

CHRISTMAS & COMMUNION w/ANDREW GREER, MATT HAGEE, ALLAN HALL, GINNY OWENS

CELEBRATE

AMY GRANT

ANOTHER MERRY
CHRISTMAS?

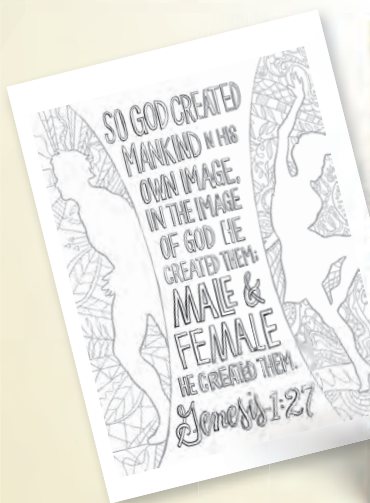
THE TIMELESS TALENT
TALKS OF HEARTACHE &
HOPE FOR THIS SEASON



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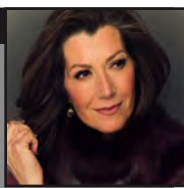
Exclusive pics of your favorite artists!

In this issue: Colton Dixon, MercyMe, Lauren Daigle, Natalie Grant + more!



Amy Grant

The Christmas Music Queen releases her first new holiday material in almost 20 years, the timeless talent speaks of heartache & hope for this season



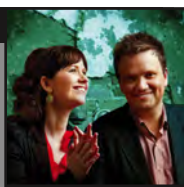
Christmas & Communion

Andrew Greer leads this Yuletide discussion featuring Allan Hall of Selah, Matt Hagee, and Ginny Owens



The Getty's

Modern hymn writers bring home the global joy of Christmas through music and their annual celebrations experienced the world over



Philip Renner

ONLINE-ONLY! After 25 years leading worship in Russia, this missionary musician brings his passion for worship and people back "home" to the States



Reviews

New music from Josh Garrels, Jill Phillips, Skrip, Marc Martel + more!



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Can you hear His heartbeat? | As **Andrew Greer** expressly highlights in his introduction to our ***Christmas & Communion*** feature for this issue, there doesn't seem to be a shortage of disparaging topics to discuss as families break bread this Christmas. In America, there will no doubt be cross-family tensions across tables that stem from recent developments in our country and culture.

Furthering the conversation, and bringing it home to contrast to the holly-jolly hub-bub that is repeatedly force-fed to us through the masses—there are real people with real issues which aren't magically paused during this time of year. Greer's cover conversation with **Amy Grant** is especially worth reading, as the legendary vocalist eloquently reminds us, "Everyone is loved by God."

In addition to the somber, yet poignant parts of Christmastime, I am especially proud of what we do in these end-of-the-year issues here at *CCM Magazine* with Andrew's *Christmas & Communion* specials and our other timely content—pointing all of our focus onto Jesus—and especially during this time of year, the person of Jesus (Can you see the baby, hear his cries, smell the manger?).

I hope you will enjoy the uplifting and hopeful story from **Selah's Allan Hall**; the targeted devotional written by **Matt Hagee**; and the always fun and whimsical storytelling by **Ginny Owens**. Most of all, through everything you read here, listen to, or do the next few weeks, I hope the heartbeat for this season, Jesus Christ, resonates everything that's experienced.



Merry Christmas,

A stylized, handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kevin Sparkman". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large loop at the end.

Kevin Sparkman

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AMY GRANT

cover story by Andrew Greer

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AMY GRANT — Another Merry Christmas?

A conversation with Andrew Greer, the timeless talent speaks of heartache and hope for this season

By Andrew Greer

We have long loved **Amy Grant**. Sure, her hits-deep discography has sound-tracked our musical memories for decades, a statement verified by the release of dozens of number-one records that have sold upwards of a couple-dozen million copies worldwide. But more than ear candy for our generation, or some iconic pop remembrances, for many of us, Grant's personal songwriter pen sparked our first conversations with God.

Through verses of faith, choruses of hope and refrains of lots and lots of love, Grant has long participated in the conversation music employs to share a bigger story being told in and through us, by a Creator who has loved us from the get-go. And this big-picture narrative—especially when set to song—has changed the way we think, inspired the way we live, and colored our hearts forever.

This is the power of music. And this is the story of Christmas.

Since Grant released 1983's iconic ***A Christmas Album***, the six-time GRAMMY winner and Christmas Music Queen has been engaging our seasonal senses with a catalog of instant classic, orchestra-oriented holiday recordings. But for ***Tennessee Christmas*** (Capitol CMG)—her first holiday album in nearly twenty years—Amy Grant enlists her tender, acoustic-pop means of recent years to delve below the season's surface greetings and explore the realities of life in December.

In between rehearsals for her annual run of holiday shows with husband **Vince Gill** at Nashville's renowned **Ryman Auditorium**, Grant and I sat down for a poignant Christmas & Communion conversation about the full range of emotions this season elicits and why sadness is as important as gladness in embodying the full scope of hope at Christmastime.

CCM Magazine: The tone of Tennessee Christmas is significantly more humble than your prior Christmas catalog. Lyrically, it is decidedly more vulnerable. What inspired the contemplative tone?

Amy Grant: I wanted to create a Christmas record for an audience of one. I love the cinematic production on Home For Christmas, the **Ronn Huff** orchestrations—that is some beautiful, mighty Christmas music. But touring so much at Christmas time I have heard so many people's stories. I've heard so many stories. In my work, conspicuous by their absence, are songs that embrace the sad side of Christmas.

After they agreed to come onboard as producers, **Mac McAnally**, **Marshall Altman** and **Ed Cash** and I met at **Capitol Records** to discuss the record. We started talking about our own Christmas experiences, good years and hard years. From that, each of them went away saying, "Do I get to produce a sad song?"

If you feel lonely / I feel it too / If nobody said it / I'm wishing you / Merry Christmas ... (from "Melancholy Christmas")

We hadn't even left the building and Ed had written the first verse of "Another Merry Christmas." He met me in the lobby, and said, "I had one Christmas that was the hardest Christmas of my whole life, and I know what that feels like. So I went straight to a writer room. I've got this song called 'Another Lonely Christ-

mas.” I said, “Can I be your co-writer? And would you please call it ‘Another Merry Christmas?’ Don’t give it away.”

Marshall said, “I remember a Christmas in my childhood. My parents split up. My sister was gone. I was invited to the house of the Italian Catholic family across the street for dinner on Christmas Eve. It was raucous and loud. They had a present for me, but at some point, I had to go back to my empty, dark house, and I just stared out my window at their house.” We ended up writing “Melancholy Christmas.”

The joyful songs felt more authentic because the sad side was embraced and validated—because it’s true.

CCM: I feel like people have come to expect this from you. You have always had a deep capacity for understanding heartache, sadness, for life’s pains. Does Christmas inspire a certain gladness and sadness for you personally?

AG: For me, even the most beautiful Christmases, it was always both things.

One of my favorite Christmas memories was in 1992. So many great things happened that year. One of them was when a lot of transformers blew up [in Nashville] because of an ice storm. I lived on a farm that happened to have a lot of fireplaces—it was a really old house—so we closed off parts of the house to keep it warm, and three or four families moved in. For several days we were without power, and I loved that.

That Christmas Eve my mom and dad, my one surviving grandmother, all of my nieces and nephews and sixteen grandkids, I think, we all gathered at our house and sang Christmas carols. We divided up and sang “The Twelve Days Of Christmas.” At



least twenty-five or thirty people were there. That night as we everyone was leaving, my grandmother said, "I wish we had sung 'When The Saints Go Marching In.'" We had already sung so much, so we said, "Nanny, I promise the next time we're together, we will all sing 'When The Saints Go Marching In.'"

Three days after Christmas she died. My oldest sister said, 'Well, you know the song we're going to have to sing at her funeral.' That was the greatest Christmas, and then it ended with a funeral.

*It's happy and sad, The good and the bad / Someone's up,
Someone's barely hanging / It's everything all at once,
If we're honest enough / Everybody wants to be loved ...*
(from "Another Merry Christmas")

It's funny, while Ed and I were writing "Another Merry Christmas" I kept saying the phrase my sisters and I say over and over: "It's everything all at once." Somebody's at the top of her game, somebody's barely hanging on, and Ed is just writing it all down. I asked him, "What are you doing?" He said, "I'm writing down the bridge to the song." We have a big family, and like every family, you have everything—substance abuse, attempted suicide. You have happiness and tragedy. It just happens. That is life.

What I love about this record is I feel like even if you've only had a Beaver Cleaver Christmas, at some point your grandfather does pass away. Then you think, *The world will never be the same again*. Even people who haven't been touched by tragedy experience loss.

CCM: The rendition of "Joy To The World" on the new project is so pensive and introspective versus the typical trumpeted

fare. I don't know if I have ever heard the depth of the hymn's lyric like I do here, especially the line: He comes to make His blessings flow / Far as the curse is found. That's what we are talking about here, right? The contrast of dark and light, all wrapped up in the same season.

AG: It was Ed Cash's idea to record that song at that pace. We played it down and he said, "Amy, how does it feel?" I said, "I am scared to death. How do you sing the song this slow?" [Laughs] It was suddenly so poignant, like a beautiful wrecking ball. It just took us all to our knees.

He comes to make His blessings flow / Far as the curse is found ...
(from "Joy To The World")

Almost every night of December I'm on stage. Whether it's with **Michael [W. Smith]** and **Jordan [Smith]** on the road show or with Vince [Gill] at The Ryman or our free concert at **Lipscomb University** or rehearsal, I've had so much time in a context where I'm surrounded by music to ponder all things Christmas. Many times onstage, while somebody else is singing, I think about the angels saying to the shepherds, "Behold, the good news of great joy that will be for all people. A savior is born." In my mind, I think, *God, is that just for people that are setting up nativities?*

When Jesus said, "Father, forgive them. They know not what they do," *Was that just for the people that nailed Him to the cross?* Or is Your plan so massive that when the angel said, "Behold, I bring good news of great joy that will be for *all* people," *Is that what you meant? Is your message so profound that we cannot even wrap our heads around it?* Every night I find myself saying, "God, please let that be it. Please let that be it."

