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THE TRANSFORMING WORD,

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Mark W. Hamilton, General Editor



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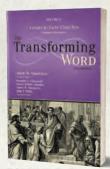
 William R. Baker, Editor of the Stone-Campbell Journal Professor of New Testament, Hope International University



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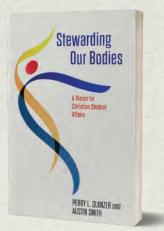
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Mark W. Hamilton

holds the Onstead Chair in the College of Biblical Studies at Abilene Christian University, where he serves as professor of Old Testament.



June 2023 • 240 pp • 6 x 9 PB 978-1-68426-342-4 • \$24.99 eBook 978-1-68426-871-9 • \$9.99

PERRY L. GLANZER is Professor of Educational Foundations at Baylor University, a Resident Scholar with Baylor Institute for Studies of Religion, and Editor-in-Chief of *Christian Scholar's Review*.

AUSTIN T. SMITH is a doctoral candidate in the higher education studies and leadership program at Baylor University and previously served as a resident director at Pepperdine University.

STEWARDING OUR BODIES

A Vision for Christian Student Affairs

Perry L. Glanzer and Austin T. Smith

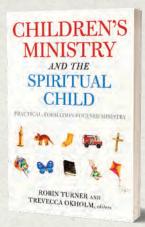
Most college students struggle tremendously with their bodies.

Numerous issues related to the body plague higher education. Students struggle with sleep, mental health, eating disorders, sexual identity questions, clothing choices, obesity, and alcohol problems, among other concerns. Too often Christian colleges try to meet these challenges with rules instead of setting forth a vision of what it means to steward the body—a precious gift from God that has been bought with a price by Christ.

Students, faculty, and staff at faith-based institutions need a theological framework and biblical wisdom by which they can better understand, nurture, and celebrate life in all its fullness. Stewarding Our Bodies draws from the expertise and experiences of researchers and practitioners both within and outside higher education to provide insight and suggestions for those who desire to help students better bear God's image. Most importantly, it sets forth a positive vision by which to understand the precious gift God has entrusted to us—our bodies.

"By rightly situating perspectives about stewarding the body in biblical theology, the authors set our thinking and our practice on solid ground. Each chapter contains well-researched insights and thoughtfully developed recommendations. In a time when moral development and spiritual formation of our students is so critical, this resource will inform my direct work with students and the leadership of my student life team."

—Edee Schulze, Vice President for Student Life, Westmont College



June 2023 • 272 pp • 6 x 9 PB 978-1-68426-213-7 • \$25.99 eBook 978-1-68426-882-5 • \$9.99

ROBIN TURNER serves as
Director of Family Ministries at
All Saints Dallas and runs a churchresourcing website (Worship with
Children) sharing research-based
tools for integrating children into
corporate worship and the rhythms
of church life. Robin, her husband
Sam, and their two young sons,
Davy and Jack, live in Dallas, Texas.

TREVECCA OKHOLM has served as a children's and family pastor and taught practical theology at Azusa Pacific University. She is the author of Kingdom Family: Re-Envisioning God's Plan for Marriage and Family and, more recently, The Grandparenting Effect: Bridging Generations One Story at a Time. Trevecca and her husband, Dennis, have two children and three grandchildren.

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY AND THE SPIRITUAL CHILD

Practical, Formation-Focused Ministry Edited by Robin Turner and Trevecca Okholm

God is at work in the lives of children.

Most ministers are looking for inspiration but feel overwhelmed. *Children's Ministry and the Spiritual Child* offers practical tools with evidence-based research in an easy-to-read format, perfect for engaging and equipping passionate yet busy children's ministry leaders. Learn from the wisdom and research of some of the leading thinkers in the field of children's spirituality.

- Section 1: Reviews ways to engage a child's innate spiritual capacity
- **Section 2:** Considers the equipping role a family plays in a child's spiritual life
- Section 3: Outlines intergenerational involvement in a child's faith formation
- **Section 4:** Offers advice for care and compassion for children when trauma happens
- **Section 5:** Brings everything together with hands-on ideas for putting the research to use

"What is unique about this resource is that many contributors are primarily thoughtful practitioners (some also happen to be academics)—the reverse is usually true. Okholm and Turner's work is extremely valuable for the person in the trenches of local ministry."

