

Coming This Summer



***Finding My Vocation:
A Guide for Young
People Seeking a
Calling***

by William Boekestein

“How can I pick the right job?”

How often do you find yourself asking this question? Especially for young people entering the workforce, the concept of finding the “perfect” job is difficult to grasp. Actually, you *don't* need to choose a job that’s “perfect for you.” But you do need to be faithful and productive in ways that honor God in your work life.

Here’s a better question: “As a believer, how can I determine what I am supposed to do, and then do it well?”

The doctrine of calling, or vocation, leads us to the answer. Because for those who are “called according to his purpose” (Rom. 8:28), God provides a place, a time, and the gifts necessary to work for him in this world.

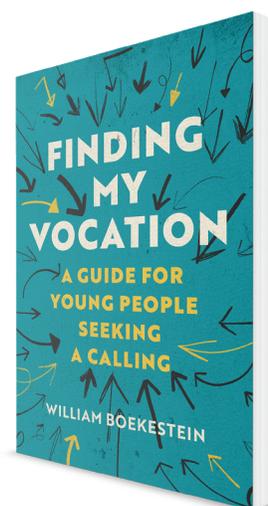
This book will help readers do three things:

- *Ponder* the doctrine of vocation—learn what it means to have a calling and what Scripture teaches about work.
- *Prepare* for vocational living—determine the skills and character traits you’ll need and learn how to sort through your vocational options, remaining faithful to your other callings as you work.
- *Practice* vocation—apply biblical disciplines to succeed at work and relate work to the rest of who you are as a Christian.

God placed us in his world to work for his glory. We might not know exactly what he has planned for us, but we must—and can—be faithful where he calls us to be.

What others are saying:

“Hardly a week goes by when I am not asked an earnest and serious question about vocation. Often it has to do with preparation for work; sometimes it has to do with enduring a job that seems unfulfilling. This short book offers clear, practical, but most importantly,



biblical advice on the nature of work, its place in the Christian’s life, and how to engage in what God gives us to do. I recommend it highly.”

—Jonathan Master, president, Greenville Presbyterian Theological Seminary

“Pastor Bill Boekestein has done young people—and the whole church, really—a tremendous service by providing an accessible overview of the Bible’s teaching on vocation. We are most happy, and God most glorified, when we “live in a manner worthy of the calling to which we have been called.” This book will help you do just that. I commend it highly.”

***Finding My Vocation*, Continued...**

–Jonathan Landry Cruse, pastor, Community Presbyterian Church, Kalamazoo, MI

“Mastering his usual literary skills, William Boekestein covers every aspect of the doctrine of vocation particularly as it applies to young people thinking about their future. Accompanied by true-life examples, this helpful guide is especially timely in a society characterized by a contrasting mixture of high expectations and common anxieties. Even someone like me who has left youthful days far behind can benefit from this reminder and these

practical suggestions on how to “lead the life that the Lord has assigned to him, and to which God has called him” (1 Cor. 7:17 ESV). Because of the abundance of scriptural references and pertinent quotations, I have found this book more devotional and nourishing than I would have expected. Highly recommended for the whole family.”

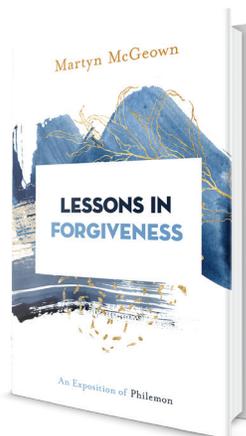
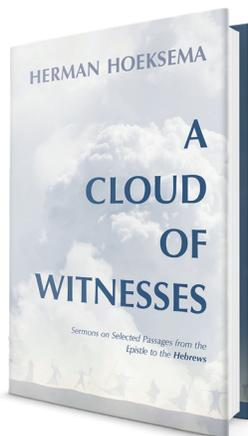
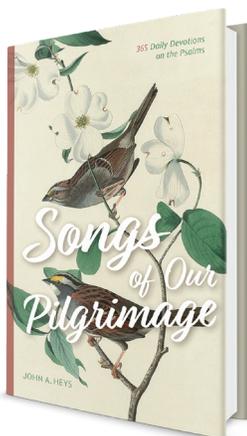
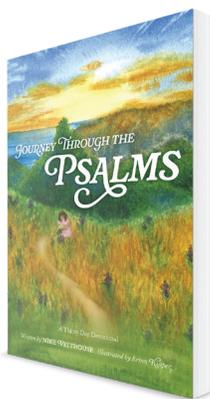
–Simonetta Carr, mother of eight and author of the *Christian Biographies for Young Readers* series

“I encourage those in high school and college to read this book, especially if they are struggling to find a vocation.