For me, trusting that the story He's telling is so much bigger than the one my small mind is able to tell, that's what makes me so energized to share this message across cultural lines, across religious lines—to share, “This is good news.”

CCM: We are experiencing so many cultural tensions right now. Different faiths. Different lifestyles. Different political perspectives. Everyone is taking sides. Why do you think Christmas is such a motivator in helping us get back to each other? Back to love?

AG: What an amazing thing that all of this energy has been created around the celebration of the birth of Jesus. For economic reasons, for cultural reasons, for goodwill reasons, everybody is pulled in. In my mind, [Christmas] is the greatest ball of energy because it is all a trickle down from, “God so loved the world that He gave His son.” It's the one time of the year when you can actually imagine the person that has never walked into a church, never been a part of a choir, raising a chilled beer mug and singing at the corner pub, “O Come All Ye Faithful.”

Come and behold Him, Born the King of angels / O come let us adore Him, Christ the Lord ... (from “O Come All Ye Faithful”)

Because of commercialism, I know there's an outcry of “Jesus is the reason for the season,” and I go, “Well yeah. Duh.” But if my grandmother were a picture of God, and I wanted somebody to know her love, the first thing I would do—because most people don't want to hang out with a wrinkly old woman who's talking about something they're not interested in—I would start describing the smell of her yeast rolls. Then I'd talk about their shape, how when she lays them over it looks like a smile. And I'd say, “I'm going to bring you some leftover rolls from our dinner.” Someday, if that friend stepped into my grandmother's

house, they would say, “Oh my gosh. The smell. What I imagined didn’t even come close.” All of these things to eventually introduce my friend to my grandmother. The rolls are just a part of it. It’s really about her. The rolls are just an expression of her painstaking love for what she wants to feed the family.

In my mind, all the hoopla of Christmas is the burning bush. It gets people curious. *Where does this come from? How come the entire cynical world wants to smile and show each other love?* It’s crazy. That’s why if somebody says, “This isn’t talking about Jesus,” I say, “Hey, hey, hey. Prepare ye the way of the Lord starts way, way out there with the smell of bread rising.”

CCM: Why do you think it’s important for us to relax into the lonelier sides of the season?

AG: It’s an exercise in welcoming your entire self. We are always simultaneously experiencing two things: the way we live, and who we are. The way we live is, well, just name the chatter in your head. Feeling inadequate, chaotic, rushed, broken, just busy. Forget anything negative, just think, busy, overwhelmed, keeping up, lots of measuring sticks. The activity in our heads is never trustworthy. It’s constantly critiquing you and everybody in your world. Even the chief of ISIS wakes up with the same head chatter because it’s human. But the reality of who we are, whether we know it or not, is loved by God. And that goes for everybody from the vilest offender to **Mother Teresa**. Everyone is loved by God.

It is no mystery that those two extremes exist in every one of us—the reality of how we live day in and day out and the certain reality of who we are. And we are love, love, love. So this is an exercise of bringing our minds and hearts together, and as our heads and our hearts get closer together the more we understand the reality of who we are.

Amy Grant

I was in my fifties before I really found stillness, and could believe that God really loved me. I have felt loved by God, but something changes when you are middle-aged. When your body and everything you're used to counting on starts breaking down, the better stuff starts to surface. CCM





CHRISTMAS & COMMUNION

introduction & curated by Andrew Greer



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Christmas & Communion: The Advent Of Love

By Andrew Greer

This year has been a doozy. Perhaps, it's just me. But even a quick perusal of current events will provide ample examples of major tensions and tender conflicts among folks at home and abroad. Riven by racial, religious and political discord, here in America, the advent of winter has never felt so ripe.

Earlier this year, I picked up a copy of ***Coal Miner's Daughter***, **Loretta Lynn's** charming 1976 autobiography. Amid the fascinating details outlining her rise from rags to Country music royalty, the legendary singer recounted her long-standing relationship with anxiety and fear. As she penned her angst about the dramatic issues facing the nation forty years ago, I dog-eared pages of phrases that could be applied verbatim to the myriad of challenges facing our country and culture today.

As I grow in age, and hopefully maturity, I am learning fear is no respecter of place or time. Thank God, neither is love.

Christmas is a beginning. It is the advent of our belonging. Our worthiness. Our salvation. Though in this human context of flesh and bone the bonds of darkness persist, within the realm of eternity our souls have been liberated by the love of a Creator who created us, and created us well.

No, the hardships of the world, and in our lives, don't magically disappear in December, as **Amy Grant** and I explored in the preceding cover conversation. But when subject to the brilliance

of Christmas, every ache and pain and doubt and fear are re-claimed and redeemed through God’s heartbeat for all people ... Jesus. Or as Tiny Tim might sum it up, “God loves us, everyone!”

Christmas changes everything. [CCM](#)



Christmas & Communion: Allan Hall/Selah

Once Upon A Christmas Dream Come True

When I was 16 years old, **Dolly Parton** taught me how to sing harmony.

Not in person, of course (I wish!). I had been playing the piano since I was six years old and had always sung a little bit here and there. By my teen years, I was starting to take my singing more seriously and wanted to be able to throw in a nice harmonic vocal when I was performing with others.

I had loved Dolly since I was a very young child and we had many of her albums in our home. We usually picked up her new releases when they released, and in 1987 I used some of my work-money to buy her latest, the **Trio** album (which she recorded with **Linda Ronstadt** and **Emmylou Harris**). From the first spin of the record I was transfixed by three beautiful voices weaving around each other in gorgeous three-part harmony! I then dug in and began to listen intently to Dolly’s voice, noting when she was singing the lead, a harmony above, or a part below. After learning her parts, I did the same with Ronstadt’s and Harris’ vocals. It was some of the best musical education

I'd ever received, and when I headed off to **Belmont University** the next year to study music, I was already well prepared for singing leads or harmonies.

I was excited and terrified to leave home and move to Nashville to pursue my dream of music. I was the first in my immediate family to go to college and was one of the first in my entire extended family to move away from home. I didn't know a soul in Music City. As I looked out the back window of our car and saw my home and city receding into the distance, I could feel tears well up and fear start to fill my heart.

I said a little prayer to God, and then a little while later I thought of Dolly (I believe the Lord gently brought her to my mind). She had also left her home and everyone she knew at age eighteen to move to Nashville and pursue her dream of music, and how that worked out! The more I thought about her story, I could feel excitement take over, squeezing out the fear I had been feeling. I figured with a lot of hard work, and trusting and following God's lead, things might just work out for me, too.

I got to Nashville in 1988 and signed my record contract (as part of **Selah**) in 1998—ten years later and almost exactly to the day. The Lord allowed Selah to have success, which allowed us to keep making records, thankfully. A few years into our career (around early 2002), our label approached us about making a Christmas album. As we were assembling songs, I thought of a song of Dolly's called "Once Upon A Christmas" that she and **Kenny Rogers** had recorded in 1984 for their duet Christmas album of the same name. I had always loved the song for its minor key, sweeping melody, and beautiful imagery. One of Dolly's many musical gifts is her supreme ability as a songwriter—she paints pictures and sets specific scenes in a listener's mind with a beautiful economy of words.

We decided to record her song for our album and then I thought, "Why not see if she'll come and sing on it with us? It doesn't hurt to ask and the worst that will happen is she'll say, 'No, thanks.'" So I did an arrangement of the song with me playing piano and singing all of the parts, recorded it onto a cassette (younger readers, ask your parents what that is), and gave it to our co-producer Jason to send off to Dolly's "people." About a month later we got word back that Dolly loved my arrangement of her song and would be happy to come and record with us. You can imagine that my little East Tennessee heart was just about to burst!

When Dolly walked into the studio she went around and introduced herself to everyone, including the technicians and secondary session personnel. That doesn't always happen when you work with a big name artist, and Dolly is without question one of the most famous people in the world. She has attained the highest level imaginable in the entertainment industry. That simple gesture spoke volumes about the type of lady she is. It's cliché to say that someone "brightens up a room" when they enter, but it was absolutely true in Dolly's case. Her smile and laugh were evident from the start, and the session could not have gone smoother. With both of us being from East Tennessee, we clicked right away and had a great time together. She'd hug on me and say, "I'm so glad you're from home! I'm just SO glad you're from home!"

What I will always remember and cherish from that day is when she looked me in the eye and said, "You took a chance on a dream that God put in your heart, just like I did. You left everyone and everything you knew behind, just like I did. You knew it would be a long, hard road and that there would be a lot of struggle and heartbreak, but you worked hard and stuck to it. And here we stand today in a recording studio together!" I'll

never forget that day as long as I live. It was an early Christmas present for me that year (we recorded in July), and I'll always be thankful to God for it. And thank you for a day that I will always cherish, Dolly!

“Once Upon A Christmas” tells the story of Christ’s birth in a beautiful, tender way. God sent us His greatest gift the night Jesus was born, coming to give Himself that we might have life abundantly. God cares about your dreams and hopes—I’m living proof of it. I’m just a regular guy that listened to God’s call on my heart and spirit. I hope some dreams come true for you, too!

Merry Christmas, and God bless you this Christmas season and always! [CCM](#)



Christmas & Communion:

5 questions with Ginny Owens

Nothing says Christmas like good friends and good music—especially good friends that make good music. So to highlight the holiday, we engaged one of our favorite music-making friends in some spirited Christmastime conversation.

So push pause on your holiday merrymaking to eavesdrop on this special chat with three-time Dove Award-winning singer-songwriter friend—and one of our favorite people —**Miss Ginny Owens.**

CCM: If you had to forsake all others, name the one Christmas album you can't live without during the holiday season.

Ginny Owens: Oh this is so tough. But I'd have to say, Amy Grant's ***A Christmas Album***. Clever title, isn't it? I have been listening to this classic since I was a kid. I even had the karaoke track for "Tennessee Christmas" and practiced it often with my hairbrush microphone. I love the simplicity, honesty, and beauty of this album.

CCM: You are a fantastic cook! What is the definitive Ginny Owens Christmas dish?

GO: Why, thank you! Sweet potatoes with marshmallows, brown sugar and cinnamon topping. I usually make a green salad to help balance out the meal. [Laughs] Or green beans—with sugar and bacon, of course.