—**Scottie May,** Associate Professor of Christian Formation and Ministry Emerita at Wheaton College; coauthor of Listening to Children on the Spiritual Journey

SEXPECTATIONS

Helping the Next Generation Navigate Healthy Relationships Barb Winters

Distorted views of intimate relationships abound. Let's offer youth a better option.

Social media, television, and the Internet feed destructive information to tweens, teens, and young adults. Hookup culture, the acceptance of sending nudes, and rampant pornography contribute to unrealistic sexual expectations. At what cost?

Barb Winters addresses the heavy loads of anxiety, worry, and depression among young people and offers practical advice for discovering healthier options. Today's youth are eager, passionate, and impressionable. They look to parents, grandparents, teachers, and trusted adults for direction. *Sexpectations* will help you make a difference and be part of the solution:

- Discover the factors contributing to the declining health of relationships.
- Examine the consequences of a "casual sex is acceptable" societal attitude.
- Explore four foundational attributes of healthy relationships based on God's Word: love, selflessness, mutuality, and communication.
- Learn how to have effective and ongoing conversations with the young people in your life about pornography, hookup culture, nudes, and God's design for sex.

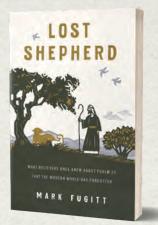
"Barb Winters is a fantastic resource for people looking for practical tips on how to talk with preteens and teens about healthy relationships amidst today's culture of pornography, social media, and hookups. I am confident her book will be a blessing to many."

—Dr. John D. Foubert, PhD, author of Protecting Your Children from Internet Pornography; board member of National Center on Sexual Exploitation (NCOSE)



August 2023 • 192 pp • 5.5 x 8.25 PB 978-1-68426-212-0 • \$17.99 eBook 978-1-68426-883-2 • \$9.99

BARB WINTERS is the mom of a recovered pornography addict, a certified Sexual Risk Avoidance Specialist, and founder of Hopeful Mom: Supporting Parents in an Online World, where she offers encouragement and practical advice to parents and leaders. As Lead Facilitator at E3 Family Solutions, Inc., Barb equips students to make healthy choices. She's a sought-after podcast and blogsite guest, published at Covenant Eyes and Focus on the Family, serves on anti-pornography committees, speaks at seminars, and advocates for human trafficking awareness. She and her husband reside in Florida, near two of their four children. Connect with Barb at HopefulMom.net.



August 2023 • 208 pp • 5.5 x 8.25 PB 978-1-68426-219-9 • S17.99 eBook 978-1-68426-881-8 • S9.99

MARK FUGITT has been a pastor for eighteen years and an adjunct professor for a decade. He has a bachelor's in history; master's degrees in history, theological studies, and theology; and his PhD in biblical studies and historical theology. He lives with his wife Laura and four children on a farm in the hills of Missouri. Find out more about Mark's current and upcoming work at MarkFugitt.com.

LOST SHEPHERD

What Believers Once Knew about Psalm 23 That the Modern World Has Forgotten Mark Fugitt

You are not the first sheep to follow the shepherd; and you will not be the last.

For 3,000 years, people of faith have found meaning and comfort in the 23rd Psalm. This widely known song has had an impact across time and culture. But in the twenty-first century, this psalm appears idle. For many, it only serves as a short reading at the end of funerals. How did this happen?

Most books about Psalm 23 focus only on the author's interpretation. Many are wonderful, yet they offer only perspectives of modern Christians. Lost Shepherd seeks to enrich the meaning of a passage many Christians believe is almost "too familiar" to appreciate. This book is the perfect cure to break Psalm 23 out of the category of nostalgia and return it to relevance in our daily lives by looking far into the past.

Lost Shepherd allows you to stand with the sheep who have gone before, revealing a better look into the face of our Shepherd. Each chapter examines a line from the psalm and discusses how it has encouraged devotion over the centuries and continues to feed our souls today. Rediscover lost interpretations and consider how Psalm 23 can form your spirit, serving as a source of wisdom for a new generation of Christians.

