

REND COLLECTIVE

| PAUL BALOCHE

| ABOUT A MILE

CELEBRATE

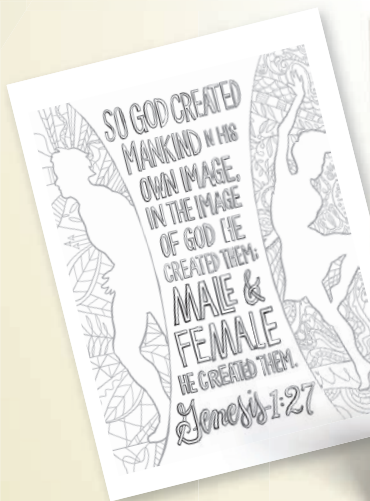
LAUREN
DAIGLE

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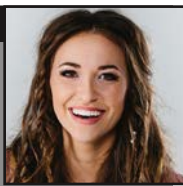
Exclusive pics of your favorite artists!

In this issue: for KING & COUNTRY, dc Talk, Jordan Feliz, Matthew West + much more!



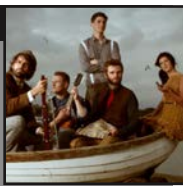
Lauren Daigle

Capturing more than just Yuletide flair and fancy, Lauren Daigle's first Christmas album is a real game changer.



Rend Collective

Rend Collective returns with another campfire offering—stay tuned to CCMmagazine.com for this online-only article!



Paul Baloche

After 25-plus years of ministry, worship music veterans Paul and Rita Baloche begin a new chapter of ministry, and life, in the Big Apple.



About A Mile

About A Mile's Adam Klutinyot has a second chance at life and it has him turning the guitar amp, and his faith, up to "eleven."



Reviews

New music from Matt Redman, Matthew West, NewSong, Phil Wickham + much more!



Publisher

Michael Miller

General Manager | Associate Publisher

Smitty Wheeler

Associate Publisher | Mixed Media Production

Ross Cluver

Editorial Director

Chris Well

Managing Editor

Kevin Sparkman

Designers

Martina Ahlbrandt

Joshua Jamison

Contributing Editors

Andy Argyrakis

Matt Conner

Contributors

Jesse Florea

Assistant Prod. Manager

Paula Rozelle Hanback

Fulfillment & Customer Service Manager

Suzanne Solinger

Customer Service Reps

Janice Collier Arsenault

Jason Lloyd

Executive Dir. of Advertising

DeDe Donatelli-Tarrant

805.987.5072

dede@salempublishing.com

Joel Stombres, 630.584.0213

jstombres@salempublishing.com

Account Executive

Jon Edlin, 913.231.7333

JEdlin@salempublishing.com

Troy Hargrave, 615-312-4242

THargrave@salempublishing.com

Web Ad Traffic Coordinator

Kristina James

Move away from the ledge | I know...I know. Right now, it really does feel like we are surrounded by division on all sides, like it keeps closing in and suffocating us—it's seemingly inescapable.

I don't have the intellect to fully understand every nuance as to why we're here. I'm actually kind-of glad that I lack the brains to claim that I really know what's going on. I just need my Savior...we all need the Savior. And like so many memes, hashtags, and tweets that have surfaced recently—yes, thankfully our Savior never did, doesn't now, and never will take up residency at 1600 Pennsylvania Avenue (we do, of course, pray that He truly resides in the hearts of those who do live and work there), He is forever on *the* throne.

If I could use this short note to encourage anyone, it would be to say, "Don't let fear win." Fear. It's as deceptive, misrepresented, and as much of a tool of the enemy as the mainstream media and they're painting of what ever image they want you to believe of a subject, or candidate, that they happen to be "covering."

Fear. This...thing...it only has power if you let it, and it's currently writing our social feeds, comments, and driving people to step out in en masse in front of traffic on highways. Let's all stop giving it any more airtime than it deserves. Instead, let's daily put on our Godly armor (**Ephesians 6:10-20**) and step out in the confidence of Jesus Christ, our savior. A pastor recently told me a revelation about that passage in Ephesians—it is that the armor described doesn't actually protect us anywhere on our backside.

This means our only option is to Just. Keep. Moving. Forward. Get back from that ledge, you've got armor.

Blessings,



A stylized, handwritten signature of Kevin Sparkman in black ink.

Kevin Sparkman

Editor, CCM Magazine

KSpark@CCMMagazine.com



FACEBOOK.COM/CCMMAGAZINE



TWITTER.COM/CCMMAGAZINE



INSTAGRAM.COM/CCMMAG

"As a pastor from Puerto Rico serving here in Texas, it's very important to find the right kind of healthcare for my family. We had been with an insurance plan and the prices were elevating. So a year and a half ago we started with Medi-Share.

We chose Medi-Share because it met our budget. We pay a third of what we used to pay, and we experience many other rewards and benefits. As a Christian, the most powerful and sacred property you have is your conscience. And it's such a blessing to know you can trust Medi-Share.

Medi-Share is biblical. I compare it with the book of Acts, where the Christians were sharing each other's needs. It feels wonderful when you know that you're putting your money in something where you're helping others.

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That's what we love.

Medi-Share has been a very big blessing for our family. Thank God for Medi-Share!"

—Ariel and Yaditza



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OUT & ABOUT

nov 15, 2016



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Explore the world of Aethasia™, and join the Resistance in their fight against the tyrannical emperor and his army of mechanical men!

Once a beautiful land, Aethasia is now covered by a sickly pervasive fog that corrupts everything it touches. But all is not lost. Rumors are spreading of a fledgling Resistance, who have the courage and audacity to try and restore Aethasia to its former glory, and to reinstate the The Great Engineer back to the throne of Aethasia.

And that Resistance needs you!





LAUREN DAIGLE

Lauren Daigle — Christmastime Is Here

Ring in the holidays with the sounds of the south—Lauren Daigle defies tradition and raises the standard

By Kevin Sparkman

We love to celebrate Christmastime at *CCM Magazine*. Of course, first and foremost, it is all because of Jesus Christ—God-in-flesh coming to humanity in the form of a perfect, virgin-born baby. Somewhere, way down the line from that, and all it represents and means to us here on earth, we celebrate the music of this season—a mere, man-made reflection of that miracle.

Sure, we've graced our holiday-time covers with the biggest artists of any given time whom have delivered Yuletide flair, usually someone seasoned at recording the season. However, and with all due respect to our upcoming December 1, 2016 cover artist—author of arguably one of the most reflective and popular Christmas songs of all-time—I'm certain that the artist and album that warranted this interview, cover story, and *CCM* cover could be considered the best we've ever heard. And, it's her first.

Before you unwrap the candy cane or sip on that peppermint mocha, you might want to first consider the palette. "You talk about Bourbon Street," **Lauren Daigle** responds to my question about her upbringing as she sits across from me in the *CCM Magazine* conference room. "But all the locals go to Frenchman Street. I grew up going to Frenchman Street and listening to the brass bands on the street corners. Just the sentiment of the sound, that air... You can hear saxophones bouncing off the

walls of the French Quarter and you don't know if they're ten or just one street over because of the sound that reverbs throughout the whole city."

With her first **Centricity Music** Christmas offering, ***Behold: A Christmas Collection***—the album that almost wasn't—you will experience brass bands and saxophones bouncing off your decades-old decorations of green-and-red-glittered donned walls. Bringing a little bit...um, make that a lot of her home to yours, I'm willing to bet the smells of crawfish and jambalaya will be creeping out of a lot more kitchens north of the swampy southlands this year, accompanying the unique new sounds of Christmas 2016.

CCM Magazine: We love Behold ... But it's not just another jazzy holiday album. This is... Well, it's thick, dirty...Bourbon Street. How do you think it's going to translate to straight-arrow Christian music audiences? Personally, what's your expectation?

Lauren Daigle: Originally we started it out as just an EP, but it was just so fulfilling, so we turned it into a full-length. In that, that's when the question was brought up. "Do we keep all Christian songs, or do we...? In my camp, what we call it is "extending the tent pegs." We thought, "Maybe this is a way to capture all the people that enjoy Christmas?" Whether they're Christian, non-believers...maybe it's what will win those—maybe it takes their ear in a little bit and they say, "All right, what's all this about?"

All that to say, we trust [the Christian music fan] will understand that the goal is to reach all people—every tongue, every eye, every tribe, every nation would know who Jesus is."

CCM: Because it is Christmas music, yes, the content is an easy entry for Christians—but given the overall timbre of the project, we would imagine that the music will resonate with everyone.

LD: I think...to just get a new sound in our veins—something that's a little outside of our wheelhouse—but, yes, it's still very approachable because it's Christmas music and there's obviously Christian songs on there. We were really respectful to those Christian selections—my heart was that out of everything, they would be the ones to really cut through on the record.

The other side of the pendulum is that the people who wouldn't ever listen to Christian radio could tap in, because it has such a rich, jazz sound. It might be a little rootsy, but it also has the wonder and the elements of Christmas through a Christian perspective, as well. The goal was for it to be a kind-of blend.

CCM: Of all things, with a Christmas record, do you think Behold has the potential of not only crossing the seasonal music barrier, but also seeing it become a success in mainstream music?

LD: That barrier...these are the questions I love. I'll say, "Yes," but not because I'm tooting my own horn. My heart is to make that wall decrease. Not in the sense that we're becoming "of the world," but that we stop looking at it as unapproachable. I think that with the over-commercialization of Christmas, as with our approach to making this record, we did want to see that wall come down.

This also kind-of goes back to when we were picking songs for the album. This is why I love that you asked this question... In the process of making the record there was this overwhelming



sense of connection in the studio. Every person in the room was still. They heard again. They listened again. People were sharing laughs. The instruments were corresponding with one another in a way I've never experienced before.

It's like, how jazz is supposed to work—each instrument has to talk with one another throughout the entire song. When [producer] **Paul [Mabury]** went to comp things, he couldn't comp because if he comped the saxophone, then the trombone gets messed up because the saxophone was responding to a lick that the trombone did—so everything is pretty much one-take from start to finish.

Paul put us all in the room and he said, "All right. Here you go. The world is endless. You have no limits. Do what you need to do." The piano players would play something...he would shake his head and say, "I'm serious. You have no limits." So the musicians were like, "You're serious? Like, we can 'go?' We're going to go?!" Paul said, "Yeah, seriously." That's where you hear all these funky chords on the album. It was a mind-blowing process for me. I could do that all day long.

The conversation was happening *through* the music. It was an experience. There was just this rest and this stillness that was so present. I had people come to me and say, "Yesterday, we worked with this other band in this other session and it made me crumble. It made me feel like, 'What in the world am I doing with my life. I need to give up music...this is too much.'" Coming from people that are 50, 60 years old, they've been doing this forever! "Then today," they said, "We walked into the room, had a moment like this, and realized—all over again—this is why we do music."

For that to be felt in the room, it is evidence to me that is the spirit that God wants to bring into the world in this season that is so commercialized. When Jesus came, he came to bring peace to the earth, goodwill to men. He was the stillness in the midst of the chaos. He was the thing that came in and said, “I see all things and I know all things, but I’m going to come in infancy because it is innocent, and it’s quiet, and it’s gentle.”

That’s what was built in the room. For the people who might not have ever experienced that type of feeling, that peace that only His presence brings ... [we hope] this is kind-of the conduit to that.

CCM: Was this project something that even stretched your producer, Paul Mabury?

LD: Not at all. It’s funny. I’ll tell you why. Paul is from Australia. He grew up as a jazz musician, but not like, “Hi, I play jazz music, I’m jazzy,” he’s got deep roots. This man can hear fifteen layers deep. The stuff that he makes me sing, I’m like, “Why did you make me do that? How did that come out of your head?”

When we went back to build harmonies, there were moments we had to think for a bit, well, he had to think for a bit. I kind-of stayed out of it—just tell me what to sing, because it was so deep. It was just perfect.

He’s tried and true. He is jazz. He got into the worship scene through **Brooke Fraser**, then **Hillsong** and then came here, that whole bit. The worship-pop element is just one side of Paul. His core is jazz. Paul and I began working together because he heard me say, “I’m coming apart...I don’t think I can write another [contemporary Christian] song, I miss my New Orleans sounds.” That’s the kind of music I was singing before I moved [to Nashville, TN]. I was like, “I feel separated from who I re-

ally am—can someone please connect me with a jazz-Christian so we can kind-of combine the worlds?” Nobody knew a true Christian jazz musician in Nashville that was doing the kind of work that we needed to do.

My A&R at the time bumped into someone who said, “You should work with Paul Mabury, he’s thick jazz but he’s really good with pop stuff.” It was instant—I knew we were going to be working together for a long time.

CCM: What about you?

LD: It was weird...like I came into my own. It felt like, “Oh, this is the way I was supposed to be singing the whole time.”

It didn’t necessarily stretch me vocally, but at times I had trouble with the timing. There were some moments where I was like, “Can you...?” And Paul would have to tap out the rhythm of what I was supposed to sing.