CCM: If you could spend Christmas anywhere in the world, where would you spend December the twenty-fifth? And who would you spend it with?

GO: That's a good question I have thought a lot about lately. As a single person, I love the idea of having different Christmas experiences each year. Serving Christmas dinner to refugees or at a soup kitchen, and then hosting a party for close friends and family sounds delightful. But escaping to a tropical island with a friend or two sounds equally as delightful. As long as those I know and love are present, I could enjoy Christmas anywhere.

CCM: My favorite yuletide tune of yours is called, "Christmas All The Time." How do you think our world might be different if we carried a little Christmas inside of us all year long?

GO: I think the key to celebrating Christmas well is having a childlike heart ... wonder and awe at the story of the baby in a manger, eager anticipation of great things to come, and generous love toward everyone we meet. To possess that childlike heart throughout the year would make us more peaceful and hopeful inwardly, and outwardly much more generous toward our fellow man.

***CCM:** When I think of the artist that most sound-tracked my holiday experiences growing up, like you, I think of Amy Grant. Since she is currently gracing the cover of this magazine, what is your favorite Amy Grant Christmas tune?*

GO: Well, I’ve already mentioned “Tennessee Christmas,” but I love “Breath Of Heaven” equally—another hairbrush karaoke fave! Amy’s voice and lyrics remind me of the vulnerability of the Christmas story. I feel like I know more of the humble, gentle, baby King when I hear her sing about Him. CCM



Christmas & Communion: Matt Hagee

Don’t miss the miracle

Every Christmas that I can remember we have gathered as a family, as a church, or simply because it’s that time of year, and read **The Gospel of Luke** and how **Mary** gave birth to the Son of God in a manger behind an overcrowded inn. Every pageant I have ever seen has the usual cast of characters: wise men, shepherds and angels, but I’ve never seen a role set aside for the one

guy who missed the miracle altogether.

No one ever talks about the innkeeper. Other than telling the expectant mother and her distressed husband where to find the manger, he's never mentioned again in the story. I've always thought it sad to be so close to the most world-changing event in history and totally miss it. Then again, I see people every Christmas totally miss the miracle that is taking place right in front of them.

The world we live in has a real problem when it comes to perspective. The things we are concerned with—matters we think are hugely important—we often over-exaggerate their value and forget what really matters. I am sure the innkeeper was very busy. The census that the Romans called for filled the streets of Bethlehem with the descendants of the Tribe of Judah. Every room in the man's facility was full, every dish in service and every inch in use. Certainly it's justifiable that he truly did all he could do at the time to accommodate the young couple and we can't fault him too harshly. Or can we?

Think of the wise men from the East. They were diligently looking for a sign. They watched the sky constantly, they read the prophecies, considered the seasons, and when the star shined, some theologians claim it took them more than two years to come from their native land to present their gifts to the newborn King. What about **Simeon**? This elderly gentleman waited daily in the temple believing that He would get to see the Messiah before he passed from this life. On the eighth day of His life, when Mary and **Joseph** entered the Temple, Simeon instantly recognized who this child was, and it was no ordinary baby. This one was the Promised One, Emmanuel, God with Us. Simeon scooped Him into his arms and shouted that he was holding a Light to the Gentiles. How could these men from so far away—

and Simeon who waited patiently for the child—not miss the moment, yet the guy who answered the door at the inn not even have a clue that the child born behind his home was the One the world is still talking about today?

The truth is he wasn't paying attention. While he lived in the right place at the right time, he hadn't read what the prophets had said. He wasn't looking for the same signs that the wise men and others were looking for. When the time came, rather than have a room ready and waiting for the guest of honor to arrive, the innkeeper dismissed the circumstance as merely a moment in time and not the moment the world was waiting for. The Bible tells us that to those who are watching and waiting, to them will He appear.

How many of us aren't watching and waiting? How many of us are so busy with our daily affairs we don't recognize the moment that God has walked up to the door of our lives, knocked, and asked if there is room for Him to come in? This Christmas, don't miss the miracle. Take a moment to ask the Lord what he wants you to do for Him this season, and once you hear that still small voice, don't argue with it, don't brush it aside. Do it with all of your heart, and I promise this could be the Christmas that you will never forget.

Founding member of **Canton Junction**, Matt Hagee is also a sixth-generation pastor and the author of two acclaimed books. He serves as executive pastor of **Cornerstone Church** in San Antonio, Texas, founded by his father, **John Hagee**. Matt loves spending time with his wife, **Kendal**, and their four children—**Hannah Rose, John William, Joel Charles** and **Madison Katherine**—at their home in San Antonio. Canton Junction's latest recording, ***A Canton Christmas***, features ten arrangements of classic carols and timeless favorites. **CCM**

A photograph of Keith and Kristyn Getty standing in a lush green field under a cloudy sky. Keith is on the left, wearing a dark jacket over a red and white plaid shirt and blue jeans. Kristyn is on the right, wearing a black dress. They are both smiling and leaning against a wooden fence. The background shows rolling green hills and a line of trees in the distance.

KEITH & KRISTYN GETTY

feature by Caroline Lusk

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The Getty's

— Christmas Heard Round The World

Husband-wife duo Keith and Kristyn Getty bring home the global joy of Christmas

By Caroline Lusk

If you've ever yearned for the good ol' days of carol singing and communities gathered to fellowship and celebrate the uncontainable joy of Christmas, you need look no further than ***An Irish Christmas: A Celebration Of Carols.***

Presented by modern hymn-writers **Keith** and **Kristyn Getty**, their tour has become somewhat of a holiday staple in the United States. This year, the 20-city tour includes such prestigious venues as **Carnegie Hall** in New York City, **The Kennedy Center** in Washington DC, **The Kimmel Center For The Performing Arts** in Philadelphia and others before concluding at the **Schermerhorn Symphony Center** in the Getty's home-city of Nashville.

The tour, which was broadcast last year on public television, is an even grander affair than it has been in years past.

"The tour is much better this year," says Keith Getty with a laugh. "Watching it on television from last year, you realize how much you've grown and developed. This year we've really developed the rhythm of the show. The first part is in keeping with the ***Irish Christmas Celebration*** we've had before. It's very high energy with song and dance. The second half is more like a cathedral service, such as the service of lessons and carols performed at **Kings College** at Cambridge."

This portion, highlighted by the reading of the Christmas story includes an audience sing-along of traditional and modern Christmas favorites including “God Rest Ye Merry, Gentlemen;” “Joy Has Dawned;” “Here We Come A-Wassailing,” “Carol Of The Bells,” “O Children Come,” “An Irish Christmas Blessing” and “In Christ Alone.”

“Kristyn and I believe it’s imperative for people to gather and sing together,” says Keith. “What a great opportunity that Christmas brings for this—to join voices, from so many states and even other countries, and sing joyfully together about this unimaginable good news of Christmas.”

In typical fashion, the Getty’s have assembled a global representation of instrumentalists and performers, including **Alistair Begg, Laura Story** and **David Kim**, among many others including a string quartet.

“We love the idea of a string quartet and instrumentalists that can go bluegrass or Irish and then go classical,” Keith shares. “The older I get, the more I tend to lean on historic principles. In keeping, we’ve commissioned choral work for this tour as well as four pieces of art, built on historic aspects of Christmas and the Christmas story.”

The effort the Getty’s have poured into the relevancy and reverence of their Christmas offering mirrors that which they pour into the rest of their work. Heralded as modern hymn writers, they released their first studio project since 2012 in June 2016. ***Facing A Task Unfinished*** hit No. 1 on charts in the US and the UK, and included guest artists such as **Ladysmith Black Mambazo, Fernando Ortega, John Patitucci**, and **Chris Tomlin**. Just before the album was released, the Getty’s led a global hymn sing of the title song, with an estimated 1.1 million people from

5400+ churches in 100 countries joining together.

This coming fall, the Getty's will host a conference called, aptly, **Sing**. The goal is to encourage the singing of church music around the world, for the ultimate outcome of building relationships within families and church communities.

"So many people today learn their faith through the words they sing. Deep songs create deep believers," says Keith. "We live in the most exciting generation in history for Christians. In twenty years, the Bible could be in every single language in the world. It's really a phenomenal state of transformation, but it's imperative that we take our faith into our communities. So much of that takes place in the local church. I heard someone say once that they stopped going to church because it didn't do anything for them. We don't go to church because it does something for us. We go because we are called. I need 21-year olds and 61-year olds and 13-year olds to ask questions. I need 2-year olds with kind eyes. We need each other. It's part of our privilege and calling to be part of that family."

And just as they do within their own family, the Getty's are bringing Christmas family-style, global-style to the rest of us, embracing the rich heritage of those who have come before and celebrating the impact they have on us today.

"The performance numbers on this tour are just masterpieces," says Keith. "These great Christmas hymns are the absolute masterworks of the church. In the same way modern Western civilization holds up impressionist art, so too are these great songs. Like great art, they have transported themselves seamlessly throughout generations and cultures. They have become classics and have infiltrated every part of society. You're privileged in this life to get to sing them." CCM