[&]quot;Lest we live by the adage 'familiarity breeds contempt,' I invite you to read this intriguing book that connects the most well-known psalm in Scripture with the Good Shepherd, Jesus Christ. As a phrase-by-phrase exposition of this beloved poem, Lost Shepherd will push you to hear and sense Psalm 23 in a fresh and surprising way."

[—]Gregg R. Allison, Professor of Christian Theology, The Southern Baptist Theological Seminary; author of Historical Theology and Sojourners and Strangers

LITTLE STRENGTH, BIG GOD

Discover a God Greater than Your Goliaths
Debbie W. Wilson

Discover timeless truths to slay your giants. Like the faithful in Hebrews 11, you can become mighty in battle.

Loss and intimidation are not new to God's people. What if you had to choose between—

- Drowning your baby or letting your worst enemy raise him?
- Bowing before an idol or being thrown into a fiery furnace?
- Compromising your convictions or being tossed to the lions?
- Living in fear or leading ill-equipped volunteers against an intimidating enemy?

The believers who faced these decisions felt their limitations. Yet they found strength in the Lord. You can too. Using the men and women highlighted in the last half of Hebrews 11, Little Strength, Big God will help you turn your weaknesses into strengths to accomplish God's purpose in your life. When trouble attacks, you don't need a bigger God—you need clearer vision. Discover the transforming power of a God greater than your Goliaths and live strong now.

"In our world of ever-increasing antagonism, Debbie Wilson shows how those in the Bible faced similar challenges and found strength in the Lord. Like these heroes of the faith, we can triumph in crushing circumstances. *Little Strength, Big God* provides assurance, hope, and practical steps."

—PeggySue Wells, best-selling author of 31 books, including The Ten Best Decisions a Single Mom Can Make and Chasing Sunrise



September 2023 • 272 pp • 5.5 x 8.5 PB 978-1-68426-352-3 • \$18.99 eBook 978-1-68426-870-2 • \$9.99

DEBBIE W. WILSON is a Bible teacher, former biblical counselor, and award-winning author of Little Faith, Big God and Little Women, Big God. Debbie combines insight and encouragement to inspire readers to trust Christ with their lives. Her years with Cru (Campus Crusade for Christ) took her from Boston to Southern California with stops in Indiana, Oklahoma, and Eastern Europe. She and her husband, Larry, live in North Carolina with their two standard poodles and two adult children. Connect with Debbie and find free resources at debbieWwilson.com.



September 2023 • 224 pp • 5.5 x 8.25 PB 978-1-68426-242-7 • \$17.99 eBook 978-1-68426-879-5 • \$9.99

KERI EICHBERGER lives just outside of Louisville, Kentucky, with her husband Mike and their five kids. Her own roller coaster of life trials, redeemed by a relationship with the Lord, fueled her desire to help others discover and experience the fullness of life found in Jesus. After years of writing for an online audience, she became ordained through Southeast Christian Church, giving her life to full-time ministry. She continues to follow her calling to bring faith-filled encouragement to others around the world through her social media influence, devotionals, Faith Fueled podcast, and Christian nonfiction books. www.KeriEichberger.com

WIN OVER WORRY

Conquer What Shakes You and Soar with the One Who Overcomes Keri Eichberger

Nagging thoughts simmer and sizzle within you. Super-sized fears shake and overtake you. It's the enemy "worry." But you have the power to win over it.

Keri is no stranger to worry and its ill effects. As a teenager, she discovered the power of panic and anxiety after encountering her own struggles and suffering. She developed unhealthy and unreliable coping strategies of self-will over the preferred will and way of God. Win over Worry will equip you to face the fears that have been holding you back from taking flight into the fullness of life we all long for. God has planned a colorful, flavorful, chains-free future for you, his cherished child, to enjoy. Right here, and right now.

- "We are in a war for our minds, and Keri beautifully leads us to a better narrative in this book—one that will allow us to soar with our Overcomer. If you struggle with worry or anxious thoughts (let's be honest, we all do!), this is a must-read!"
- —**Rebecca George,** author of *Do the Thing* and Host of the *Radical Radiance podcast*
- "Keri invites us to search the depths of our own souls and examine what we truly believe at the core of who we are. The more my deepest beliefs are brought to light and reshaped by the gospel, the more worry begins to lose its power in my life."
- —Kyle Idleman, best-selling author of not a fan and One at a Time

FRIENDSHIP CAN SAVE THE WORLD

The Book of Ruth and the Power of Diverse Gospel Community

Carrie & Morgan Stephens

God uses diverse friendships to fulfill his miraculous will in the world.