“O Come All Ye Faithful”...that song sounds so easy until its being recorded. The timing is super tight for breath support. If you miss one breath, then you don’t have enough to sustain. If you get that breath at the wrong interval, you mess the whole band up. You have to be really cautious with it, that was my “stretching” song. It was like, “You’re getting me—it’s getting me really good!” I think it expanded my understanding of music, which is what I want.

CCM: How interesting. Unique is probably not the best word, but considering all of this that’s coming about from recording a Christmas project...

LD: Yes, I know! It’s comical. It really is. Unique is sweet, comical is better. It is unique. It is funny.

My team came to me and asked, “Do you want to do a Christmas record?” I said, “Absolutely not,” because of what we talked about earlier, you know, that mainstream cheese... I just didn’t want to do “Corny Christmas.” It’s done too much. I didn’t want to make a Christmas record that wasn’t authentic to me, just to get something out of it. [Laughing] We never considered doing, *How Could It Be Christmas*—there’s no chance I will even record that. Everything has a place. This Christmas record has a place. It’s all about the approach, who we’re trying to reach and where we’re headed.

CCM: Was this project a bigger leap than you anticipated going into it?

LD: I think I don’t know how big of a leap it is. I think I’m the naïve one over here.

I just want to present art that’s real and that comes from an actual depth. Not to create for the sake of getting numbers and hopefully making things happen. I want to know that at the end of the day, I’ve sown into the next generation of artists and people that want to experience life through a creative lens—that I’ve made a mark for others that really value the excellence of art.

CCM: Regardless if only twelve people buy it vs. twelve million?

LD: If twelve people buy it, it’s still a win for me. I needed to have that type of recording experience to get ready to get into LP number two.

CCM: *Can you foresee taking this experience and applying it to future projects?*

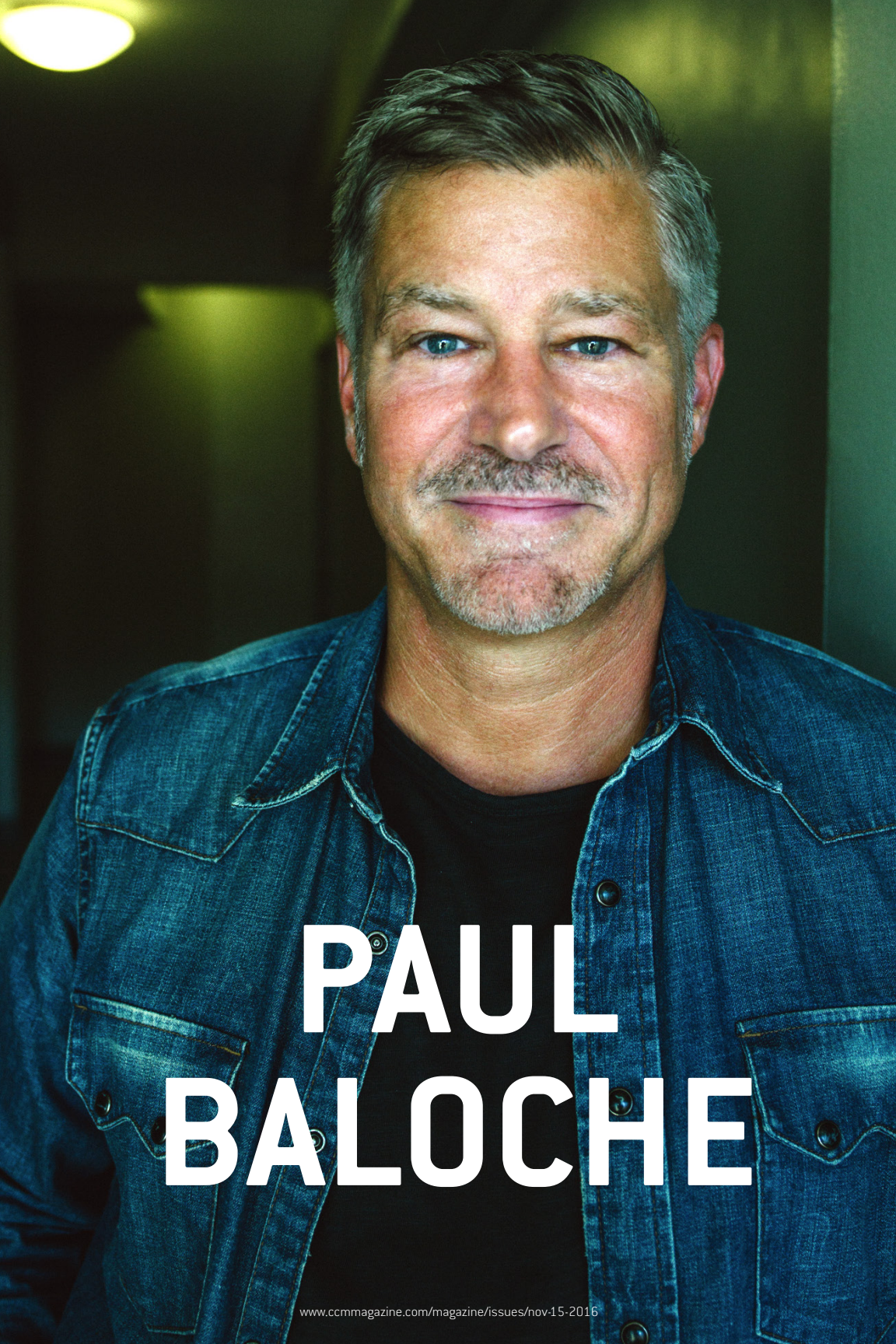
LD: Totally. Absolutely. Like I said earlier, it expanded my knowledge of music. IN Nashville, recording can be like, “Well, you track drums here, you put bass there,” and we all just send it to each other on a file because everybody has a home studio.

Behold wasn’t that. This was like, let’s get into it. At times we were asking ourselves, “What is going on?” I want that to happen again, but also the sounds, the quirky elements, the horns, it was all live. We even had some [vinyl] record stuff in there—you can hear the cracks and pops in *Behold*. That was us literally dropping the needle on the record and recording that naturally. Everything was fresh and real, so I want to bring those organic elements into creating a pop sound that’s swampy and organic. That’s, I don’t know...

CCM: *...you?*

LD: It’s interesting. “LP-2” has a big ol’ question mark on it. Paul and I are already in discussions about it, and everything and we’re coming up with sounds different. I just can’t wait to see what’s going to happen. I am super excited about it.

So are we, Lauren—Merry Christmas! **CCM**

A portrait of Paul Baloché, a middle-aged man with short, graying hair and a light beard. He is wearing a dark blue denim shirt over a black t-shirt. The background is dark with some greenish-yellow light sources.

PAUL BALOCHE

Paul Baloche — To Finish Well

Worship leader and Dove Award-winning songwriter Paul Baloche begins new chapter in ministry and life

By staff

The next new season rarely happens when you plan it.
But it happens according to plan.

For more than 26 years, worship leader **Paul Baloche** and his singer-songwriter wife **Rita** made their home in east Texas. That's where he found his vocation and calling as worship pastor of Lindale's **Community Christian Fellowship** and where God had given him a vital ministry and a community of life-long friends. He and Rita raised their family there, and as his ministry expanded via sixteen recordings and numerous teaching resources, the couple received offers to relocate and join larger ministries. But Paul and Rita stayed because Texas was home.

Then one day, after returning to a house full of empty bedrooms, they knew the time had come to consider a new season. "We pretty much said out loud: 'The easy thing would be for us to just stay right here and rock on our porch.' Nothing was broken; it didn't need fixing...but it was good to hit the reset button and let go of the comfort and row the boat into some new waters," Paul recalls.

The couple put out a fleece, told a realtor they'd consider selling if an offer came along. Without even going on the market, the house sold within a month.

So after six months of purging through a quarter-century of life as they knew it, Paul and Rita left their church family with a blessing, and headed back to the land from whence they came, the northeast. They bounced around between their oldest daughter **Sarah's** place near Philadelphia and their son **David's** studio apartment, eventually landing in a one-bedroom apartment in New York City.

"Parenthood is not for the fainthearted," says Paul, who is a grandfather of two. "Young adult children need you just as much as younger children do, a fact that continues to challenge my self-centeredness. It's a fantasy that we get to do whatever we want when we want, but I have to learn to be a better listener and only give advice when it's asked for. When they are adults, you start relating to them as adults, but our nature is to want to guard them from making mistakes, life-altering consequences... It's a delicate balancing act, like in marriage."

But it's a balancing act that the Baloche's gladly attempt while continuing to transition into this new adventure. "We don't know exactly what we're going to do here," said Paul after the move. "But our prayer is, 'Lord, we would like to be available to the church here in New York, and to be an aunt and uncle or mother and father to these kids in ministry who are just getting started.'"

Over the last 18 months, Baloche has been featured at festivals, conferences and workshops in the United States, UK, France, India, Netherlands and Philippines. He has also plugged into a church where his son—himself a singer-songwriter and teacher—attends, and has begun building a new community, reaching out to churches like **Christ Tabernacle** in the Bronx, **Redeemer Church** and **Trinity Grace**.

Most recently, members of this community, including worship leaders and musicians from around New York and the northeast, joined him in creating a new album. This community includes label mates **The Brilliance (John Arndt, David Gungor)** along with **Onaje Jefferson (Brooklyn Tabernacle Choir)** and worship leaders/musicians from New York and the northeast. Vocalists **Jennifer Holm** and **Madison Cunningham** also make appearances, and Baloche's wife, Rita, and son, David, round out the contributions.

The resulting project, ***Your Mercy***, which has already received a 5-star review from *Worship Leader Magazine*, is available globally in stores and on digital platforms through **Integrity Music**.

Recorded live in a Brooklyn studio, *Your Mercy* seems an appropriate title for this new season as this “worship pastor of worship pastors” depends anew on God.

Paul describes the project as “honest worship sessions with very few overdubs... no digital instruments or synthesizers... a back-to-basics simplicity, singing together new prayers and songs as a community to glorify God.”

For Paul, who has spent the past 30 years teaching and training worship leaders around the world—with instructional DVDs translated into ten languages and albums in three languages—this new chapter holds great promise on both personal and ministry fronts.

One of the perks of this season of life, he says, is “knowing who you are, and what you're good at, and even though we tend to discount our experiences, I consider it a gift to be trusted by worship teams of various denominations, a precious gift. And



for as long as they'll let me, I want to be an authentic voice... sharing, listening, praying, advising, a friend and pastor to other pastors...to affirm and serve the church with no agenda and to experience the beauty in that."

"Most of all, I want to be an authentic human, a faithful husband and father," says Paul, who beams with pride over David's latest video production, daughter **Cherie**'s entrance into a Master's program and Sarah's growing family. "To finish well, maybe in 50 years or so, that's my deepest desire. I hold it precious." CCM

ABOUT A MILE



About A Mile — Trust Turned Up To '11'

By Jesse Florea

If faith could be measured with a guitar amplifier, **Adam Klutinoty**'s amp would go to "11." The lead singer and guitarist for **About A Mile** has seen the mess his lack of faith has created in the past. Now his faith is cranked up an extra notch.

"I want to take Christ seriously and trust Him all the way," Klutinoty says. "One hundred percent."

That's easy to say, but hard to live out.

"I'm the best example I know of giving your heart 90 percent to God," he admits. "I thought, 'God has a plan for me, but I have some cool plans of my own in case He doesn't come through.'"

The aptly named ***Trust You All The Way*** isn't just About A Mile's latest album, it also describes the band's attitude regarding their lives and ministry.

For most of his life, Klutinoty felt his plans and God's plans lined up. Music was a constant at his family's home outside of Pittsburgh. He picked up the guitar after seeing his dad and older brother **Micah** play. Soon he and his brothers **Luke** and **Levi** formed a band.

"We were always jamming together," Adam says. "Then we found a youth group that needed a worship band."

At first, they played songs such as “Rain Down” or “Undignified.” Then they started writing their own songs and people really liked them. Adam was just 16 at the time. Levi, at 17, was the oldest, and Luke was a mere 14 years old.

Coming from a blue-collar Christian family, the brothers believed in hard work. Klutinoty remembers sitting in his room all day shredding guitar licks or playing scales. All of his practice made him an amazing performer. And that’s what he dreamed of—playing for thousands.

As soon as the brothers finished high school, they went on a tour along the west coast. Eventually, they connected with GRAMMY-nominated producer **Ian Eskelin**. Eskelin brought the band to **Word Records** for its debut album in 2014.

It appeared that Klutinoty’s faith had paid off. All through his childhood and high school years, he’d dreamed of a big-time record deal.

“What separates the Christian from the world is one five-letter word: Faith,” Klutinoty says. “I’m talking about God-pleasing faith that believes before seeing and allows us to confidently stand within the hardest battles.”

But when those battles hit, Adam’s 90-percent faith failed.

From the Darkness

After signing the record deal, Klutinoty developed ulcerative colitis, a disease that causes stomach pain, bleeding and weight loss. At one point, he’d throw up anything he ate and became a stick figure of his normal healthy self.