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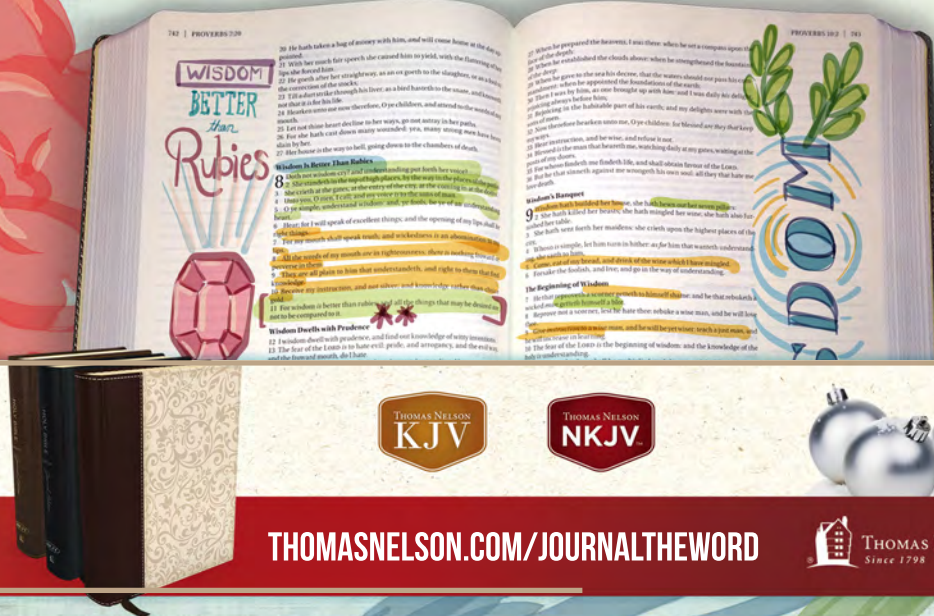
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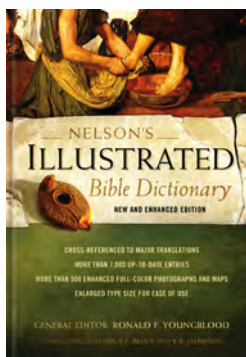
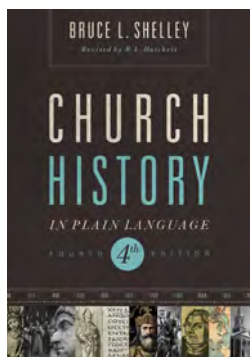
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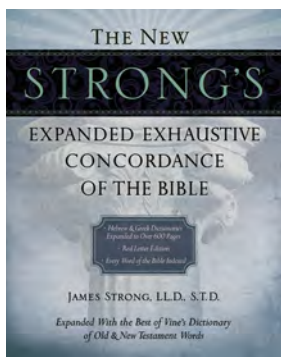
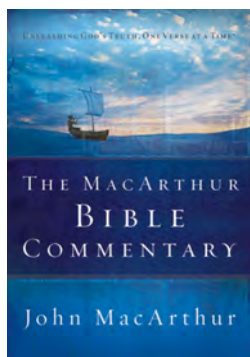
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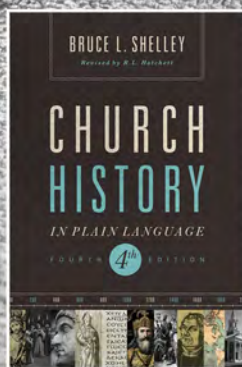
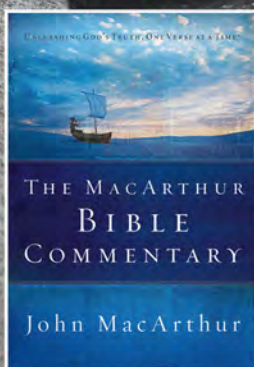
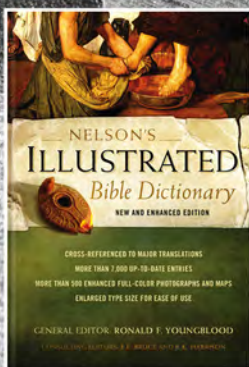
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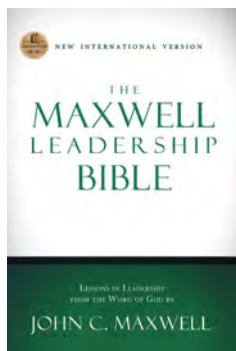
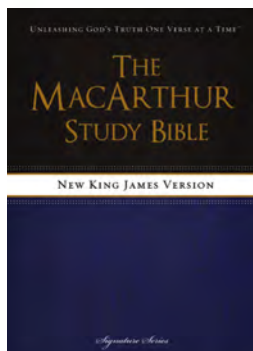
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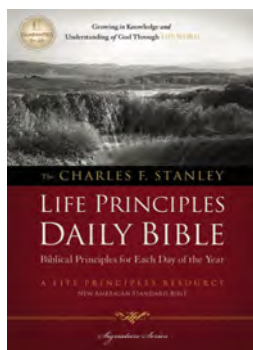
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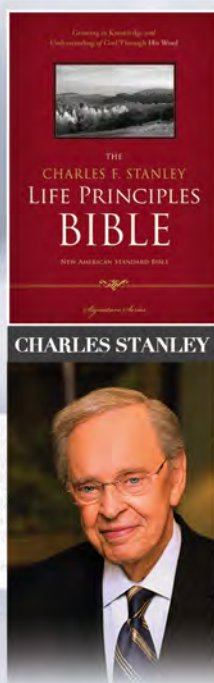
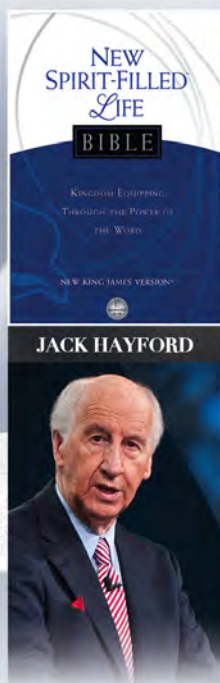
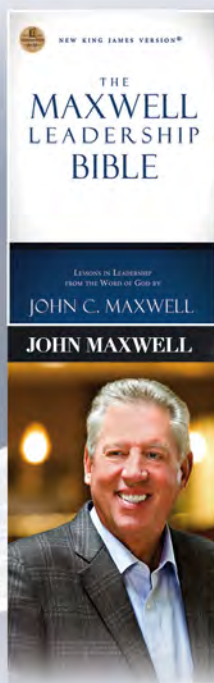
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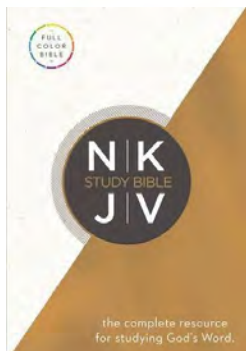
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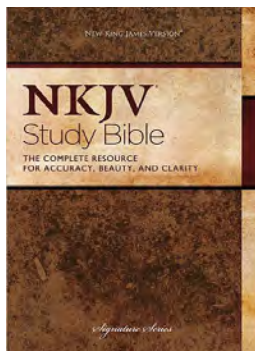
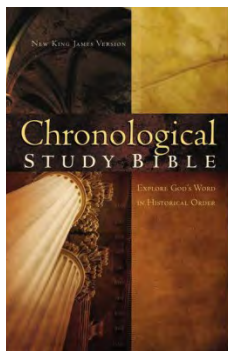




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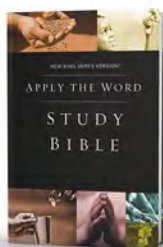
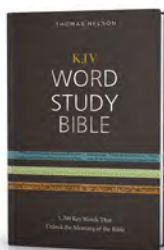
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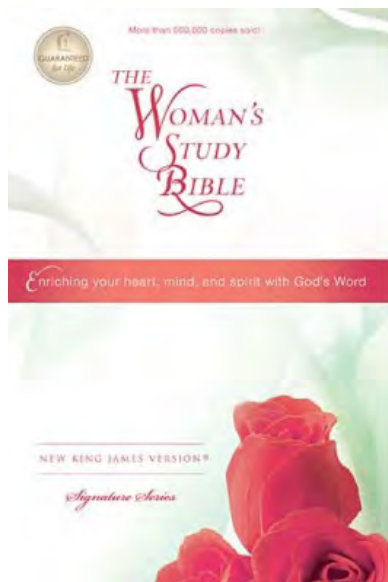
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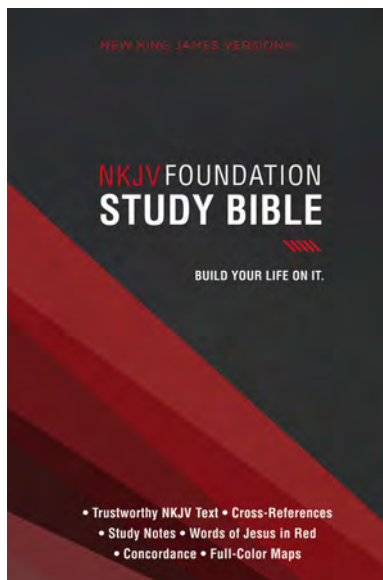


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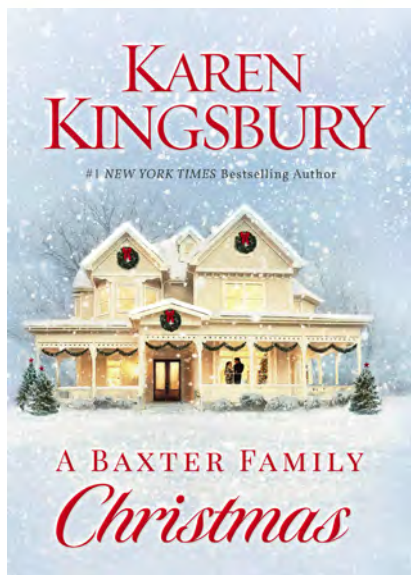
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A Baxter Family Christmas

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

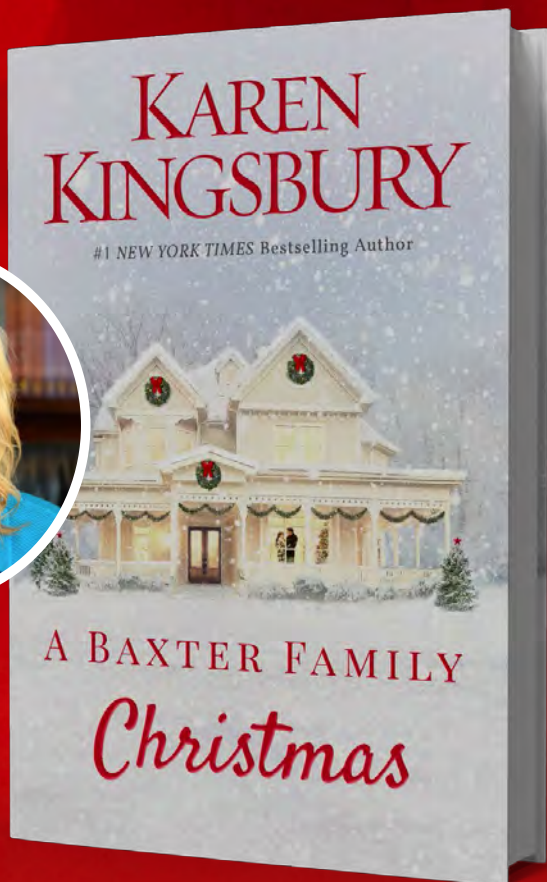
John is determined and believes meeting this woman is something his deceased daughter would want.