In an increasingly polarized world, our collective ability to navigate friendships with people whose backgrounds, experiences, and views differ from our own has diminished. Along the way, valuing diversity has come to be seen by many Christians as a secular pursuit. However, we love and serve a diverse God (being three in one) who taught us to love those we tend to have a hard time loving: outsiders, enemies, foreigners, the poor, and the weak.

In Friendship Can Save the World, Carrie and Morgan offer an invigorating retelling of Ruth to help us love people unlike us. Weaving in stories from their multiethnic, multigenerational, and socioeconomically diverse church, they highlight the power of unique friendships in God's greater missional story. Find inspiration to love and be loved more courageously as we all forge a path into a more redemptive future.

"Morgan and Carrie Stephens have skillfully crafted a literary tapestry that intertwines everyday relational fibers with those of the iconic Old Testament saint Ruth. Every turn of the page encourages you to be more to those who need more."

—Brett Fuller, Bishop, Grace Covenant Church, Washington Metropolitan Area and Chaplain, Washington Commanders

"Friendship Can Save the World brings us more into what it truly means to live together as brothers and sisters, and more into what Jesus meant when he offers the fullness of life. You will leave with a refreshed view of the Father's heart to see the dividing wall of hostility crumble and the part we play in seeing that happen."

—Adrian Crawford, Founding Pastor of Engage Church Tallahassee, author of Mask Off



September 2023 • 224 pp • 5.5 x 8.25 PB 978-1-68426-264-9 • \$17.99 eBook 978-1-68426-878-8 • \$9.99

CARRIE & MORGAN

STEPHENS are the lead pastors of Mosaic Church, a diverse multisite congregation in Austin and Fort Worth, Texas. Carrie is the author of Holy Guacamole and Jesus, Love, & Tacos. She was a contributing author in The Christian Mama's Guide to Having a Baby by Erin Macpherson and contributed to Kathy Lipp's Praying God's Word Over Your Life. Morgan serves on the North American Leadership Team for Every Nation Churches. He received his MA in Intercultural Studies and is pursuing a doctorate in ministry, both from Asbury Theological Seminary. Morgan and Carrie live in Cedar Park, Texas, and have four incredible children.



October 2023 • 288 pp • 6 x 9 PB 978-1-68426-401-8 • \$25.99 eBook 978-1-68426-865-8 • \$9.99

VALERIE M. GRISSOM,

MDiv, DWS, is a certified pastor in the Northwest Coast Presbytery (PC-USA), near Seattle, Washington. She serves as the Vice Chair for Intergenerate. As a worship leader and pastor for over nineteen years, in a variety of denominations and ecumenical settings, Valerie is passionate about worship renewal in the Church. Valerie's research, writing, speaking, coaching, and mentoring focus is on intergenerational and intercultural worship.

ALL AGES BECOMING

Intergenerational Practice in the Formation of God's People

Edited by Valerie M. Grissom

We are in this together—all ages practicing, all ages becoming God's people.

Often, intergenerational initiatives are seen as the next new church trend, or another programming tool for church growth and revitalization. Ultimately, though, intergenerational practice is at the core of what it means for us to *be* the body of Christ. God intends for all ages to participate in faith formation together; we are formed in our practice of intergenerationallity as we participate in the formation of becoming God's people.

All Ages Becoming brings theologians, practitioners, and ministry leaders, representing diverse denominations, generations, cultures, and geographical locations, together to help us explore this adventure of intergenerational Christian practice. As you consider intergenerational practice in your own faith community, each chapter provides Theology in Practice sections with questions designed to help your community reflect, discuss, discover, experiment, reinvent, redesign, and continue in your community of practice.

"The chapters address the needs of the veteran practitioner and those who are just beginning on the journey to an intergenerational future for their church. Our future is intergenerational, and *All Ages Becoming* is a guide to that future."