Countless times during the recording process and on tour for the first album, he got on his knees and prayed for God to heal him. As the symptoms persisted, his faith waned. And since God wouldn't come through for him, Klutinoty felt he had to work harder.

He wrote 150 songs to come up with the twelve that made the first album. He went to the president of Word Records and said, "We need the biggest budget and whatever producer I want." Klutinoty did everything in his power to make the project perfect.

"I was trying to work, work, work for the kingdom," Klutinoty says. "But a lot of it was to justify the mess that was going on in my heart."

After losing faith that God could heal him, Klutinoty turned to drugs. A doctor had given him a medication that took away the symptoms of ulcerative colitis. But he then became addicted to other drugs.

"It wasn't an illegal prescription, but it was definitely something I didn't need," Klutinoty admits. "And I was abusing it every day."

On the outside, Adam looked like a good Christian. He'd give his shoes to a homeless person he met on the street and talk about God to thousands during the 2015 *Winter Jam* tour. But inside his downward spiral continued.

Although About A Mile's debut received rave reviews and was the best-selling Christian album by a new artist, it didn't live up to the hope or the hype.

"I thought the first album was supposed to work and make everything better," Klutinoty says.





About A Mile

Adam and his brothers had moved to Nashville with nothing. They lived in their touring van. They all worked blue-collar jobs. After the tour and album sales, nothing had really changed. They had the same van, and Klutiny still worked in a factory.

"I got bitter toward God," Klutiny says. "I wasn't finding my satisfaction in Christ, so I looked for other vices to get me through the day. It was complete darkness in my mind."

Into the Light

Things got so bad that Adam Klutiny would scream at his brothers if they walked past his bedroom late at night. He even tossed a Bible across the room when his girlfriend tried to get him to read it.

He grew up reading God's Word. He knows it backwards and forwards. Nearly all of his songs are based on a Bible verse. So deep inside he knew that neither height nor depth, nor anything in creation could separate him for the love of God (**Romans 8:39**).

Then one night he experienced it first-hand.

Klutiny told his girlfriend that he was struggling with drug addiction. She saw the bitterness in his heart toward God, but didn't know about the drugs.

They cried together on the floor, then she looked at him and said, "Okay, what else?"

Klutinoty hadn't told anybody that he dealt with lust. It wasn't pornography. But lustful thoughts would creep into his mind. He didn't want to tell her, because he thought it'd break her heart into a million pieces.

For the first time in his life, he came totally clean with another person and with God. He confessed his deepest and darkest sins. And his girlfriend's response reflected Christ's when she opened her arms, hugged him and said, "I still love you."

"Ninety percent isn't enough," Klutinoty says with tears in his eyes. "We need to come to God with 100 percent and lay everything down at the cross."

They cried and prayed a lot that night. His girlfriend prayed for his healing. And he was delivered from it all—the drugs, the lust, even the disease.

"I laid down everything at the cross and a disease that I was suffering from for four-and-a-half years is gone," Klutinoty says. "It's completely gone."

Now instead of "helping" God to achieve his dreams, he's committed to following God with the right heart. He's seen God bring more joy into his life and more power to his songs.

"We've been playing 'Trust You All The Way,'" says Klutinoty. "We've been playing 'Traded.' We've been playing 'Hallelujah.' And people have been coming to the altar, confessing their sins and accepting Christ into their lives. It was never like that before."

Each song on the new album radiates with honesty and musicality. From the hard-driving “Taking Back” to the acoustic “All I Need” to the pop flavored “Born To Live,” the lyrics point directly to Christ and His power.

“The first album was good,” Klutinoty says. “But I was focused on singing the best vocal and making everything perfect.

On this album, I just wanted to make sure God was speaking through me.”

Klutinoty gave up a lot of control with this project, even turning over creative decisions to Eskelin during the production process. With the first album, Klutinoty wanted to hear several different mixes of a song. This time he trusted Ian’s expertise. The band also switched labels, signing with Eskelin’s recording label, **Radiate Music**.

The brothers are so excited about the new project that they want as many people as possible to hear it. When the band began its ***Trust You All The Way Tour*** in mid-October, every concert is scheduled for free admission. Only a freewill offering will be taken at events.

“We’re going out and playing for free, trusting God to provide,” Klutinoty says. “We believe He wants to sustain us throughout this tour, and we want to give all the glory to Him.”

For most bands taking that leap of faith would be scary...but Adam Klutinoty’s faith goes to “11.” CCM

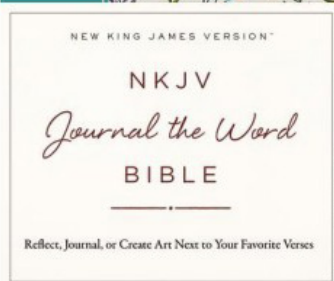
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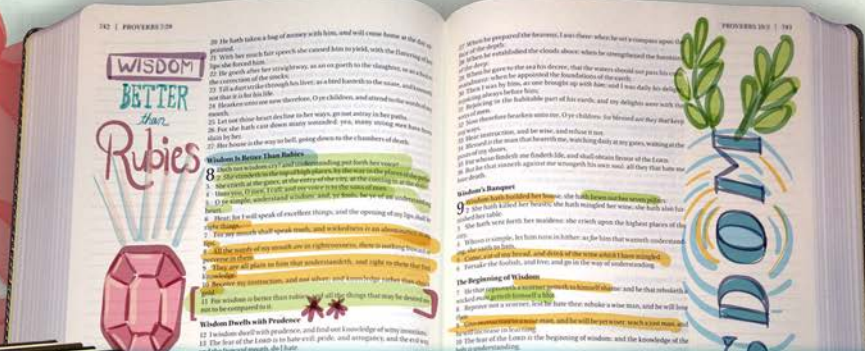
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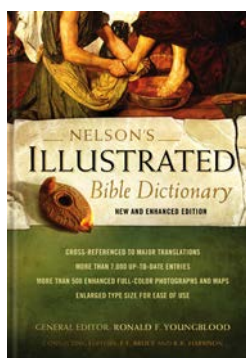
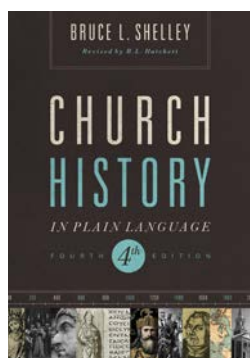
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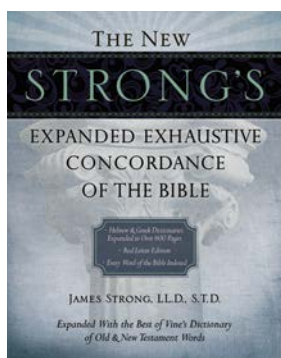
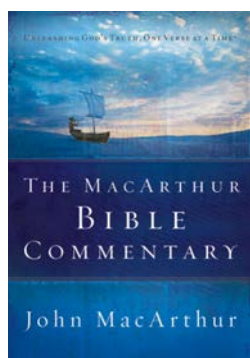
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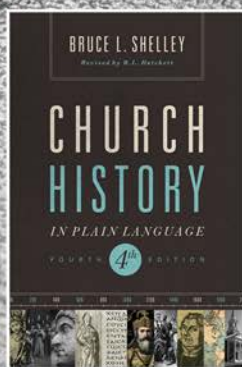
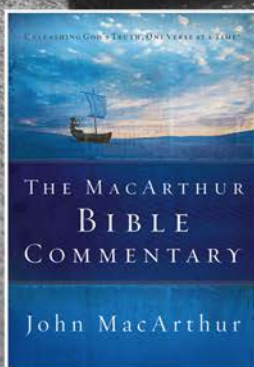
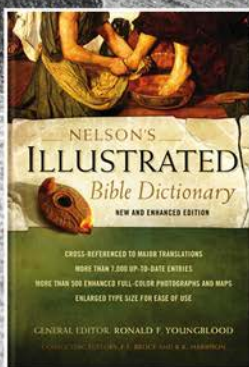
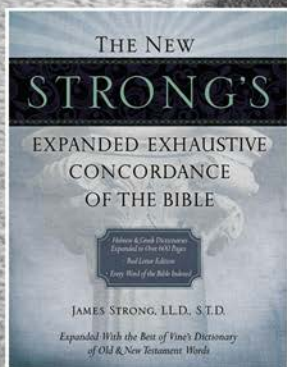
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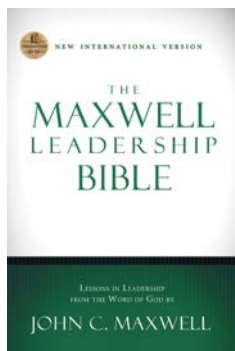
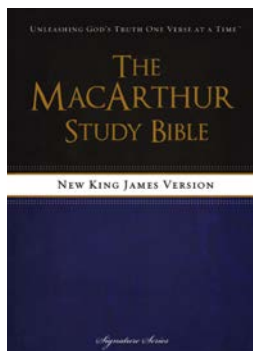
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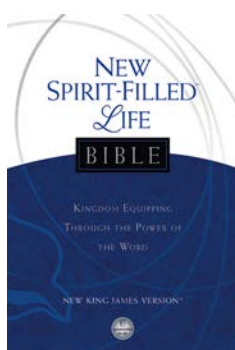
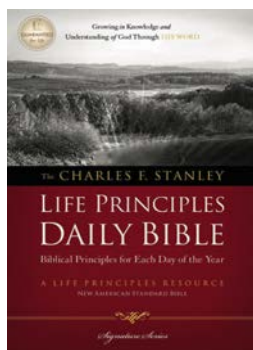
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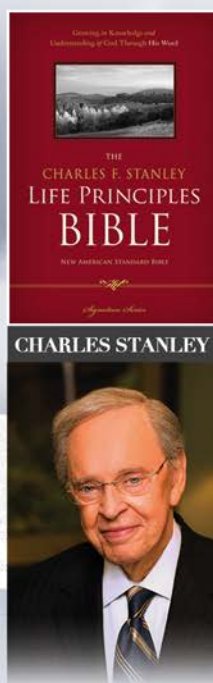
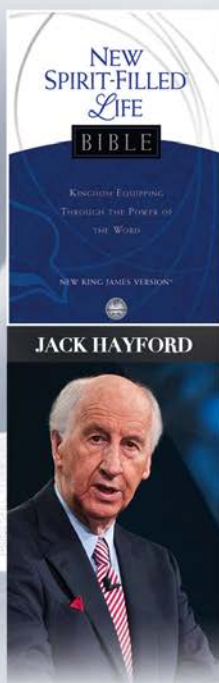
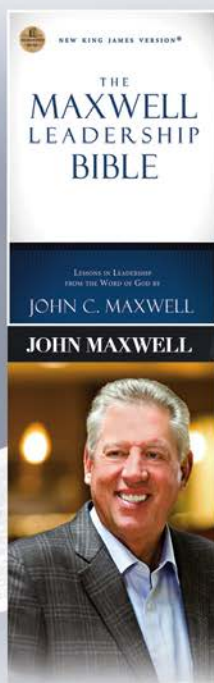
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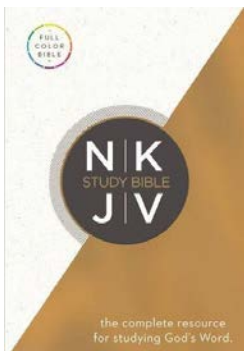
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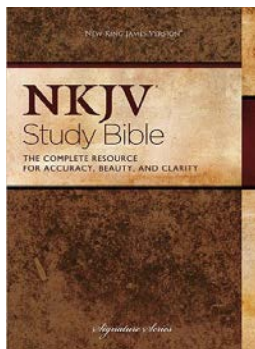
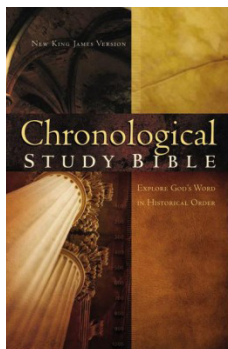




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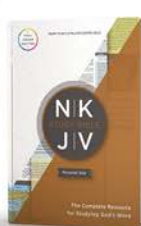
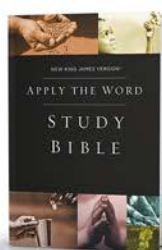
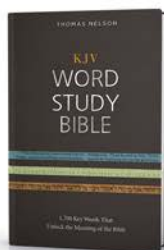
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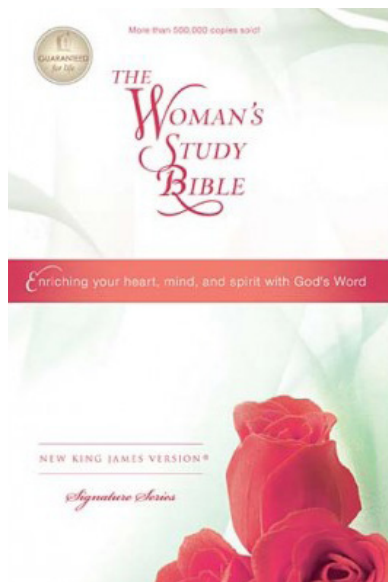
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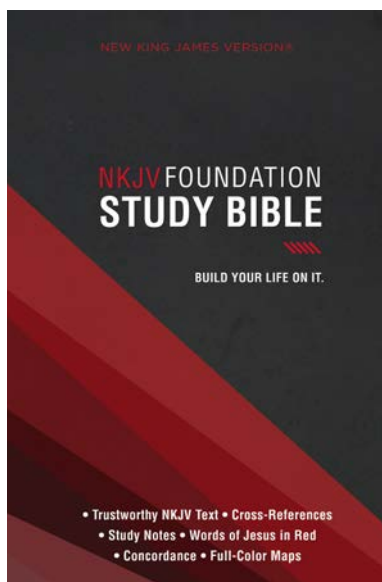