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.

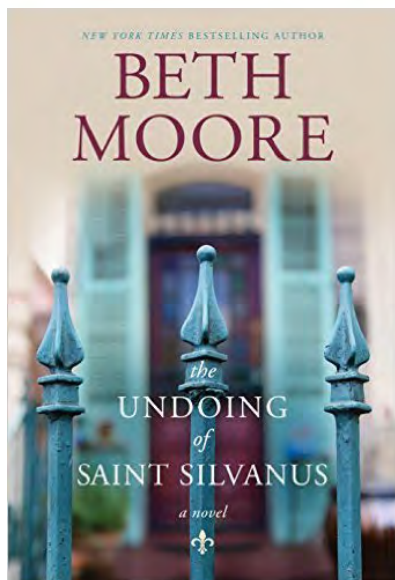
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This book makes a great gift, offering something for everyone. Readers will meet the cast of saints and sinners who live in Saint Silvanus, where they bond together to expose the dark forces that took the life of a father and threaten to drive a final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

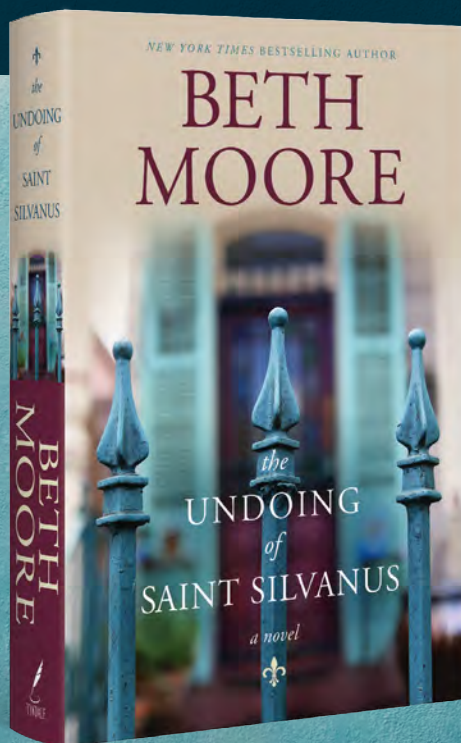
Booklist says this... "In her fiction debut, beloved Christian speaker and author Moore dives into uncharted territory with gusto. Simultaneously heartwarming and chilling, this tale has wide appeal with its mix of mystery, evangelism, history, suspense and love. Moore brings Southern culture to life, 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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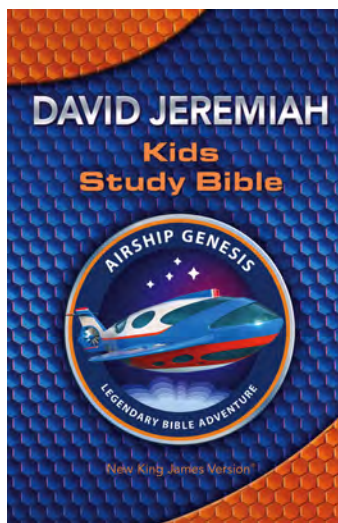


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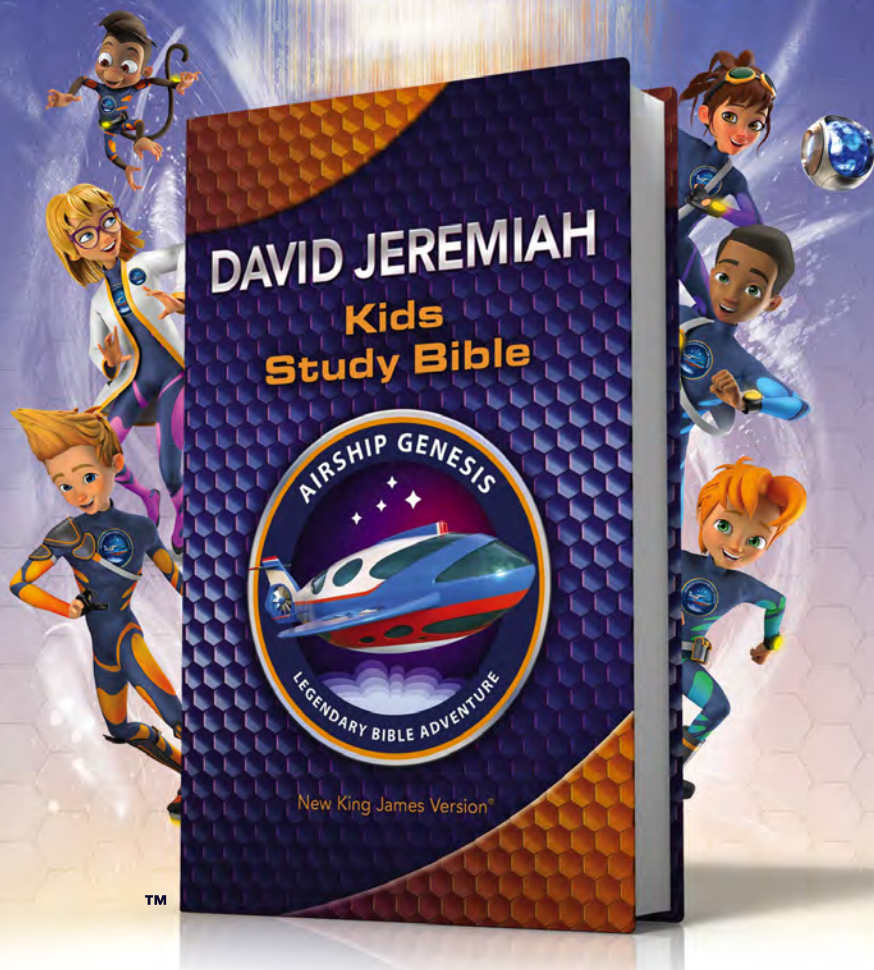
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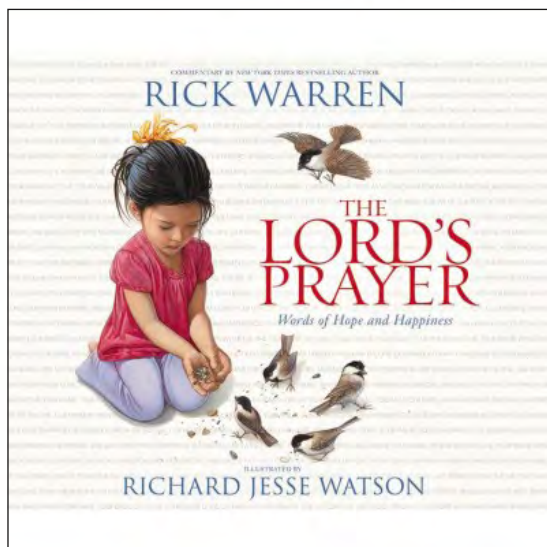
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—Rick Warren

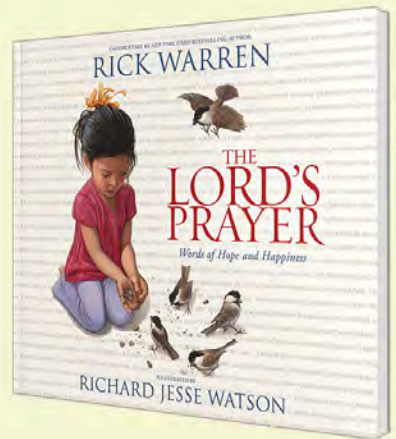
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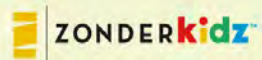
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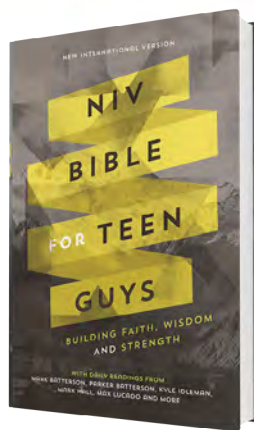
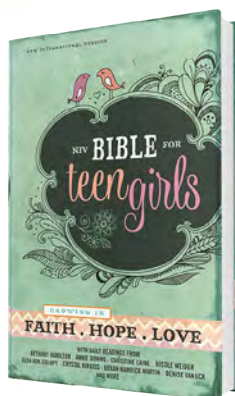
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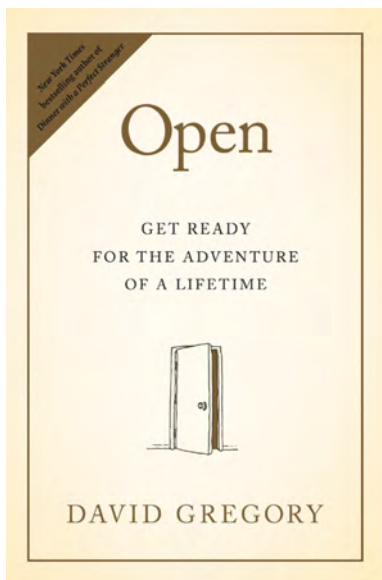


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The holder of master's degrees from the University of North Texas and Dallas Theological Seminary, David worked in business for ten years before devoting himself full-time to writing. He is a native of Texas.

