant efforts of the brave, sometimes foolish and curious lot known as explorers.

Pam Webb, School Library Technician, Sandpoint, Idaho

***Cultural atlas of Ancient Egypt*, rev. ed. by John Baines and Jaromir Malek. LCCN 99057588. New York: Facts on File, 2000. HBB, 0816040362, \$50.00.**

932. Egypt--Antiquities; Egypt--Civilization--To 332 B.C.; Egypt--Civilization--332 B.C.-638 A.D. 240 p. Adult (High school)

The Cultural Atlas of Ancient Egypt provides access to the history, geography, and significant monuments of Egypt from the beginnings of its recorded history to the Greco-Roman period. As a reference book it is of use to those looking for the location and significance of a particular city, person, or structure; it can also be read as a text for background on Egyptian civilization.

This book is composed of three independent sections. The first section, 64 pages in length, is an overview of Egyptian geography and history and is arranged chronologically. The second

section, pages 66 to 188, offers a geographical "journey down the Nile". This section, the heart of the work, catalogs all important monuments including among others: pyramids, tombs, obelisks, temples, statues, etc. Each site of archaeological importance is described and mapped. The third section entitled, "Aspects of Egyptian Society", is 34 pages long, and treats occupations, writing, the army, female versus male roles, and religion.

Any reference work claiming the title of atlas should be judged on its maps and *The Cultural Atlas of Ancient Egypt* offers dozens of high quality maps that seem to amply locate items mentioned in the text. The book is nine by twelve inches giving reasonable size to the maps, but the font size of the place names seem small. An extensive index and gazetteer aid in the location of proper names.

The book is profusely illustrated in color and black and white, and the illustrations seem to be up-to-date, as does the bibliography. Included is a list of Museums with Egyptian collections and a checklist with map of all the pyramids in Egypt, as well as a diagram showing the relative sizes of the most important pyramids superimposed on famous buildings – this is a nice touch that gives a real sense of their immensity.

Two caveats: the binding on my copy was cracking and several of the art works depicted had a sexual orientation.

David William Rash, History Instructor, Everett Community College, Everett, Washington

***Encyclopedia of the Holocaust*, Robert Rozett, Shmuel Spector, editors. LCCN 00030917. New York: Facts on File, 2000. HBB, 0816043337, \$.**

940.53'18003. Holocaust, Jewish (1939-1945)--Encyclopedias. 528 p.

Schlinder's List gave millions a visual view of the Holocaust, and this encyclopedia compliments that view by setting forth the main themes of the history of the Holocaust, from its roots through its aftermath.

Introductory essays, written by scholars associated with Yad Vashem, the Holocaust Martyrs' and Heroes' Remembrance Authority in Israel, give a broad portrait, e.g., one analyzes the development of Nazi policies against the Jews, another how the Allied Nations responded to the growing murder of the Jews, and finally what are the repercussions of the Holocaust on our society. Then 650 encyclopedia entries in A to Z format give concise and salient facts, e.g. the entry on the Eichmann trial mention who he was, then, how the trial was conducted, its content and aftermath (and all of this in one page). Centrally placed 300 plus black and white photographs serve as documents of the period and help make distant events more tangible.

A day-by-day chronology from 1933 to 1945 gives ready access to the events and happenings. A subject bibliography details much more for

study and an index makes it easy to find needed points of reference.

A powerful, concise repository of Holocaust information, enabling high school students through adults to grasp more precisely what the Holocaust was and its influence in our world. As a comprehensive, authoritative one-volume reference this is an essential purchase for Christian high schools and homes. It is accessible for many ages, from junior high to adult.

Leroy Hommerding, Director, Fort Myers Beach P.L. District, Fort Myers, Florida

Elie Wiesel's Night, edited and with an introduction by Harold Bloom. (Modern critical interpretations.) LCCN 00052357. Philadelphia: Chelsea House, 2001. HBB, 0791059243, \$36.95.

940.53'18'092. Wiesel, Elie, 1928- Nuit; Authors, French--Biography--History and criticism; Holocaust, Jewish (1939-1945), in literature. 190 p. (High school)

This literary companion to Elie Wiesel's autobiographical novel of his concentration camp experience borders on being almost too academic for high school users; yet this critical interpretation will still benefit secondary readers, who are interested, and required to explore the themes of Wiesel's Holocaust experience. College students will find this collection of essays particularly useful.

While the essays concentrate on Elie Wiesel's *Night*, the subject of the Holocaust is covered enough to be of value to this area of study. A diverse, yet focused inclusion of topics cover to satisfaction various aspects of the themes contained in Wiesel's slim, compelling novel.

The Holocaust is a required subject in many school curriculums, with *Night* being a recommended selection. Students, teachers, and others interested in both understanding more of Wiesel's *Night*, and gain more insight into Holocaust literature will benefit from this critical companion reader.

Pam Webb, School Librarian, Sandpoint, Idaho



Biographical dictionary of American Indian history to 1900, rev. ed. Carl Waldman. LCCN 00049027. New York: Facts on File, 2001. HBB, 0816042527, \$.

970.004'97022. Indians of North America--Biography--Dictionaries. 506 p. (Adult)

Researchers, students, teachers, and those interested in North American history will benefit from the revised edition of Carl Waldman's *Biographical Dictionary of American Indian History to 1900*. This handsome reference book contains over one thousand entries of those who have made an impact on Native American history. Listed in alphabetical order, there is extensive coverage going beyond chiefs to educators, religious leaders, artists, traders, and other influences. There is coverage on both minor and well-known historical figures,

including Native as well as non-Native Americans.

Each entry lists common and tribal names, giving tribal association, biographical dates, and primary information. What makes this such a valuable resource beyond its thorough coverage is its variety of indexes. Subjects are broken down by tribe, area of activity for both Native and non-Native Americans. There are also topic and historical period indexes, along with a general index. The scattering of black and white photographs, bold type-face and large font make this an easy to use and useful edition to any academic or public library collection.

Pam Webb, School Library Technician, Sandpoint, Idaho

Dictionary of American history : from 1763 to the present, Peter Thompson. LCCN 00041079. New York: Facts on File, 2001. HBB, 0816044627, \$65.00.

973'.03. United States--History--Dictionaries. 540 p.

This single volume with more than 1200 A to Z entries enables the reader to deepen insights into many of the people, places, and events in American history. The entries are concise and comprehensive, e.g., the entry on Maryland consists of four paragraphs but offers at least fourteen points of interest ranging from who originally founded Maryland to its current population and famous Marylanders; reasons for its development are also offered.

Cross-references, an extensive subject index, and a further reading list make this a resource for ready reference, as well as a launch pad for further research. One strength of the dictionary is its coverage of economic, social, and cultural matters in addition to the usual key political, diplomatic, and military events and happenings. Appendices include constitutional documents, the presidents of the U.S., and members of the U.S. Supreme Court.

This easy to use dictionary is an accessible resource for high school and college students, and one that is clear and extensive for general readers. Recommended for Christian school and home libraries.

Leroy Hommerding, Director, Fort Myers Beach P.L. District, Fort Myers, Florida

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