But it is not only for a segment of people struggling to find their vocational calling. Those who know what God is calling them to do and those who are doing it will benefit as well. Parents, grandparents, and counselors will benefit greatly from the book to help the coming generations settle on a vocation that fits them and is honoring to God. I personally found it beneficial, as I work in the kingdom calling God has given to me.”

–Garrett Eriks, pastor, Unity Protestant Reformed Church, Byron Center, MI

New Releases



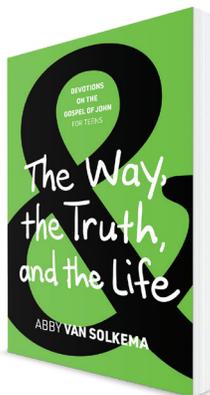
Journey Through the Psalms
by Mike Velthouse

Songs of Our Pilgrimage
by John Heys

***A Cloud of Witnesses:
Selected Sermons on Hebrews***
by Herman Hoeksema

***Forgiveness in Action:
An Exposition of Philemon***
by Martyn McGeown

Coming Soon!



The Way, the Truth, and the Life
(Devotions on the Gospel of John, book 3)
by Abby Van Solkema

Christ and His Church Vol. 2
by Herman Hanko and Dan VanUffelen

Unfolding Covenant History Vol. 7
by David J. Engelsma

For many of us, reading four to eight new books each year can be challenging to say the least! A great solution to this problem is gifting books to friends and family members in honor of graduations, birthdays, and other special events.

Another rewarding way to make the most of your RFPA books is by sharing them with others who are new to the Reformed faith and who are eager to learn more about topics like the five points of Calvinism, the last things, and Christ-centered living.

Association Meeting Preview

Centuries ago, the average Christian read very little due to the difficulty in accessing books and a lack of education. While we have access to many books today and generally are well-educated, are we a *reading people*? Do we understand the vital importance of reading, physically and spiritually? Join RFPA staff and Association members at **Southwest PRC on Thursday, September 26, 2024, at 7:30 P.M.** in learning about the research behind the relationship of reading and the wiring of the brain. Hear about the work of the RFPA Board and staff over the past year, and celebrate with us as we look forward into the next year. Friends and supporters of the RFPA are encouraged to attend this timely speech, and enjoy refreshments catered by the Taste of Hope!

What is the annual Association meeting?

Once a year, Association members and visitors gather near Grand Rapids, MI to hear a speech related to the work of the RFPA, to approve the membership of new Association members, and to receive the results of voting for 4 new RFPA Board members.

Details for the 2024 meeting:

- Location: Southwest Protestant Reformed Church, 4875 Ivanrest Ave SW, Wyoming, MI 49418
- Time: September 26, 2024, at 7:30 PM
- Speaker: Joel Minderhoud
- Topic: “Reading from a Scientific and Spiritual Perspective”

Why attend this year's meeting (even if you aren't an Association member)?

- To support the work of the RFPA in publishing and translating books, magazines, and a weekly blog
- Learn about the science behind reading and how it affects your brain
- To join the Association

Why become an Association member?

The RFPA is always accepting new Association members! If you have the desire and the gifts to serve—evaluating potential books, making important financial and administrative decisions, or promoting the RFPA to audiences both near and far—please sign up!

Release Party

Reformed Book Outlet and *Journey Through the Psalms*

On the evening of June 21, 2024, the RFPA staff held a book release party at Reformed Book Outlet (RBO) in Hudsonville, MI. This event celebrated the release of two new RFPA devotionals, *Journey Through the Psalms* and *Songs of Our Pilgrimage*. The release of these books—excellent reading for summer months spent relaxing at the beach or lounging around in your backyard—perfectly coincided with the beginning of the summer season in Michigan.