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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.WANDBRUNSTETTER.COM



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



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

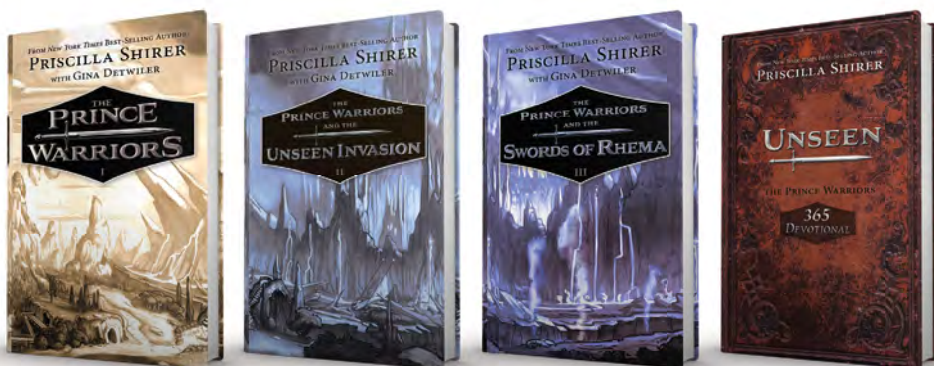
Beloved, bestselling author of Amish fiction, Wanda E. Brunstetter tells a heartrending story from 1880 Pennsylvania. Elizabeth and David are planning a Christmas Eve wedding when Elizabeth discovers a long-buried family secret. Leaving only a letter behind, she flees town thinking all hope of a marriage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



AVAILABLE WHEREVER BOOKS ARE SOLD

LEARN MORE AT www.WandaBrunstetter.com

SHILOH RUN  PRESS



Prince Warriors

The battle is real.

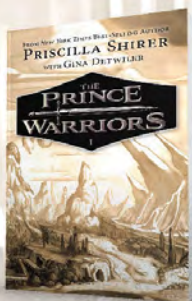
As brothers, Xavier and Evan are used to battling each other. But now they're discovering that there is a much bigger battle going on all around them. And it's their turn to fight. Based on Ephesians 6:10–18, *The Prince Warriors* is the first book in Priscilla Shirer's epic new children's series that 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

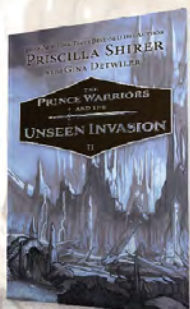


“Mom, will I ever be in a battle?”

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.



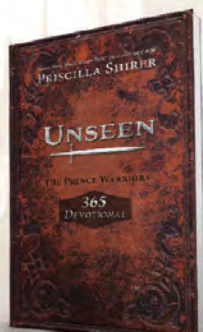
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I can’t wait for kids everywhere to be inspired through

The Prince Warriors Series

— Priscilla Shirer

Join the adventure!



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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

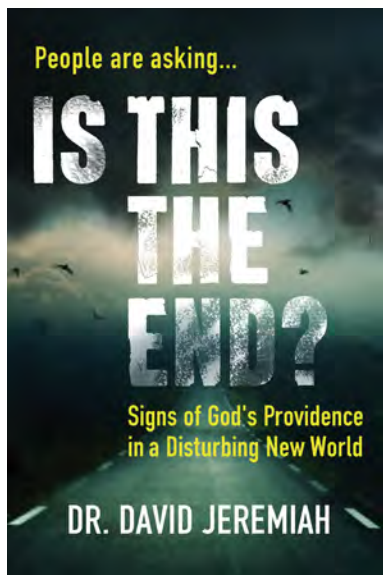


BIBLEMAN IS BACK!

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?

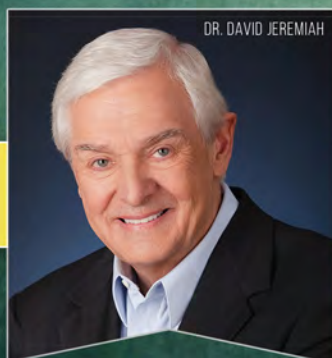
NO, BUT ALL CAN BETTER UNDERSTAND GOD'S GREATER STORY

AND THE ROLE WE EACH PLAY IN THIS CHANGING WORLD

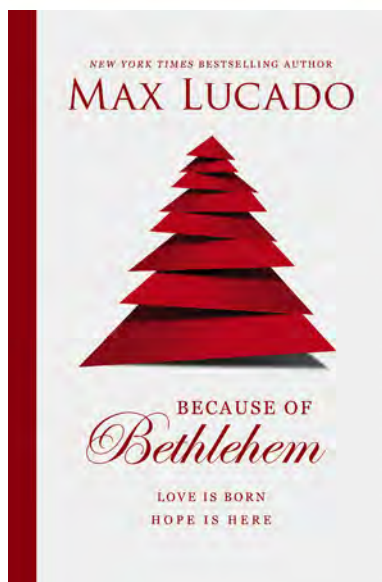
FROM *NEW YORK TIMES* BESTSELLING AUTHOR AND

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

SPECIAL ADVERTISING SECTION

Christmas.

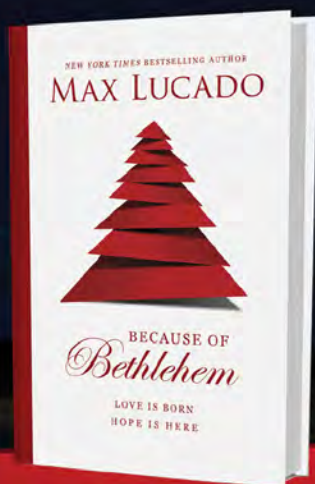
It brings sleigh bells ringing and carolers singing. And sometimes it brings heartache and hurt feelings. If you could use some true Christmas this Christmas, join Max Lucado as

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



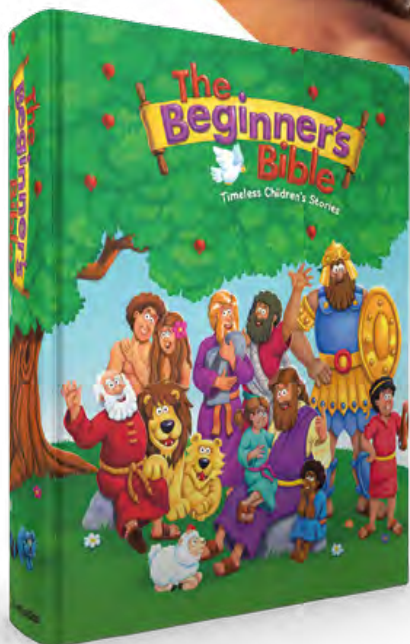
The Beginner's Bible

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!

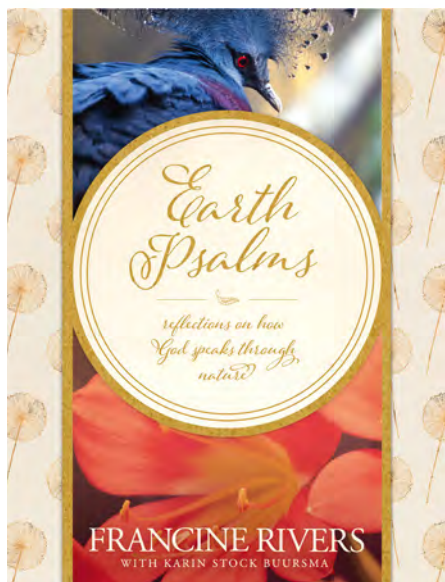
WWW.THEBEGINNERSBIBLE.COM



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

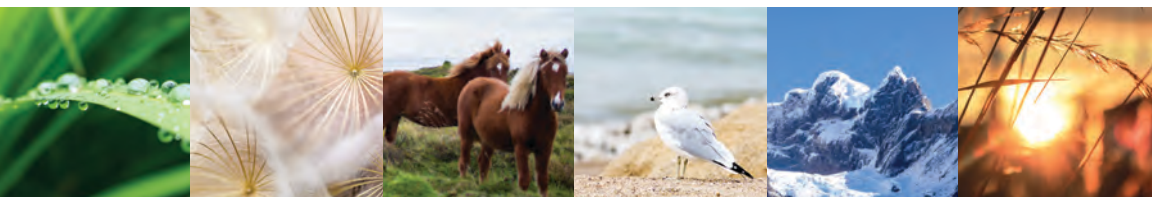
New DEVOTIONAL FROM *NEW YORK TIMES*
BESTSELLING AUTHOR **FRANCINE RIVERS**

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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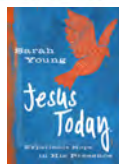


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A Very Merry Christmas Prayer

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

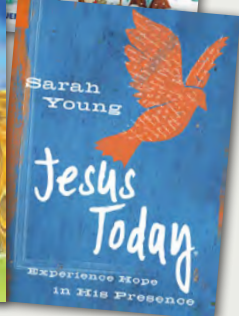
Filled with the familiar content you know and trust, this updated cover of *Jesus Today* makes an excellent gift for the teenagers and young adults in your life.

WWW.STORE.FAITHGATEWAY.COM/KIDSCHRISTMAS

SPECIAL ADVERTISING SECTION

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.

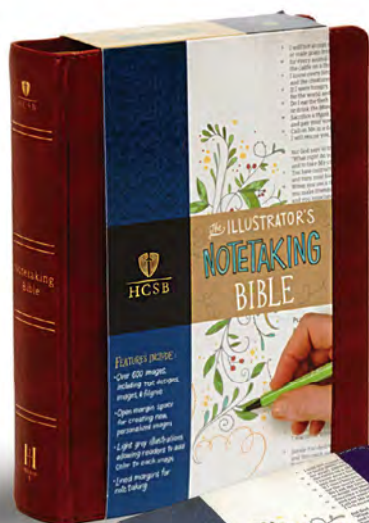
The exceptional design offers a wonderful balance for everyone from seasoned artists to the creatively challenged, allowing for guided creativity and meaningful personalization of the Bible reading experience. Featuring filigree, Scripture quotes and unique images, these line-drawn illustrations are 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



FEATURES INCLUDE:

- Over 600 images, including the original, original & original
- Open margins, space for writing, space for original
- Light gray illustrations, additional resources to add color to each verse
- Large margins for writing

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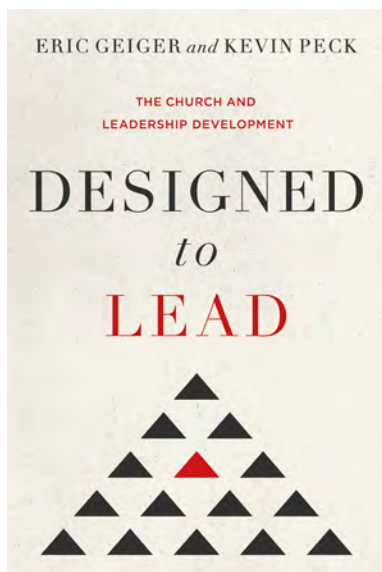
• Open margins for writing



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9 I will no
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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.