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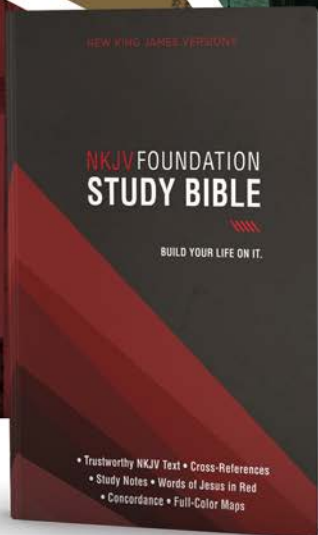
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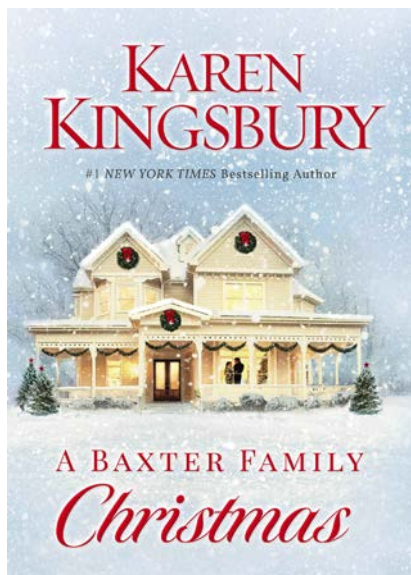
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A Baxter Family Christmas

From No. 1 *New York Times* bestselling author Karen Kingsbury comes a life-changing story of love and hope featuring the Baxter family.

It's been two years since a terrible car accident that forever changed John Baxter's life. Prompted by grief, and missing his daughter, John has invited a stranger for Christmas Eve dinner—Kendra Bryant, the transplant recipient who now has his daughter Erin's heart. John's other children, Ashley and Luke, don't like the idea. They want to protect their 10-year-old niece, Amy—the only surviving member of the accident. But

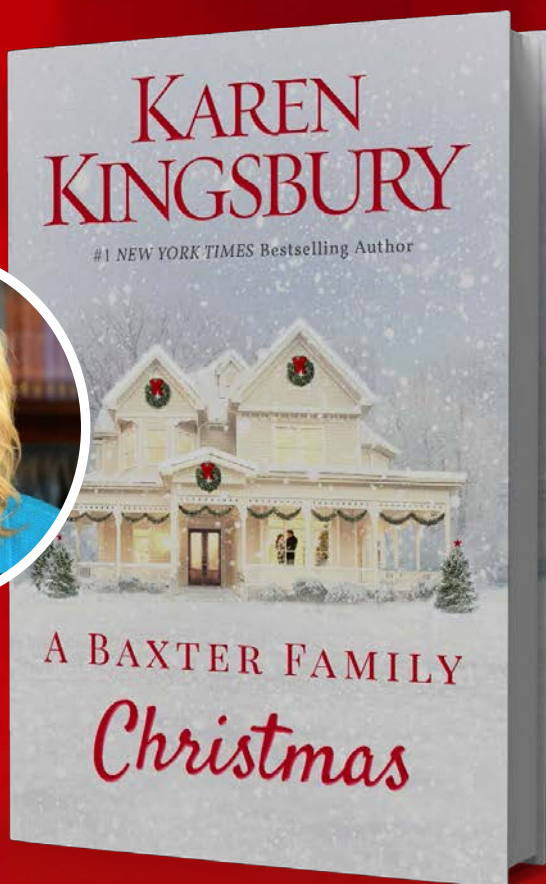
John is determined and believes meeting this woman is something his deceased daughter would want.

Meanwhile, Kendra Bryant has been struggling these past few years to find purpose in the tragedy that gave her a second chance. She believes the invitation to see the Baxters and witness their unwavering faith in God can instill peace and happiness back into her life.

Heartwarming and touching, filled with love and redemption, *A Baxter Family Christmas* brings together two families in the aftermath of loss and in the midst of an unfolding love story, all with the help of one very special child.

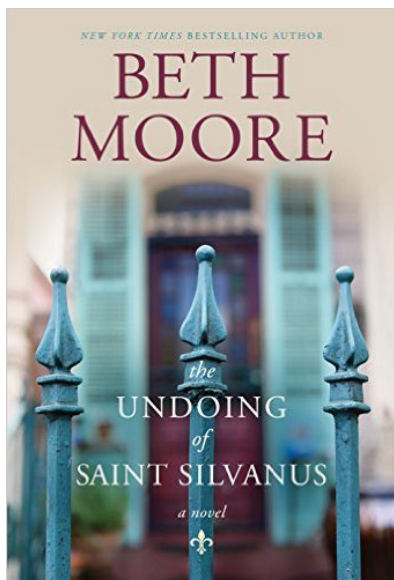
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Celebrate the power of story in Beth Moore's debut novel, *The Undoing of Saint Silvanus*.

This book makes a great gift, offering something for everyone. Readers will meet the cast of saints and sinners who live in Saint Silvanus, where they bond together to expose the dark forces that took the life of a father and threaten to drive a final wedge between mother and daughter.

Library Journal gave her a starred review and said: "Making her fiction debut, best-selling inspirational author Moore delivers an absorbing, suspenseful read."

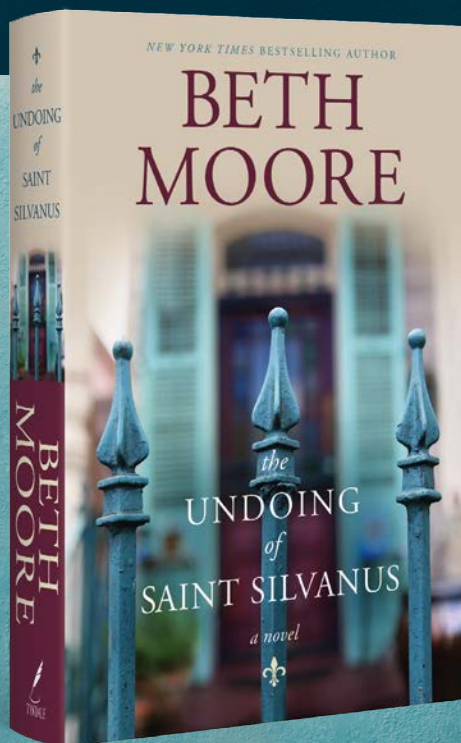
Booklist says this... "In her fiction debut, beloved Christian speaker and author Moore dives into uncharted territory with gusto. Simultaneously heartwarming and chilling, this tale has wide appeal with its mix of mystery, evangelism, history, suspense and love. Moore brings Southern culture to life, and thoughtfully poses questions of belonging, sin and self-worth. From its gritty start to its redemptive finish, Moore's ambitious first novel spotlights her gifts for humanizing the biblical experience and the search for faith."

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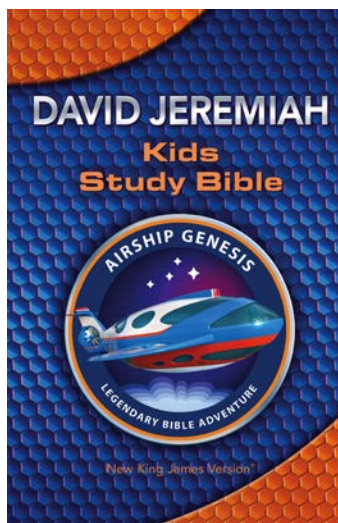
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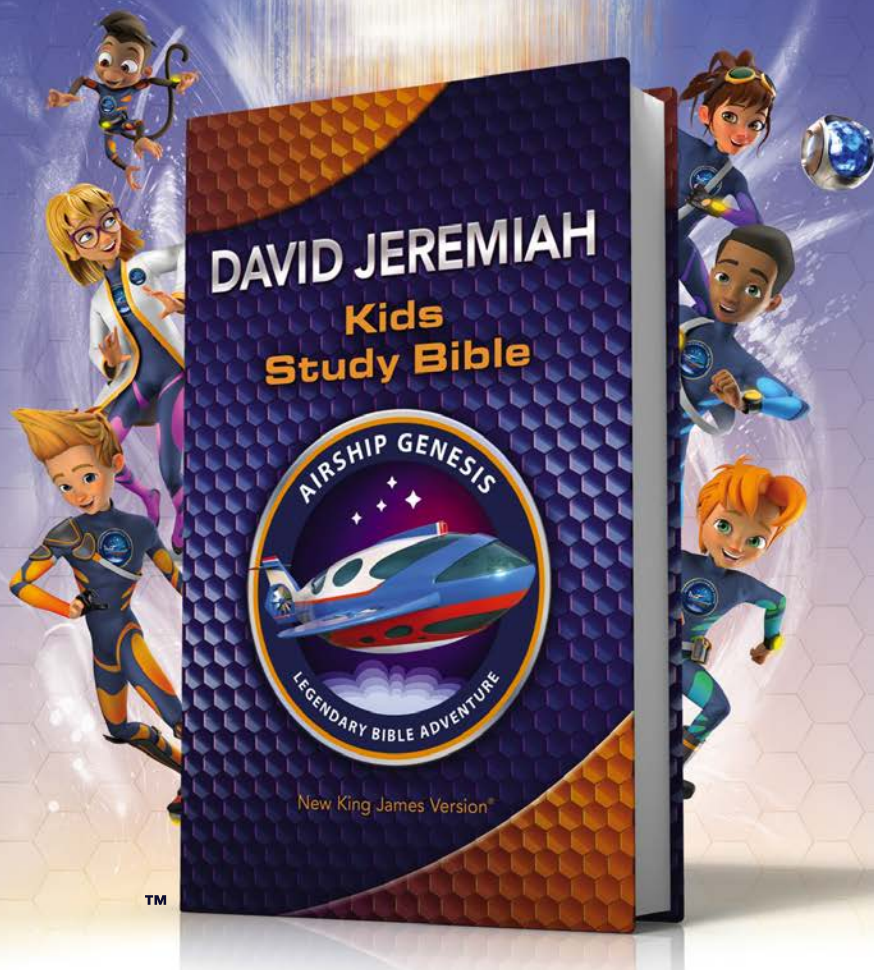
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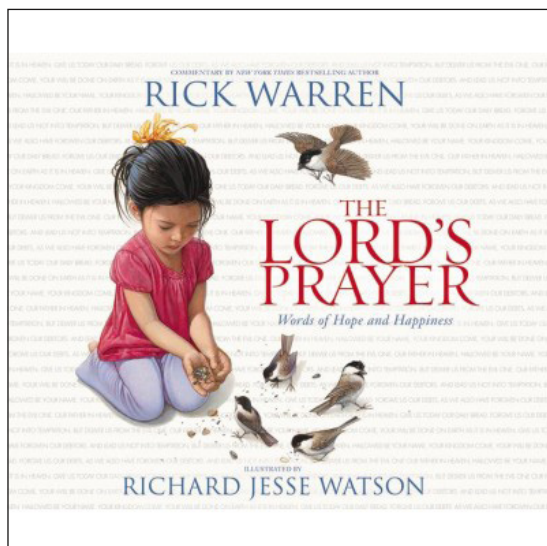
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—Rick Warren