Much of the event centered on younger readers, including an author reading of a *Journey* devotional and a scavenger hunt for copies of *Journey* illustrations hidden around the store. However, many adults were also in attendance, celebrating with fellowship, lemonade, and ice cream in abundance.

Of the two devotionals, many readers would have said that *Songs* was the more familiar. (*Songs* is a reprint in hardcover book form of the *Daily Devotions from the Psalms* pamphlets written by Rev. John Heys, distributed by the Men's Society of Hudsonville PRC in 1988.) And yet, *Journey* proved to be the star of the show, selling dozens of copies in just an hour and a half.

The event was packed with kids and adults eager to celebrate the books, and attendees lined up wall-to-wall in RBO's backroom to hear author Mike Velthouse read a chapter of *Journey*. He also spent a few minutes fielding audience questions, including some on the process of writing and editing devotionals, and signed many books.

Journey is Velthouse's first book, but not his last! The author is a faithful member of a local writing group that meets monthly. (Do you know any other RFPA authors who attend this writing group? Look back at the **Summer 2023 RFPA Update** for more details!) While you wait for his next book, you can follow Velthouse on Facebook @Mike Velthouse or subscribe to *Ignited by the Word* to read more of his work.

If you attended this author reading, too, thank you! You helped make the reading a successful evening. And if you have feedback, **let us know!** What did we do well, and what could we do better next time?



What's New? with PUBLICATIONS

Are you looking for a gift idea for someone's birthday, or for edifying Christian content to use with your own family? Consider subscribing to one or both of our religious magazines!

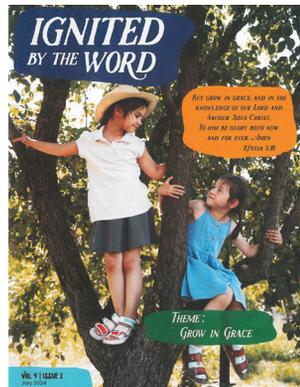
A subscription to *Ignited by the Word* is included in a Level 2 membership, and a subscription to *The Standard Bearer* is included in both Level 1 and Level 2 memberships. To learn more about the membership program, visit rfpa.org/pages/membership.

Ignited by the Word

The most recent themed issue was July's **Growing in Grace**. For sneak peeks and reminders of upcoming issues, find *Ignited by the Word* on Facebook!

Ignited by the Word is a quarterly-published, Christian children's magazine split into three sections: PreK–2nd grade, 3rd–5th grade, and 6th–8th grade. Whether you are looking for Bible stories to read to your preschooler, stories about the heroes of the faith for your ten-year-old, or a set of daily devotions for your young teenager, *Ignited by the Word* is the magazine for you and your family.

And don't forget—*Ignited* wants article and artwork submissions from YOU! Send in your work to info@ignitedbytheword.org or via the IBTW website to be featured and credited in future issues.



The Standard Bearer

If you're already subscribed to the *Standard Bearer*, you might have noticed that the magazine is celebrating its 100th year of publication! In June 2024, the magazine unveiled a brand-new *SB* cover design to celebrate the occasion. This design by Erika Kiel features the original 1924 masthead typography, a complete table of contents



on the front cover as it appeared from the 1990s–2010s, and a new centennial stamp design, in a summation of the periodical's 100-year design history.

The defining style is a modern interpretation of 1920s Art Deco design, which was characterized by opulent colors and striking geometry. The interior features a clean typographic layout, so that the truths explained inside are unimpeded to fill the minds and, by grace, pierce the hearts of readers.

What do you think? Let us know how you feel about the cover and/or content of the *SB* by sending your feedback to mail@rfpa.org or leaving a review on our website rfpa.org.

The *Standard Bearer* is devoted to explaining and defending Reformed doctrine, promoting the Reformed life of the church and believer, and combating old and new errors that threaten to disrupt the Reformed faith and life. The magazine has boldly and unashamedly testified to the faith of the Protestant Reformation since 1924. If you're not subscribed yet, consider taking a moment to join thousands of Reformed believers who read the *SB* every month! Search for "Standard Bearer" on rfpa.org, or email mail@rfpa.org to order a subscription for yourself or a loved one today.