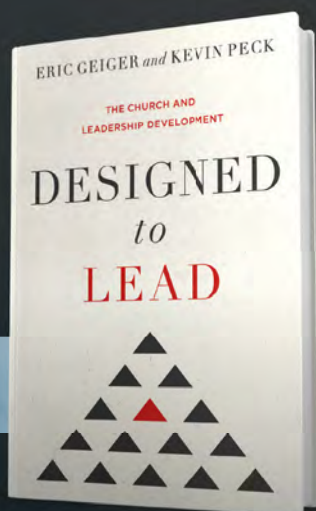
From the first recordings of history, God has made it clear that He has designed creation to be led by His covenant people. More than that, He has decided what His people are to do with that leadership. Whether you are called to lead in your home, in the marketplace, in God's church, or in your community,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

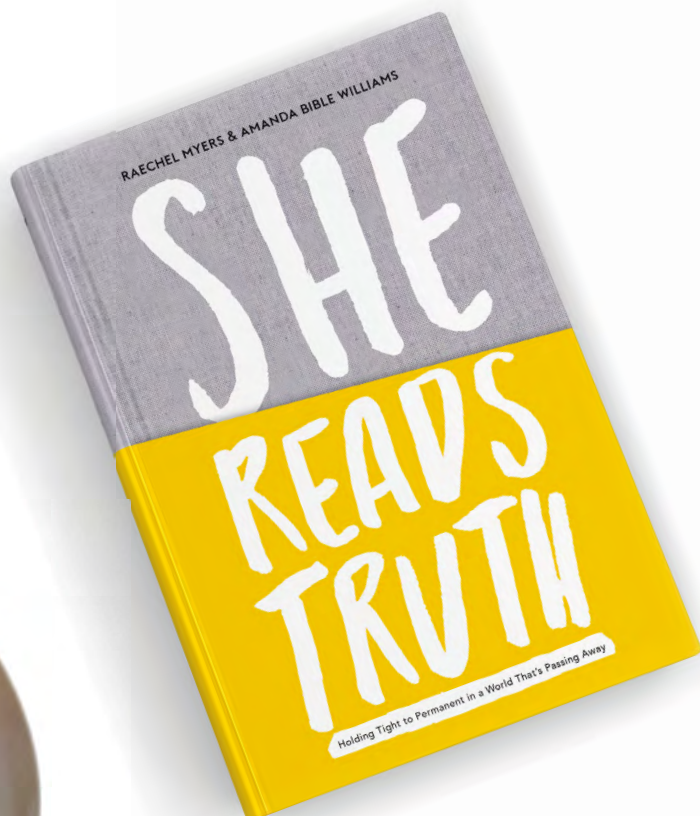
Every image points to the bigger picture—that God and His Word are true. Not because of anything we do, but because of who He is. Not once, not occasionally, but right now and all the time. Sometimes it takes everything moving to notice the thing that doesn't move. Sometimes it takes telling two very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

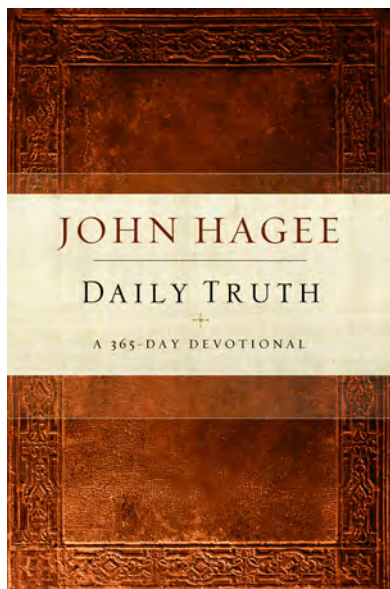
SHE WANTS TO KNOW WHAT IS TRUE—
NOT PARTLY TRUE, OR SOMETIMES TRUE, OR ALMOST TRUE.

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

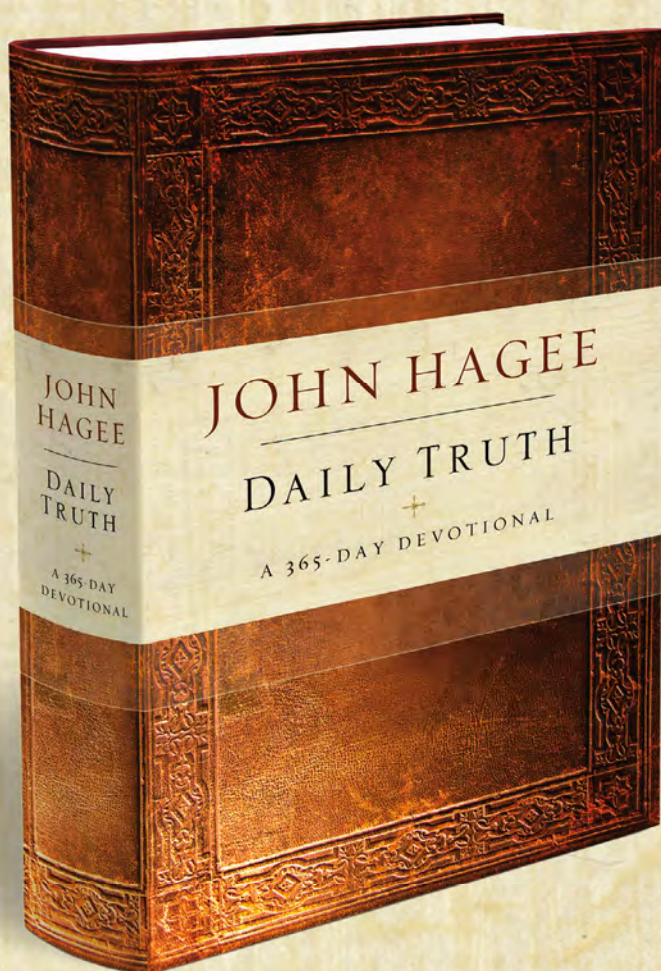
Our world is full of brokenness—in families, careers, marriages and finances. In the midst of the daily anxieties Pastor John Hagee reminds us to call out to God in prayer and claim His promises for provision and grace. Our year can be successful if we turn to God, seek His truth, and ask for help. In *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.

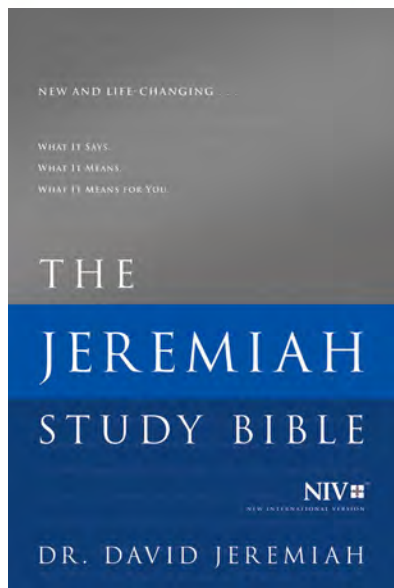
This elegant, jacketed hardcover volume features a beautiful full-color interior and a ribbon marker, making it perfect for daily devotional reading.

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.

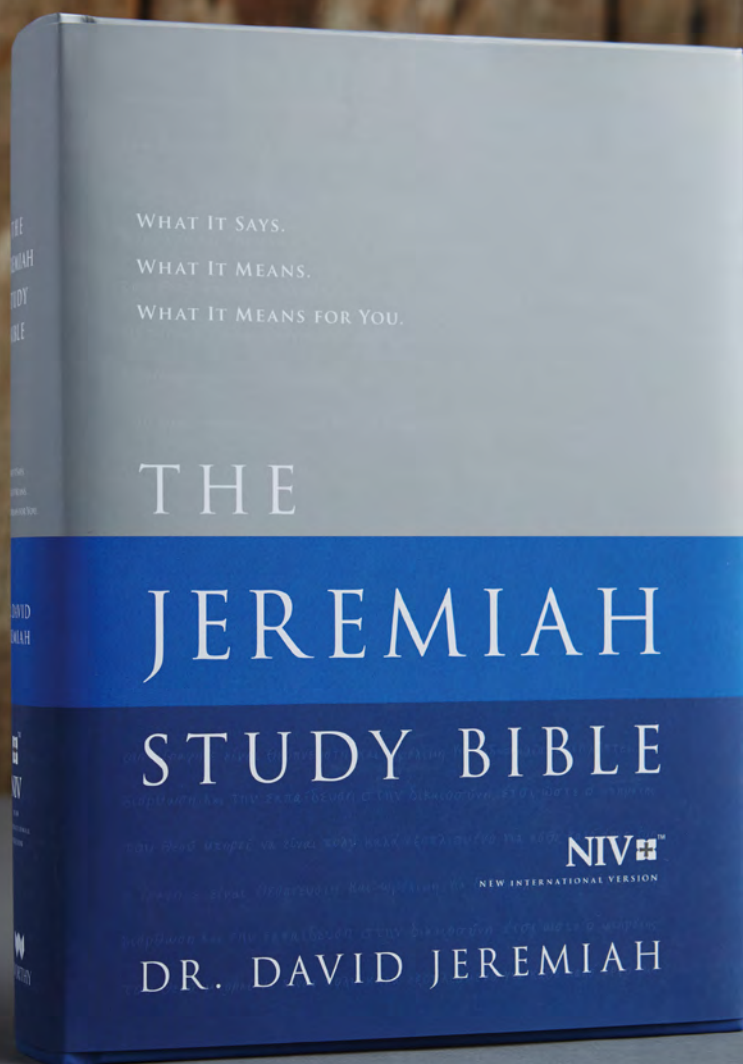
I can’t think of anything better than extending its reach to even more people through *The Jeremiah Study Bible*.”

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.