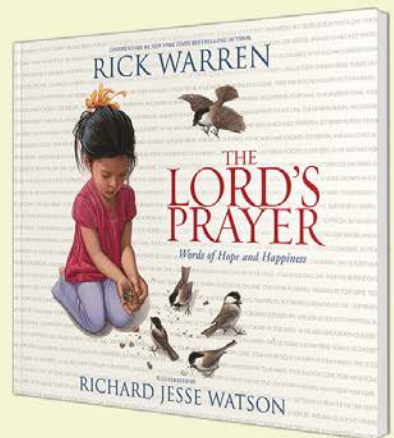
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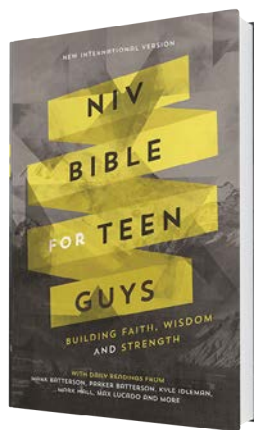
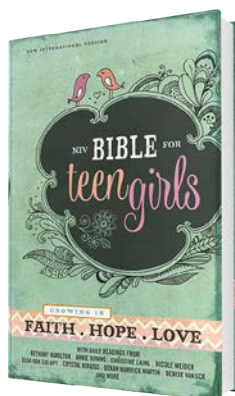
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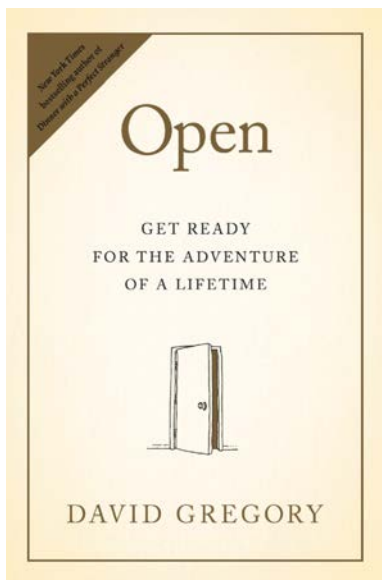


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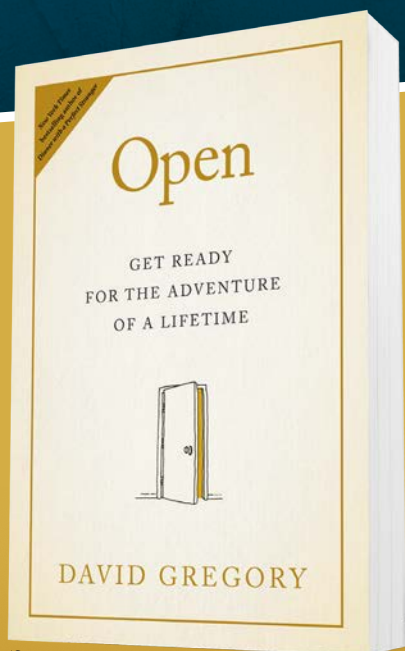
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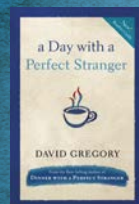
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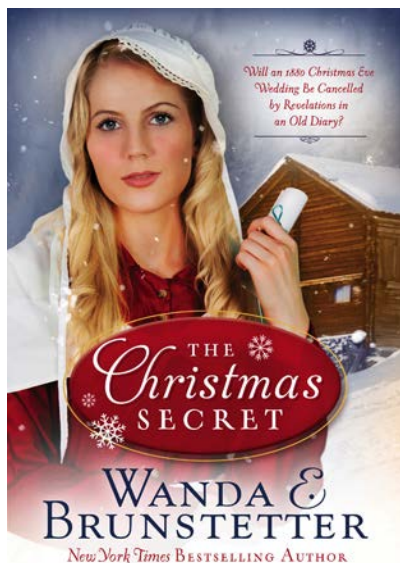


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A Family Secret May Destroy a Couple's Hope for Marriage

Elizabeth Canning discovers an awful secret in her deceased mother's diary. Believing her chances for a happy marriage are spoiled, she leaves her fiancé a letter and flees town. In hopes that distance will heal her broken heart, she takes refuge in her grandparents' Pennsylvania home.

Anticipating a Christmas Eve wedding with Elizabeth, David Stinner is confused by her letter and desperate to find her. Can David root out the truth about the past and bring back his bride? Or is the truth destined to bring an ultimate end to their romance?

WWW.WANABRUNSTETTER.COM



A Christmas Story from
NY Times Bestselling Author
WANDA E. BRUNSTETTER



*A Family Secret
May Destroy
a Couple's Hope
for Marriage*

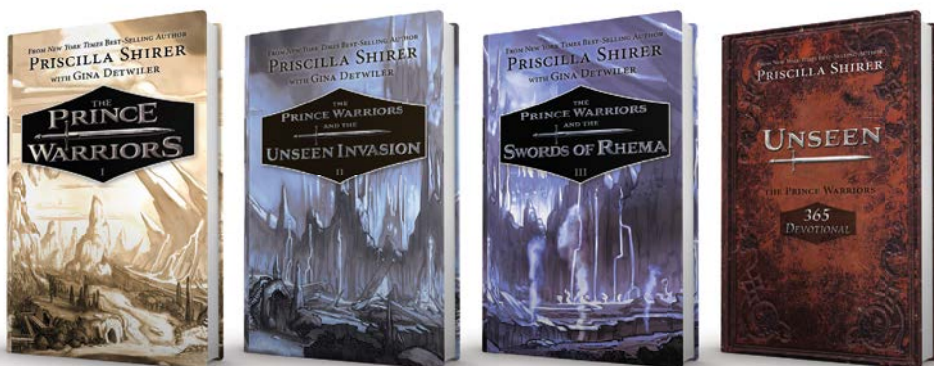
Beloved, bestselling author of Amish fiction, Wanda E. Brunstetter tells a heartrending story from 1880 Pennsylvania. Elizabeth and David are planning a Christmas Eve wedding when Elizabeth discovers a long-buried family secret. Leaving only a letter behind, she flees town thinking all hope of a marriage to David is lost.



AVAILABLE WHEREVER BOOKS ARE SOLD

LEARN MORE AT www.WandaBrunstetter.com

SHILOH RUN  PRESS



Prince Warriors

The battle is real.

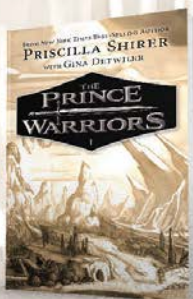
As brothers, Xavier and Evan are used to battling each other. But now they're discovering that there is a much bigger battle going on all around them. And it's their turn to fight. Based on Ephesians 6:10–18, *The Prince Warriors* is the first book in Priscilla Shirer's epic new children's series that brings to life the invisible struggle ensuing in the spiritual realm. Xavier, Evan and their friends have typical lives until they enter a mysterious land called Ahoratos. There they meet their guide, Ruwach, who offers wisdom and direction as the kids' initial adventure begins—an adventure filled with armor and danger and a very real enemy.

WWW.THEPRINCEWARRIORS.COM



“Mom, will I ever be in a battle?”

This question from my son inspired me to write a new series for kids—teaching them about the importance of the armor of God and of the reality of the spiritual world. We are in a battle—a daily battle—and it’s time for our young people to learn how to suit up, too. The characters in these stories will draw tweens in with relevant and relatable experiences and then show them how to achieve spiritual victory in their own lives.



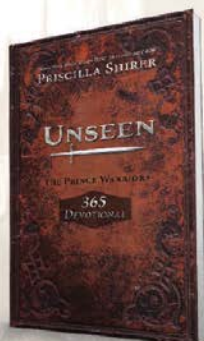
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978-1-4336-9020-4



978-1-4336-9021-1



978-1-4336-9018-1

I can’t wait for kids everywhere to be inspired through

The Prince Warriors Series

— Priscilla Shirer

Join the adventure!

B&H
Every WORD Matters™
BHPublishingGroup.com

Visit theprincewarriors.com
for more information!



Bibleman

The new animated Bibleman franchise features multiple products including animated DVDs, comics, books, building block sets, mini-figures and Bibleman's sword. Children will learn biblical values as well as Scripture. The Bibleman brand began in 1995 from Pamplin Entertainment and was primarily a series comprised of live-action videos with other branded books and toys. B&H is partnering with P23 Entertainment Inc. to produce 26 episodes of Bibleman: The Animated Adventures. Learn more at Bibleman.com.

WWW.BIBLEMAN.COM

BIBLEMAN

THE ANIMATED ADVENTURES

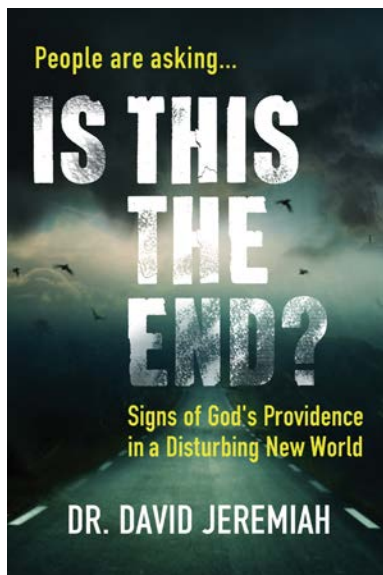


BIBLEMAN IS BACK!

This time, he and the Bibleteam are not only fighting villains and evil, but also teaching kids Scripture and biblical principles in an all new animated series!



Look for Bibleman in stores NOW! Learn more at Bibleman.com



Is This The End?

Could the headlines be any more jarring, the cultural changes more rapid, or the moral decay more pronounced? More and more people are asking, "Is this the end?"

Over the last few decades, Dr. David Jeremiah has become one of the world's most sought-after Christian leaders on topics that deal with biblical application and modern culture. And few would dispute that the pace at which things are currently changing is unprecedented.

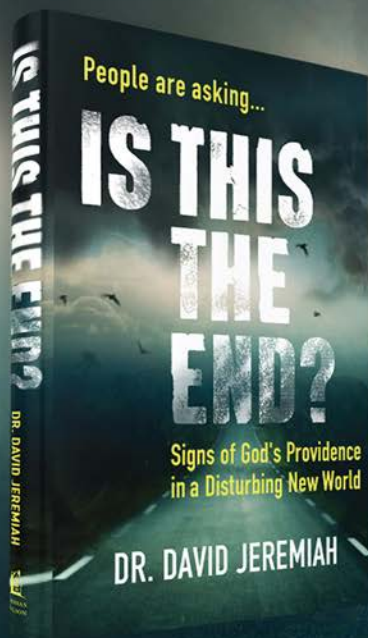
"In my conversations with people of all ages, races, and professions, I find deepening anxiety and even fear that things cannot go

on as they are for long," writes Dr. Jeremiah. "It is clear to many people that ominous clouds are darkening our future, and events are coming to a head.

"Christians wonder whether the end times prophesied in the book of Revelation are upon us. Is the rising disorder we are experiencing a precursor of the approaching Rapture of the church and the final return of Christ? Secularists wonder whether the nation is on the verge of collapse into economic, racial and political anarchy; or whether a hostile nation such as Russia, China or Iran might unleash its atomic fury on our cities; or whether militant Islamic terrorists flooding through our porous borders might inflict enough damage to bring us to our knees."

The time has come to accept this new normal, Dr. Jeremiah says, and understand how God's hand is still at work on His eternal plan for mankind.

WWW.ISTHISTHEEND.COM



CAN YOU AFFORD TO... IGNORE THE WARNINGS?

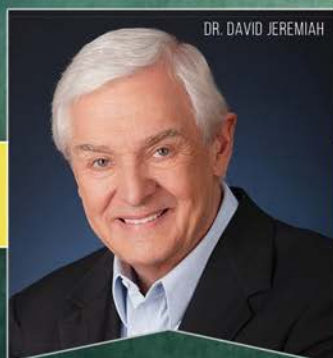
NO, BUT ALL CAN BETTER UNDERSTAND GOD'S GREATER STORY

AND THE ROLE WE EACH PLAY IN THIS CHANGING WORLD

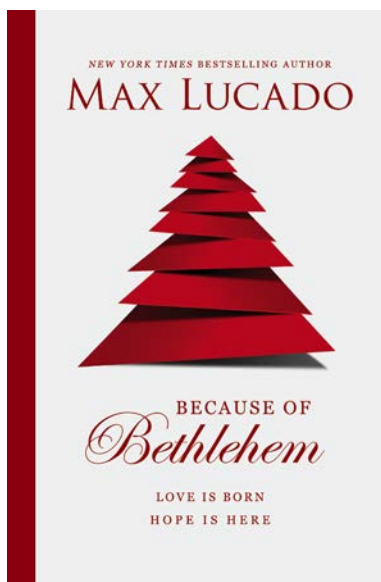
FROM *NEW YORK TIMES* BESTSELLING AUTHOR AND

BIBLICAL SCHOLAR, **DR. DAVID JEREMIAH.**

ISTHISTHEEND.COM



#GODISWITHUS



Because of Bethlehem

Max Lucado loves Christmas. Let the sleigh bells ring. Let the carolers sing. The more Santas the merrier. The more trees the better. He loves it because somewhere someone will ask the ultimate Christmas questions: What's the big deal about the baby in the manger? Who was He? What does His birth have to do with me? And the answers he's found are filled with hope, love . . . and even joy.

In his compelling new book *Because of Bethlehem: Love Is Born, Hope Is Here*, Lucado takes familiar elements of the year's most popular holiday and sheds brilliant light on how each aspect of the Christmas story reveals another expression of God's unbelievable, personal love.

Lucado looks into the Bethlehem story, with all its fumbles, awkwardness and longing, and details how the birth of Jesus is orchestrated to show us that God is with us in ways we could never imagine. "Christmas tells us that God knows what it is like to be a human," Lucado explains. "When I talk to him about deadlines or long lines or tough times, he understands. He's been there. He's been here. Because of Bethlehem, I have a friend in heaven."