RFPA Logo

Did you know? To celebrate 100 years of publishing,



the RFPA began using a brand-new logo on our books, magazines, and website in June 2024. According to designers Todd and Erika Karsemeyer:

The new RFPA logo design intends to convey the mission and purpose of the RFPA in a simple, memorable way. The stated goal of the RFPA is to witness the distinctive Reformed truth of the gospel, primarily through the printed page. The acronym TULIP has long been used to succinctly capture the basic truths of Reformed theology, and so a tulip graphic has served as the RFPA logo for some time. The new logo updates that concept and adds a publishing element to it. Viewed from one perspective, the new RFPA logo mark is a blossoming tulip, with the circle or "head" representing petals yet to open. The tulip also pays homage to the shared Dutch heritage of the RFPA's founders. From another perspective, the mark is an open book or magazine with the reader's head visible above — inspired by a fond childhood memory of [the designer's] father sitting on the couch reading the *Standard Bearer*.

What do you see when you look at the new logo?

Call to Action: Deficit Drive Update

“Ask, and it shall be given you; seek, and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you: For every one that asketh receiveth; and he that seeketh findeth; and to him that knocketh it shall be opened” (Matthew 7:7–8).

From the end of 2023 to August 2024, the RFPA held a deficit drive to help balance our budget with donations. Although the drive has now ended (after having raised more than

\$150,000!), we’d like to remind readers that the RFPA continues to be largely dependent on gifts and donations in order to continue publishing books and fulfilling our mission.

If you’d like to contribute to the work of the RFPA, you may donate any time by clicking on the “Donate” button. Otherwise, checks may be mailed to the RFPA office address. Any amount will help! Don’t forget, the RFPA is a

501(c3) organization, so your donations may be tax-deductible. You can also find more information about how your donations are used by navigating to rfpa.org/pages/donation-page. Every dollar (both American and Canadian currency alike) serves our mission “to glorify God by making accessible to the broadest possible audience material that testifies to the truth of Scripture as understood and developed in the Reformed tradition.”

Visit Us!

Do you know where your donations are going?

The RFPA has been in its current building in Jenison since 2006. Yet, we still meet many first-time visitors in 2024! If you’re interested in the work of the RFPA, including editing, publishing, translating, shipping, or marketing, feel free to drop by with questions at the Jenison office any weekday during business hours, 9AM to 4PM EST. The RFPA staff are always glad to offer visitors brief building tours and to discuss the daily work and mission of the nonprofit.

We also offer school tours. In 2024, two Church History classes—from two states!—visited and toured the RFPA. Do you recognize anyone from these pictures?



Heritage Christian High School (Dyer, IN) visit with teacher Karen VanBaren



Faith Christian School (Randolph, WI) visit with teacher Mike Vander Veen



What People Are Saying...

“Pastor Hoeksema’s treatment of God’s grace was thought provoking and expanded my vision of it. Richly theological and practical. I recommend you read it.”

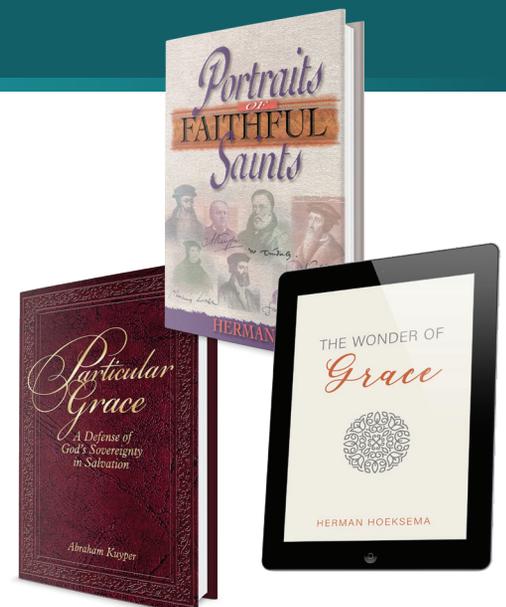
–Kim R. on *Wonder of Grace* by Herman Hoeksema

“Can’t keep it on the shelf! I keep giving copies away. Excellent factual summaries of so many heroes of the faith over many centuries...Great to pick up and read anytime.”