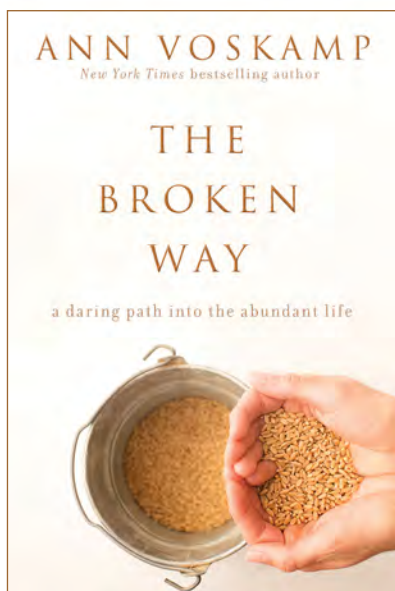
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The best-selling study Bible from David Jeremiah



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

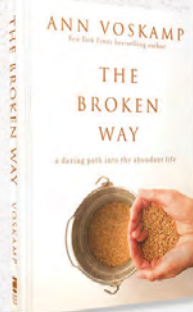


PAIN. HEARTACHE. BROKENNESS.
THEY'RE THE BEGINNING, NOT THE END.

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

"Our family has a wilderness lodge in Alaska where I've worked as a guide for about twenty years. Basically, I keep people safe all summer while I show them big furry bears and whales bigger than our boat. Two years ago I was on the job when my doctor called. . . .

Being told you have stage-four cancer changes your life. It was no joke what we were faced with.

The survival rate is less than twenty percent. I prayed, 'God, how do I do this? You will lead me. You will direct me. You will guide me.'

My wife and kids rallied around me. We spent time in daily prayer and worship, and they prayed scripture over me. It was five months of chemo, six weeks of radiation on a daily basis and then a ten-hour surgery involving two specialists.

In total, the bills came to more than \$160,000, and our fellow Medi-Share members shared nearly every cent! I felt incredibly supported through it all. . . .

Medi-Share is family—people who stick with you through the hardest times of your life. I don't know how we could have done it without them."

—Jordan and Jennie



See their video at mychristiancare.org/stories

- Over 209,000 members sharing your medical bills
- Affordable options for singles, families, and seniors*
- No enrollment period—you can join any time



Medi-Share™
Affordable, Biblical Healthcare

Click here for your FREE information guide!

Medi-Share is not health insurance. Medi-Share is not available in Montana. *Seniors must have Medicare parts A and B to qualify.

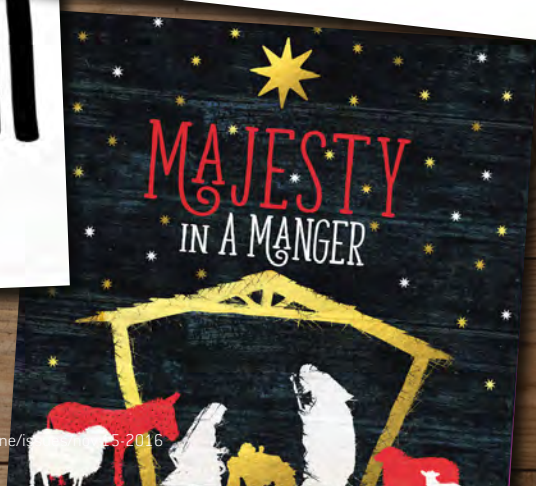
REVIEWS

Dec. 15, 2016



EXPOSITY

CHRISTIANITY



Josh Garrels

The Light Came Down

(Small Voice)

FOR FANS OF:

John Mark McMillan

WE LIKE: "Gloria"

★★★★☆



If you've followed **Josh Garrels'** catalog, then you'll know the pendulum swung toward the intimate on his most recent, ***Home***, after the dynamism of ***Love & War & The Sea In Between***. On his new holiday album, ***The Light Came Down***, Garrels marries both for a wide sonic expanse for both original and classic Christmas songs.

"Gloria" is *Light's* spirited centerpiece, bolstered by choirs and brass, destined to become a crowd favorite. Classics like "O Holy Night" and "Silent Night" are given new life through Garrels' thoughtful, beautiful arrangements. With a hefty 15 tracks, *The Light Came Down* is an unexpected gift for Garrels' fans.

—Matt Conner

Jill Phillips

Lead Me Home

(Independent)

FOR FANS OF:

Sandra McCracken, Sara Groves

WE LIKE:

"Precious Lord, Take My Hand"

★★★★☆



There is something about **Jill Phillips'** latest album, ***Lead Me Home***, that just feels right—an obvious next musical step for a talented songwriter who has gifted companion songs for the faith journey for well over a decade. Her first hymns project, *Lead Me Home* plays like a familial invitation, to join a table fellowship around which to share your joys and sorrows.

The sparse, intimate arrangements add to the resonant beauty of "Come Ye Sinners," "Peace in the Valley" and, the album's highlight, "Precious Lord, Take My Hand." *Lead Me Home* acknowledges the pain and suffering of this world, while reminding the listener that God is also real and ever present in our trials.

—Matt Conner

Skrip

Exposition

(World Renegade Music)

FOR FANS OF:

Lecrae, Derek Minor, Canon

WE LIKE: "Take My Fears"

★★★★☆



With equal inspiration gleaned from hip-hop's golden age and the game-shaping sounds of today, **Skrip's** latest long player ***Exposition*** is a bridge builder in more ways than one. Sure, the classic/cutting edge combination of sounds is capable of reeling in multiple generations, but a theme of overcoming obstacles with an unrelenting faith at its core makes the collection relatable to anyone looking for authentic personal expressions in the process.

In addition to the contagious sounds and connective message, the Chicago-based emcee demonstrates his width of talent by writing, recording and producing every single track, all of which adds additional artistic legitimacy to his spiritually-centered quest.

—Andy Argyrakis

Various Artists

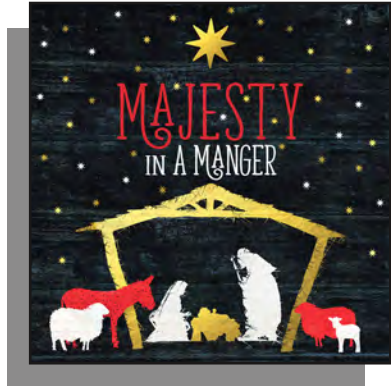
Majesty In A Manger

(Integrity Music)

FOR FANS OF: *Paul Baloche,*
Travis Ryan, All Sons & Daughters

WE LIKE: "Son Of God, Son Of Man"

★★★★☆



With its talented pool of artists, writers, and musicians, **Integrity Music** offers a batch of new original Christmas praise, including songs from fan favorites such as **Paul Baloche, All Sons & Daughters, Darlene Zschech** and **Seth & Nirva. Travis Ryan**, having recently penned one of our great modern anthems, "We Believe" (made popular by **Newsboys**), beautifully writes (and sings) *Son of God, son of man / Heaven's Lion, perfect Lamb / Suffering servant, Great I AM / Son of God, son of man* in a certain highlight on the album.

Definitely satisfying the ethereal and reflective timbre often heralded during this season, ***Majesty In A Manger*** is one of the more celebratory original Christmastime collections in terms of lyrical content, worshiping the Christ that has come.

—Kevin Sparkman

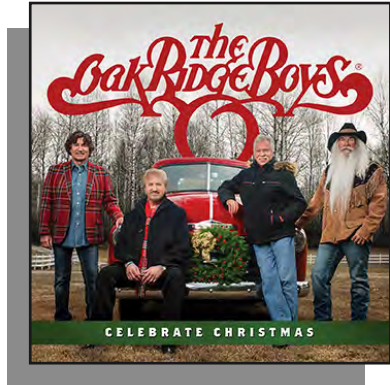
Oak Ridge Boys
Celebrate Christmas

(Gaither Music Group)

FOR FANS OF: Kenny Rogers,
Gaither Vocal Band, The Osmonds

WE LIKE: "That's Christmas To Me"

★★★★★



The **Oak Ridge Boys** have long been southern gospel and country music institutions, while also steadily becoming some of the most familiar voices heard during the holidays. ***Celebrate Christmas*** follows 2012's ***Christmas Time's A-Coming***, and like that colorful collection (or the many before it), the foursome's signature harmonies, earthy instrumentation, plus uncanny knack for telling new and re-interpreting old stories are firmly intact.

No matter if it's a series of Christ-centered carols or light-hearted fun, the Oaks always command respect and offer a joyous primer for what's to come on the rest of the group's annual Yuletide tour.

–Andy Argyrakis

Marc Martel

The Silent Night

(Independent)

FOR FANS OF:

Downhere, Kevin Max

WE LIKE: “O Come, Emmanuel”

★★★★☆



No one—absolutely no one—has a voice like **Marc Martel**. The former **Downhere** front man has built a global following on the strength of his tremendous vocal ability—as part of the **Queen Extravaganza** and now his own solo career.

It’s not surprising, then, to see the instrumentation on his new Christmas album, ***The Silent Night***, maintain a respectful distance to allow Martel’s voice to shine brightest of all. These holiday classics sound resplendent with such restrained arrangements that give way to Martel’s voice. “O Come Emmanuel” is a beautiful centerpiece, but the entire EP is a lovely yuletide listen.

—Matt Conner

Matt Papa

Church Songs EP

(Independent)

FOR FANS OF:

Jadon Lavik, Aaron Keyes

WE LIKE: "I Have A Peace"

★★★★☆



With nine other albums under his belt, **Matt Papa** is now clearly a veteran songwriter and performer with a clear vision and understanding of who he is and what he is offering. These days, it's a simple, restrained EP aptly titled ***Church Songs***.

The five tracks alternate between an acoustic and piano foundation, but it's easy to hear how each would translate for corporate worship settings. "Christ The Sure And Steady Anchor" and "I Have A Peace" are modern hymns that would be wonderful congregational additions in any setting, but the entire EP is worth a worshipful listen.

—Matt Conner



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!



Micah Tyler

Different EP

(Independent)

FOR FANS OF:

We Are Messengers, Carrollton

WE LIKE: “Even Then”

★★★★☆☆



Micah Tyler's latest EP, ***Different***, is a short yet steady stream of uplifting, radio-ready pop songs that show off his heart as a worship leader and skill as a talented vocalist. Unfortunately for an album titled *Different*, the melodies and themes will sound very familiar to fans of Christian pop.

On the flip side, Tyler's latest is a nice addition on those shelves. “Even Then,” with its infectious groove, is undoubtedly the EP's strongest track, followed closely by the front porch stomp of “Story I Tell.” Hopefully those tracks can inspire a bit more musical risk-taking on future releases.

—Matt Conner



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