According to Lucado: "Because of Bethlehem we are given the honor to interact with God, hear His thoughts and witness the magnificence of His Glory in both the good and bad parts of life. Jesus brought the Message to us in order that we would know truth and be truth in a dark world."

WWW.THOMASNELSON.COM/BECAUSE-OF-BETHLEHEM

Christmas.

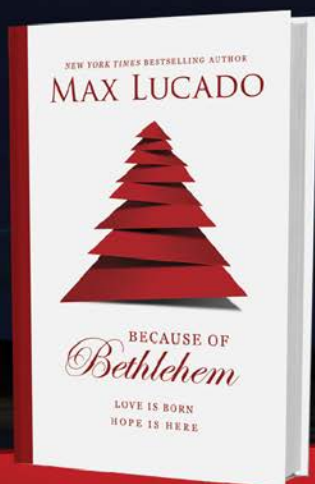
It brings sleigh bells ringing and carolers singing. And sometimes it brings heartache and hurt feelings. If you could use some true Christmas this Christmas, join Max Lucado as

he unpacks the enduring promises of Christmas and reveals a lifetime of hope

because of one baby born in Bethlehem.



BECAUSE OF *Bethlehem*



BUY IT TODAY
AT YOUR FAVORITE BOOKSTORE



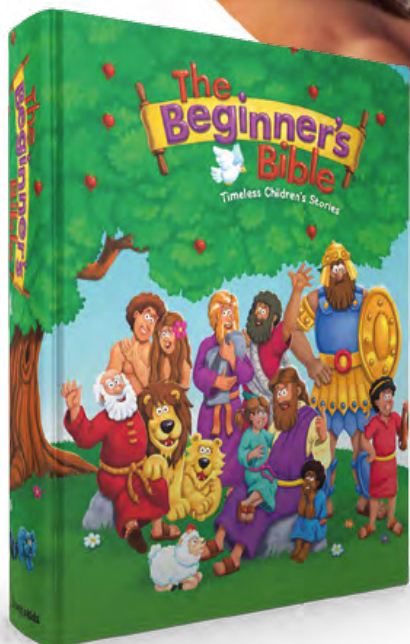
The Beginner's Bible

The Beginner's Bible® has been a favorite with young children and their parents since its release in 1989 with over 25 million products sold. Now it's redesigned with fresh new art that will excite children for many more years to come.

Full of faith and fun, *The Beginner's Bible* is a wonderful gift for any child. The easy-to-read text and bright, full-color illustrations on every page make it a perfect way to introduce young children to the stories and characters of the Bible. With new vibrant

three-dimensional art and compelling text, more than 90 Bible stories come to life. Kids ages 6 and under will enjoy the fun illustrations of Noah helping the elephant onto the ark, Jonah praying inside the fish, and more, as they discover *The Beginner's Bible* just like millions of children before. *The Beginner's Bible* was named the 2006 Retailers Choice Award winner in Children's Nonfiction. The Beginner's Bible family of products offers something for each child in your classroom, home or daycare. Join the conversation on Facebook and Twitter, and visit *The Beginner's Bible* website to learn more and take advantage of free resources!

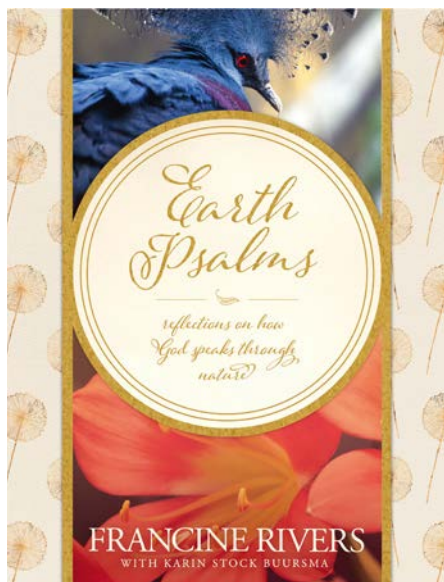
WWW.THEBEGINNERSBIBLE.COM



A WHOLE NEW WAY FOR KIDS TO EXPERIENCE THE BIBLE!

For over 25 years, *The Beginner's Bible* has captured imaginations and guided young hearts to the Word of God. Now updated with all-new, vibrant, three-dimensional illustrations, this is one Bible experience your kids will turn to again and again. Available wherever books are sold.

The fun begins at TheBeginnersBible.com.



Earth Psalms

Reflections on How God Speaks through Nature

Millions of readers have been transformed and inspired by her bestselling novels *Redeeming Love* and *A Voice in the Wind*. Now, in this weekly devotional, beloved author Francine Rivers invites you to join her in seeking the Creator through the marvelous natural world we live in. Francine shares observations she's gathered over a lifetime of exploring—abroad and in her own backyard—and reflects on how they might apply to your daily life. What do the majestic

redwoods, the persistent woodpecker, or a glorious sunrise reveal about our artistic and generous God? How could that change your outlook or the way you handle adversity?

Stunning photography, Scripture excerpts, applications and prayers accompany Francine's reflections, inspiring you to be encouraged. Be challenged. Be comforted. God's power is immense; His attention to detail is precise; His love for you is vast and unfailing. The proof is all around you.

WWW.EARTHPSALMSBOOK.COM

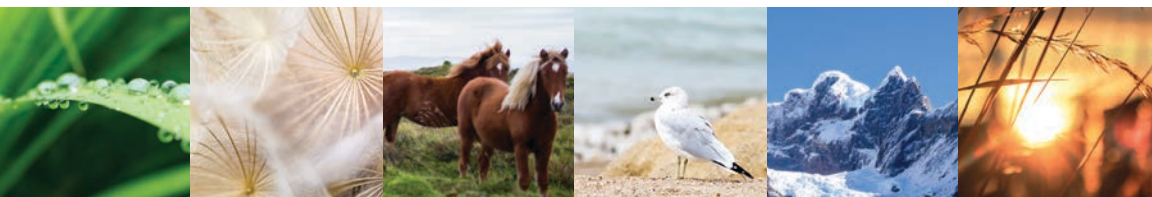
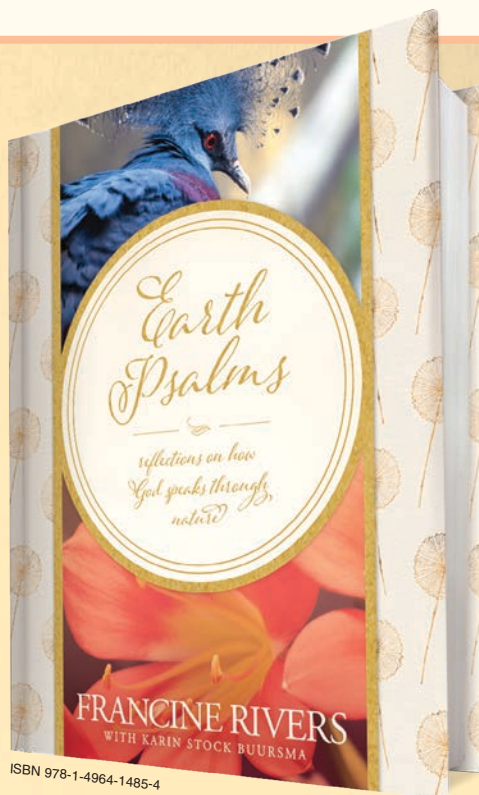
New DEVOTIONAL FROM *NEW YORK TIMES*
BESTSELLING AUTHOR **FRANCINE RIVERS**

EVERYTHING GOD CREATED
IS A WONDER TO BEHOLD!

In this weekly devotional, beloved author Francine Rivers invites you to join her in seeking the Creator through the marvelous natural world we live in. Stunning photography, Scripture excerpts, applications, and prayers will inspire, encourage, challenge, and comfort you.

"Earth Psalms is a gorgeous book. It's the writing, insightful, fragrant and personal, that breathes this beauty to life and transports us in our imaginations to each scene."

New York Times bestselling author Beth Moore



New York Times bestselling author FRANCINE RIVERS has continued to win both industry acclaim and reader loyalty around the globe. Her numerous bestsellers include *A Voice in the Wind*, *Redeeming Love*, and *Bridge to Haven*. Visit her website at www.francinerivers.com.

KARIN STOCK BUURSMASMA has worked in the publishing industry for more than fifteen years, first at a publishing house and now as a freelance editor and writer.



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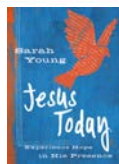


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A Very Merry Christmas Prayer

Join the adorable woodland animals as they celebrate Christmas! The pages of this book will walk you through beloved holiday traditions. This book will make readers more thankful for Christmas, and most important, Jesus.

God Bless Our Christmas

This sweet rhyming story will help your little ones focus on all the blessings of Christmas with family, including decorating cookies and trees, singing favorite carols, giving gifts, and celebrating Jesus!

One Small Donkey for Little Ones/One Small Donkey

Bestselling author Dandi Daley Mackall tells the story of Jesus' birth from an unlikely perspective: a donkey carrying Mary to Bethlehem. The donkey is not the fastest or strongest animal, but he had an important job all the same.

Itsy Bitsy Christmas

When two small mice find out that a king is coming to Bethlehem, they are so excited! They search high and low for him, but cannot find him anywhere. Just when they begin to believe that they really aren't important enough for a king to visit, they learn that Christ the King has indeed come for everyone!

Good Good Father

This beautiful picture book by Grammy award-winning Christian music artist Chris Tomlin and Pat Barrett leaves children with a greater understanding of who God is and of who they are because they are loved by Him.

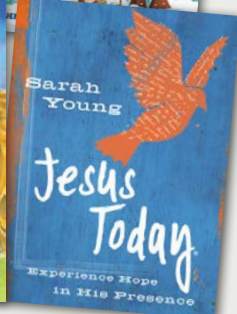
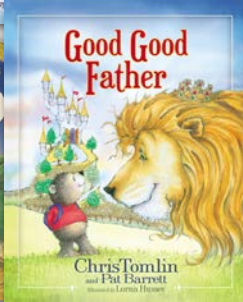
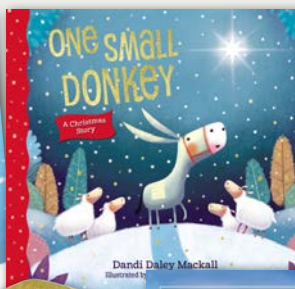
Jesus Today Teen Cover

Filled with the familiar content you know and trust, this updated cover of *Jesus Today* makes an excellent gift for the teenagers and young adults in your life.

WWW.STORE.FAITHGATEWAY.COM/KIDSCHRISTMAS

Share the WONDER OF Christmas

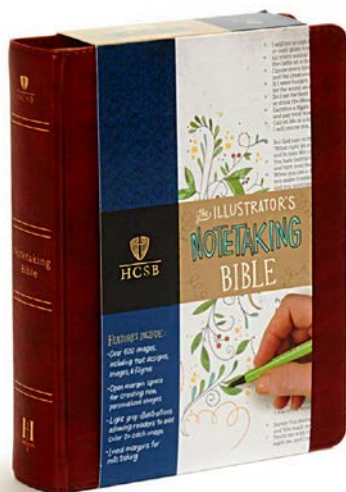
Give the gift of Jesus this Christmas with books that nurture the faith of children while pointing them toward a relationship with God.



Save
30%

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LEARN MORE



The Illustrator's Notetaking Bible

Offering the perfect gift for that creative person in your life, *The Illustrator's Notetaking Bible* combines both the opportunity to journal your thoughts in the conveniently lined margins as well as over 600 images to engage the artist in everyone. With these unique illustrations included on every page spread, readers, illustrators and notetakers alike learn to engage the biblical text in a new way. Each image is in light grey outline and there are open margin spaces for creating new, personalized creations as well.