–Derek A. on *Portraits of Faithful Saints* by Herman Hanko

“A thorough defense of the Calvinist doctrine of particular grace. With its clear exposition, comprehensive theological analysis, and passionate devotional tone, this is a must-read. Kuyper’s arguments are an engaging & rewarding exploration of God’s sovereign grace. I highly recommend for anyone interested in deepening their understanding of Reformed soteriology.”

–Craig (@reformedandreading) on *Particular Grace: A Defense of God’s Sovereignty in Salvation* by Abraham Kuyper





RFP update



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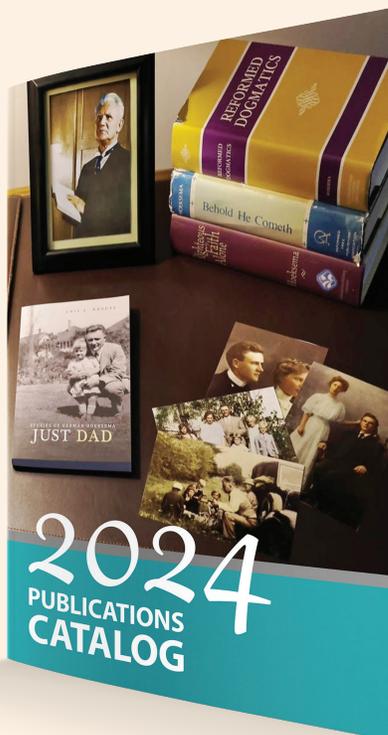
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Devotions on the Gospel of John for Teens
Books 1 and 2 available now, Books 3 and 4 coming soon!
Abby VanSolema

This set of four 1-month devotionals follows Jesus' ministry as relayed by the apostle John. Each devotional emphasizes the importance of confessing that Jesus Christ is God and also provides much practical application to teen readers. \$13.95 each



Journey Through the Psalms
A Thirty-Day Devotional
Mike Velthouse, illustrated by Erinn Kuiper

In this devotional for ages 9-13, readers will travel through several time periods, starting with Israel in the wilderness, then through the life of David, the captivity of Judah, and finally Christ's work on earth. You'll also make some stops along the way to consider spiritual topics from the psalms that are still relevant for young Christians today. \$18.95

4 | NEW RELEASES

Voice of Our Fathers
An Exposition of the Canons of Dordrecht
Homer C. Hoeksema

Once the most thorough commentary in English on the Canons of Dordt, this book will soon be available in a brand-new edition! In this reprint of the 1980 original, readers will once again experience the author's careful examination of the Canons, as he explains the theology of the creed and shows how admirably the sovereignty of God in salvation was defended against its attackers during the "Great Synod" of 1618-1619.
COMING SOON!



Crowning His Gifts
Gracious Rewards in the Reformed Tradition
Brian Huizinga

In this accessible book, Brian Huizinga offers a rare historical and theological exposition of the biblical and Reformed teaching on the oft-neglected topic of the rewards of grace for the saints—in both the present life and in the life to come. \$39.95



Songs of Our Pilgrimage
365 Daily Devotions from the Psalms
John A. Heys

In the hustle and bustle of modern life, finding moments for peace and reflection can be a challenge. Yet, within the psalms, we discover a treasure trove of heartfelt prayers, honest expressions of emotion, and profound insights into the experience of every believer—that is, of a pilgrim and stranger in this world. \$35.95

To place an order go to rfpa.org or call 616-457-5970. **NEW AND UPCOMING RELEASES | 5**

The RFP UPDATE

is a semiannual newsletter published by the Reformed Free Publishing Association (a non profit organization registered in the State of Michigan)

1894 Georgetown Center Drive
Jenison MI 49428-7137
616-457-5970
mail@rfpa.org
rfpa.org

First published in
September 1998

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