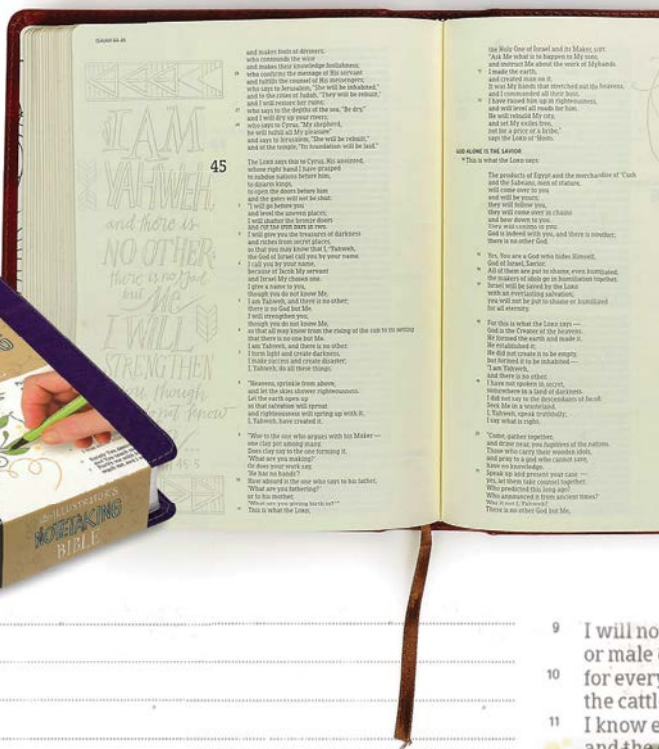
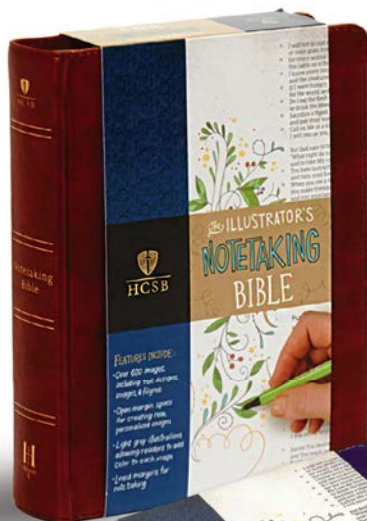
The exceptional design offers a wonderful balance for everyone from seasoned artists to the creatively challenged, allowing for guided creativity and meaningful personalization of the Bible reading experience. Featuring filigree, Scripture quotes and unique images, these line-drawn illustrations are waiting to be brought to life. Several cover options are available, but shown here is our British Tan, bonded leather over board edition that offers a classic feel as well as a durable construction that will last for generations to come.

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The ILLUSTRATOR'S NOTETAKING BIBLE

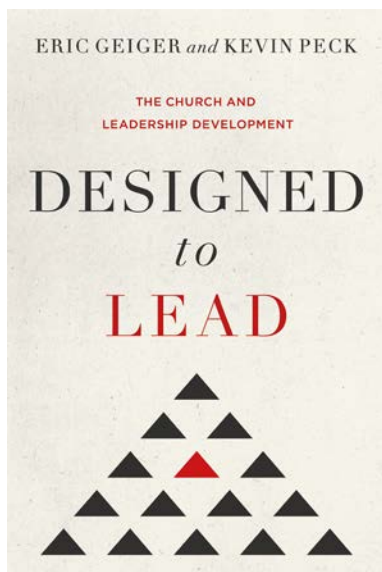
OVER 600 ILLUSTRATIONS
TO HELP YOU BRING YOUR
BIBLE TO LIFE



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BHPublishingGroup.com

COLORYOURBIBLES.COM

9 I will no
10 or male
11 for every
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or drink



Designed to Lead

Most churches merely exist.

Many churches do not develop leaders intentionally and consistently. When leaders emerge from some churches, it is often by accident.

Something is missing; something is off.

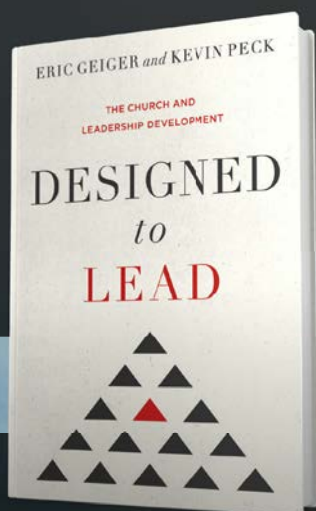
From the first recordings of history, God has made it clear that He has designed creation to be led by His covenant people. More than that, He has decided what His people are to do with that leadership. Whether you are called to lead in your home, in the marketplace, in God's church, or in your community, if you are called by God you are called to lead others to worship the glory of God in Jesus Christ.

God has designed his people to lead.

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LEAD *by* DESIGN



For you. For your ministry team.

Authors Eric Geiger (author of bestselling *Simple Church* and *Creature of the Word*) and Kevin Peck argue that churches that consistently produce leaders have a strong conviction to develop leaders, a healthy culture for leadership development, and helpful constructs to systematically and intentionally build leaders. All three are essential for leaders to be formed through the ministry of a local church.

Visit **DesignedtoLead.com**

to receive free leadership resources

RELEASING SEPTEMBER 1



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She Reads Truth

She wants to know what is true—not partly true, or sometimes true, or almost true. She wants to see Truth itself, face-to-face. But here, now, these things are all cloudy. Hope is tinged with hurt. Faith is shaded by doubt. Lesser, broken things masquerade as love. How does she find something permanent when the world around her is always changing, when not even she can stay the same? And if she finds it, how does she hold on?

She Reads Truth tells the stories of two women who discovered, through very different lives and circumstances, that only God and His Word remain unchanged as the world around them shifted and slipped away.

Infused with biblical application and Scripture, this book is not just about two characters in two stories, but about one Hero and one Story.

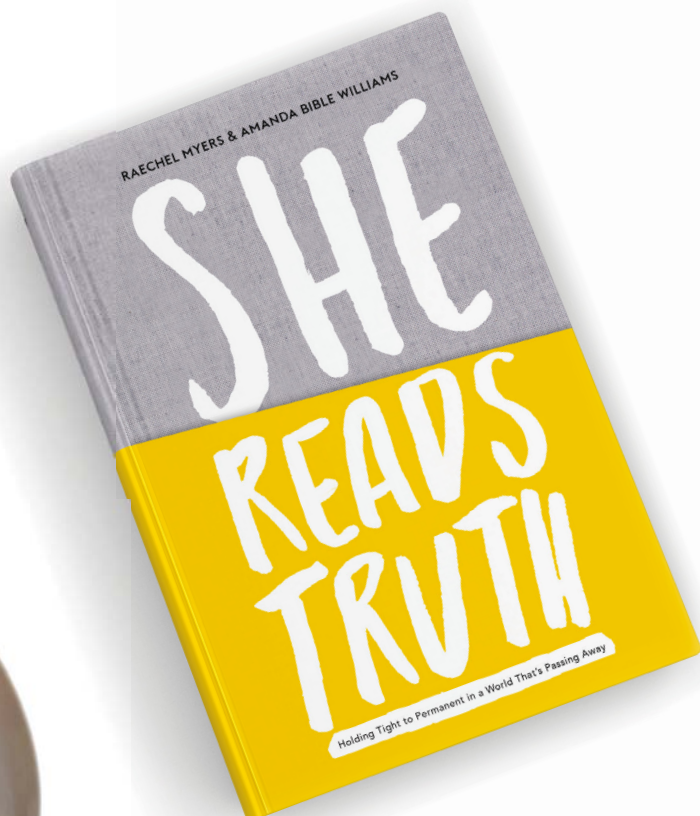
Every image points to the bigger picture—that God and His Word are true. Not because of anything we do, but because of who He is. Not once, not occasionally, but right now and all the time. Sometimes it takes everything moving to notice the thing that doesn't move. Sometimes it takes telling two very different stories to notice how the Truth was exactly the same in both of them.

For anyone searching for a solid foundation to cling to, *She Reads Truth* is a rich and honest Bible-filled journey to finally find permanence in a world that's passing away.

WWW.SHEREADSTRUTHBOOK.COM

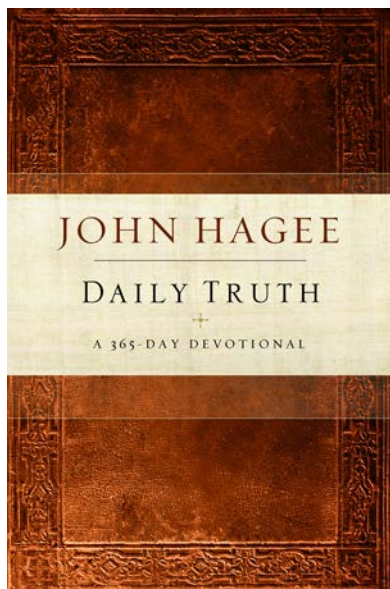
SHE WANTS TO KNOW WHAT IS TRUE—
NOT PARTLY TRUE, OR SOMETIMES TRUE, OR ALMOST TRUE.

SHE WANTS TRUTH ITSELF.



She Reads Truth tells the stories of two women who discovered that only God and His Word remain unchanged as the world around them shifted and slipped away.

Sometimes it takes everything moving to notice the thing that doesn't move. Sometimes it takes telling two very different stories to notice how the Truth was exactly the same in both of them.



Daily Truth

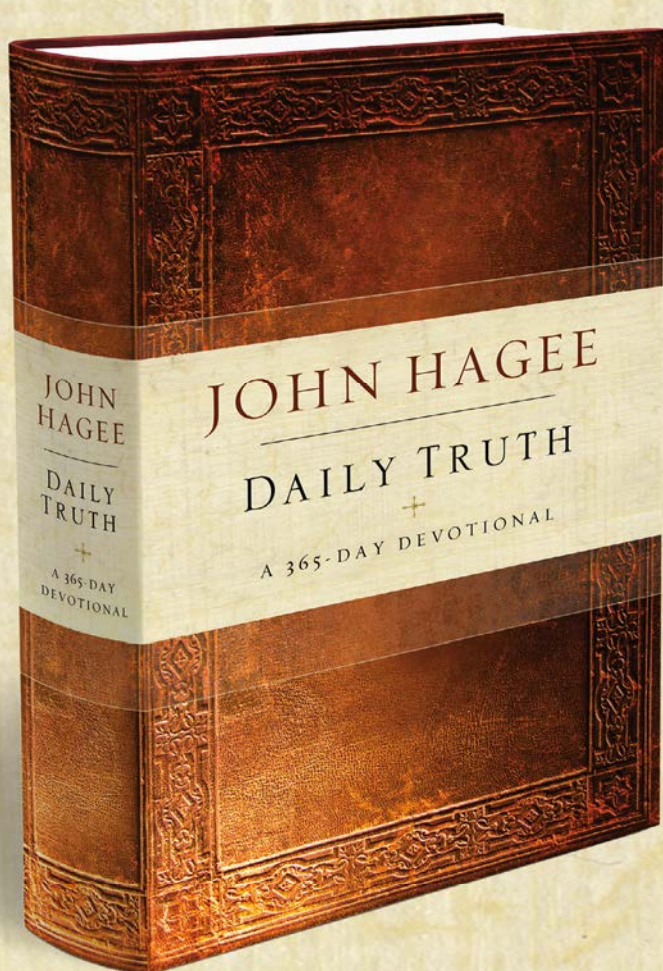
Our world is full of brokenness—in families, careers, marriages and finances. In the midst of the daily anxieties Pastor John Hagee reminds us to call out to God in prayer and claim His promises for provision and grace. Our year can be successful if we turn to God, seek His truth, and ask for help. In *Daily Truth* Pastor Hagee demonstrates God's past faithfulness in Scripture and challenges readers to trust in God's unfailing support in their daily lives. God has blessings in store for you; believe it!

In this 365-day devotional, bestselling author and pastor John Hagee walks you through the Scripture with words of strength and hope for every day. As only he can, Pastor Hagee draws from his decades of Bible study and ministry to bring authoritative yet inspirational meditations that will center you in the truth of the Word of God. At the end of each week, you will be especially encouraged by a powerful and meaningful Pastor's Blessing.

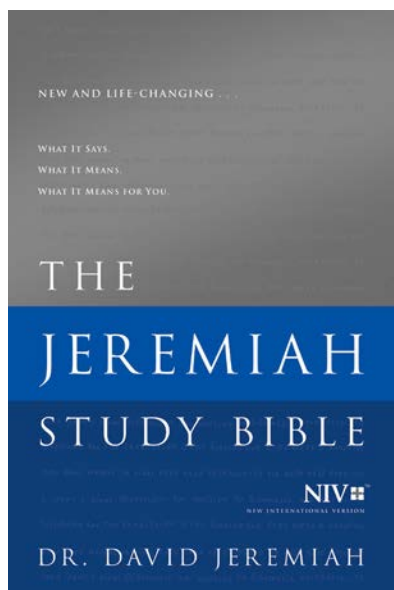
This elegant, jacketed hardcover volume features a beautiful full-color interior and a ribbon marker, making it perfect for daily devotional reading.

WWW.WORTHYPUBLISHING.COM/BOOKS/DAILY-TRUTH

Words of Strength and Hope for Each Day of the Year



“I am praying that God brings you to a new destiny,
a new spiritual high—a new destination with your
Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.”
—PASTOR JOHN HAGEE



The Jeremiah Study Bible

This extraordinary and popular Bible is the result of 40 years of study by one of the most widely viewed and respected Bible teachers in the world today. This legacy resource will be the standard for decades to come. Packed within the pages of *The Jeremiah Study Bible* are a lifetime of teaching and preaching insights God has given Dr. Jeremiah. He has often said that *The Jeremiah Study Bible* is the most important thing he has ever done because it brings everything back to what matters most in his life and ministry. "The Bible has the greatest potential of anything I know to permanently transform someone's life.

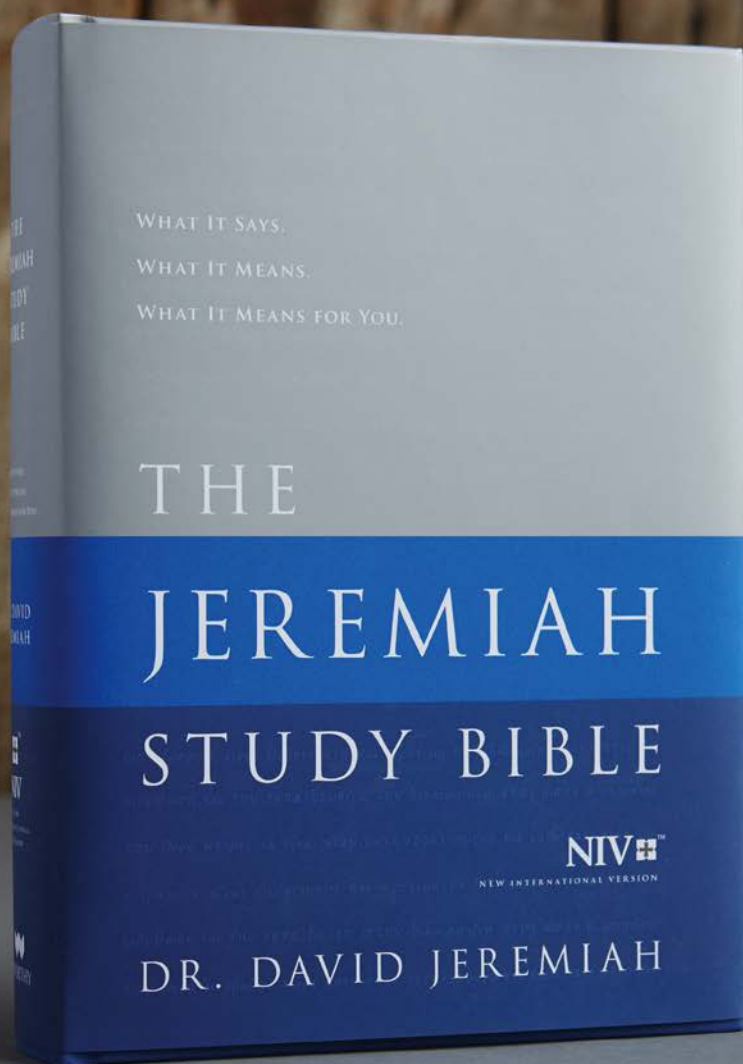
I can't think of anything better than extending its reach to even more people through *The Jeremiah Study Bible*."

Almost 50 years after the vision was cast—and more than 450 million copies later—the New International Version is the most widely read Bible translation in contemporary English. The NIV delivers the very best combination of accuracy and readability. It's true to God's Word and true to the reader.

The NIV, combined with more than 8,000 notes and sidebars from years of Dr. Jeremiah's teaching, helps you more clearly know what the Bible says, what it means, and what it means for you. It is available in jacketed hardcover, genuine leather, and LeatherLuxe bindings.

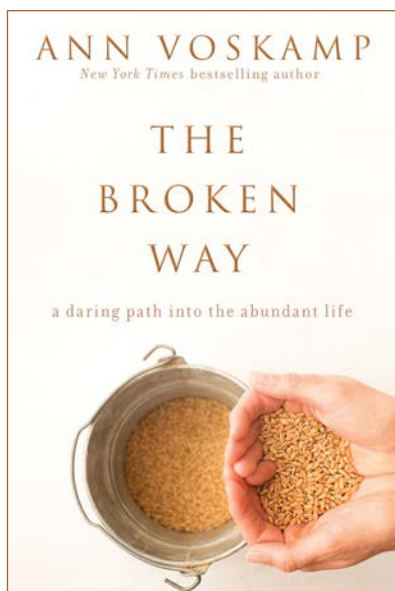
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The best-selling study Bible from David Jeremiah



Now available in NIV

Learn more: JeremiahStudyBible.com



The Broken Way

New York Times bestselling author Ann Voskamp sits at the edge of her life and all of her own unspoken brokenness and asks: What if you really want to live abundantly before it's too late? What do you do if you really want to know abundant wholeness? This is the one begging question that's behind every single aspect of our lives—and one that *The Broken Way* rises up to explore in the most unexpected ways.

This one's for the lovers and the sufferers. For those whose hopes and dreams and love grew so large it broke their willing hearts. This one's for the busted ones who are ready to bust free, the ones ready to break molds, break chains, break

measuring sticks, and break all this bad brokenness with an unlikely good brokenness. You could be one of the Beloved who is broken—and still lets yourself be loved.

You could be one of them, one who believes freedom can be found not only beyond the fear and pain, but actually *within* it.

You could discover and trust this broken way—the way to not be afraid of broken things.

WWW.THEBROKENWAY.COM

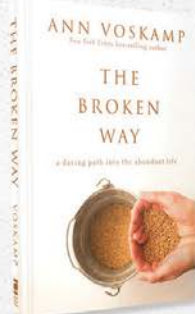


PAIN. HEARTACHE. BROKENNESS.
THEY'RE THE BEGINNING, NOT THE END.

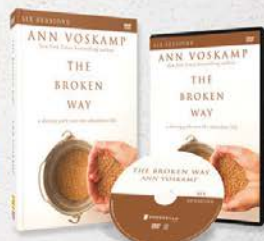
What do you do with the brokenness in your life?

What's the answer to suffering in the world?

What do you really do if you want to know
abundant wholeness in your day to day?



Video Study Available
November 29



Bestselling author Ann Voskamp takes those who carry their own unspoken broken on a journey into *The Broken Way* — a fresh, authentic way into more time, more meaning, more abundant wholeness — a literal way to shape one's days into the abundant life. Live a life that is fearless of brokenness. Book on sale October 25th. To find a retailer and more information, visit TheBrokenWay.com. **ZONDERVAN**.com

REVIEWS

nov 15, 2016

mat redman
THESE CHRISTMAS LIGHTS

THE
BEST
CHRISTMAS
EVER!

**MATTHEW
WEST** *Unto Us*
A CHRISTMAS COLLECTION

RECORDED LIVE

L WICKHAM
CHILDREN OF GOD

Matt Redman

These Christmas Lights

(sixstepsrecords)

FOR FANS OF:

Passion, Tim Hughes

WE LIKE: “Angels (Singing Gloria)”

★★★★☆



Matt Redman explains his new Christmas album with a longing to be immersed musically inside the actual birth narrative of Jesus. Hence the compelling words of the title track of his newest album, ***These Christmas Lights***, “Let the wonder of that Christmas night be born in me.”

Nearly every track on this collection moves the listener toward that personal experience of the holiday season, most notably “Help From Heaven (feat. **Natasha Bedingfield**),” “How Far,” “The Name of Emmanuel” and “Angels (Singing Gloria).” The latter features his label mate and friend **Chris Tomlin** and should become a new Christmastime favorite.

—Matt Conner

Matthew West

Unto Us: A Christmas Collection

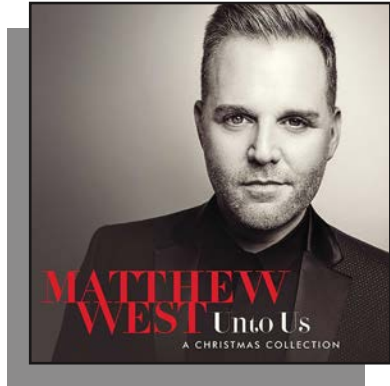
(Sparrow)

FOR FANS OF:

Aaron Shust, Big Daddy Weave

WE LIKE: “Unto Us”

★★★★☆



The second holiday album from **Matthew West, *Unto Us: A Christmas Collection***, features five new songs from the four-time GRAMMY winner. The album also features five Yuletide favorites, including a memorably jazzy “Jingle Bells,” but the value here is definitely the brand new songs.

The title track is a worshipful anthem that opens the set, while “The Heart of Christmas” is a warm, positive song that reminds the listener to cherish every moment. “Join The Angels” is a spirited sing-along that will be a favorite for many with its slight gospel flavor in the midst of an otherwise slow-to-mid-tempo set of songs.

–Matt Conner

NewSong

The Best Christmas Ever!

(HHM Records/Word Distribution)

FOR FANS OF:

4Him, Matthew West,
Straight No Chaser

WE LIKE: "The Best Christmas Ever"

★★★★☆



Taking standouts from 2001's ***The Christmas Shoes*** and 2006's ***The Christmas Hope*** while adding five entirely fresh recordings makes **NewSong**'s latest a holiday greatest hits collection of sorts. New highlights for these contemporary pop mainstays include the title tune (a co-write between the group's **Eddie Carswell** and **Matthew West** featuring duet partner **Jodi King** from **Love & The Outcome**), the cello-centered "The King Is Born" and the soulful stylings of "This Christmas."

Add in a live recording of mega crossover smash "The Christmas Shoes," plus a whole host of classic and contemporary interpretations, and ***The Best Christmas Ever!*** is truly the one stop seasonal shop for any NewSong fan.

—Andy Argyrakis

Phil Wickham

Children of God: Acoustic Sessions

(Independent)

FOR FANS OF:

Shane and Shane, Matt Maher

WE LIKE: “Starmaker
(High Above The Earth)”

★★★★☆



Phil Wickham’s musical roots as a worship leader come through beautifully on his newest release, an acoustic release of his spring favorite, ***Children Of God***. These acoustic sessions strip away the sonic layers to reveal Wickham’s yearning heart to know God more.

All twelve songs from the original release are found here, along with three new songs. “At The Foot Of The Cross” is the most compelling of the new bunch, but all three fit in nicely in this relaxed, reflective set. If anything, many fans might like this musical set better than the original for their ability to cut to the core of each track.

–Matt Conner

Selah

Rose of Bethlehem: Deluxe Edition

(Curb Records)

FOR FANS OF:

*David Phelps, Natalie Grant,
Phillips, Craig & Dean*

WE LIKE: “God Rest Ye Merry
Gentlemen/We Three Kings”

★★★★☆



Building upon its ten original tracks with **Todd Smith**, **Nicol Sponberg** and **Allan Hall**, **Selah's *Rose Of Bethlehem: Deluxe Edition*** adds five new tunes with Amy Perry (who stepped in for Sponberg 11 years ago), plus 2006's **Plumb** duet “Mary Sweet Mary.”

Those who already own the original album are probably best off downloading the added tracks, though anyone discovering these selections for the first time will surely delight in the vocal purity and inspirational arrangements throughout the title track, “Silent Night,” “Light Of The Stable” and “Once Upon A Christmas” (which includes country great **Dolly Parton**). In terms of the add-ons, a rhythmic rendition of “Little Drummer Boy” and an eclectic medley of “God Rest Ye Merry Gentlemen/We Three Kings” (with the **Annie Moses Band**) only add appeal to this already charming Christmas collection.

–Andy Argyrakis

Sho Baraka

The Narrative

(Humble Beast)

FOR FANS OF:

Lecrae

WE LIKE: "Excellent, 2017"

★★★★☆



We've entered the Golden Age of Christians in hip-hop. As **Lecrae** continues to raise the bar of excellence as well as mainstream awareness of the beauty of artists of faith in his genre, he's also lending his considerable talents to artists like **Sho Baraka**, a rapper worthy of his own spotlight.

The Narrative features plenty of special guests, but it's Baraka's ability to shift vantage points while melding musical styles that makes this album. The flow of advice on "Fathers, 2004," the groove of "Soul, 1971," the valuable history on "Myhood, U.S.A., 1937" and the imaginative "Excellent, 2017" all show off Sho Baraka's incredible palette.

—Matt Conner



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Disciple

Love Live The Rebels

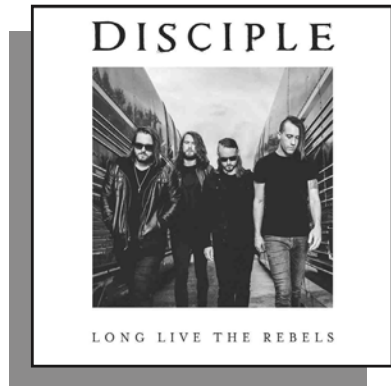
(Tooth & Nail/BEC)

FOR FANS OF:

Day of Fire, Pillar, Seventh Day Slumber

WE LIKE: "Secret Weapon"

★★★★☆



Another wildly successful crowd-funding campaign has helped **Disciple** ease into the indie waters just fine. For their latest, ***Long Live The Rebels***, the two-time Dove winners brought in **Aaron Sprinkle** to head production on a melodic metal set that sounds as tight as anything in the band's catalog.

From the great melody and killer solo on "Forever Starts Today" to the '80s-meets-modern feel of the title track to the intensity of "Secret Weapon," Disciple have given fans plenty more of what they want and then some.

—Matt Conner

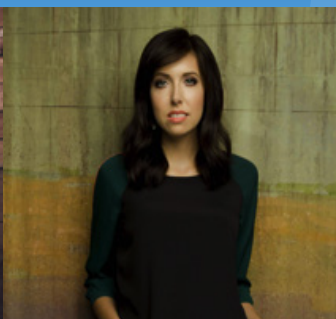


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