- —**John Roberto**, Lifelong Faith Associates, author of Lifelong Faith: Formation for All Ages and Generations
- "All Ages Becoming is a new, rich, and life-giving text that all leaders who seek to engage across all ages need to read. It is like a choir of voices, all with their unique flavours and tones coming together to bring harmony, strength, and beauty to the growing conversation of what it means for all ages to grow, love, and serve together."
- —Tammy Preston, Founding Pastor, Inergenerate Australia, and author of Piece by Piece and Collide: Exploring Intergenerational Ministry

THE HISPANIC FACULTY EXPERIENCE

Opportunities for Growth and Retention in Christian Colleges and Universities

Edited by Octavio J. Esqueda and Benjamin Espinoza

Hispanics are not a current trend. They have been here for centuries and embody an integral part of the United States and higher education.

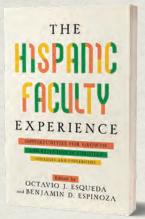
Every racial term—including Hispanic, Latino/a, and more recently Latinx and Latine—is imperfect and problematic. There is no consensus about what works best. Despite this reality, the lives and stories of non-White faculty are essential to the future of Christian higher education.

Each author shares their account of working in a predominately White Christian institution. Filled with triumphs, struggles, and penetrating insights, the chapters explain what it is like to experience the shifting demographics of today's universities, which are bringing increasing numbers of Hispanic students even as the overall number of Hispanic colleagues remains exceedingly small. This book will be especially useful for leaders who may be unaware of how difficult it is to navigate the challenges of Christian higher education as Hispanic faculty.

"If you read one book this year, make it this one. Presidents, provosts, deans, and college trustees will find <u>The Hispanic Faculty Experience</u> a treasure."

—Shirley V. Hoogstra, President, Council for Christian Colleges & Universities

OCTAVIO J. ESQUEDA is Professor of Christian Higher Education and Director of the PhD and EdD Programs in Educational Studies at Talbot School of Theology at Biola University. He graduated from the University of Guadalajara, Dallas Theological Seminary, and the University of North Texas, where he earned a PhD in Higher Education. The author of several journal

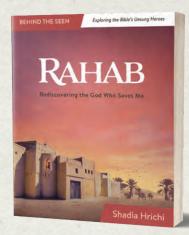


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articles on theological education, Christian higher education, and literature, Esqueda has coauthored Anointed Teaching and The Cruciform Faculty. More info can be found at octavioesqueda.com.

BENJAMIN D. ESPINOZA

serves as Vice President of Northeastern Seminary at Roberts Wesleyan University. Espinoza graduated from Cedarville University, Asbury Theological Seminary, and Michigan State University, where he earned his PhD in Higher, Adult, and Lifelong Education. He is the editor of Theology and the Star Wars Universe and lead editor of Story, Formation, and Culture. Ben has written numerous articles in the areas of Christian formation and ministry, race and diversity, theological education, and leadership.



October 2023 • 240 pp • 7.5 x 9.25 PB 978-1-68426-129-1 • \$18.99 eBook 978-1-68426-889-4 • \$9.99

SHADIA HRICHI holds a master's in biblical and theological studies as well as a master's in criminal justice. Shadia is the award-winning author of several Bible studies, including Tamar, Hagar, Legion, and Worthy of Love. She is often invited to speak at retreats and other events, has served on faculty for several Christian Writers conferences, and provides workshops, coaching, and other resources for aspiring authors. Currently residing in northern California, Shadia loves to visit the ocean each week for "a date with Iesus." Visit www.shadiahrichi.com.

RAHAB

Rediscovering the God Who Saves Me Shadia Hrichi

Rahab, who witnessed no miracles and knew none of God's laws, merely heard of God's power—and believed.

Rahab, a former Canaanite prostitute, holds a surprisingly prominent position in several key faith passages—as well as being listed in the lineage of Christ! In fact, she marries a prince. *The prostitute marries a prince!* This is the stuff of movies and romance novels.

But the best part? Rahab's story is our story. It's a story centered on three key themes, without which there would be no Bible, no gospel, and no Savior: faith, grace, and salvation. Through her daring faith, Rahab hid enemy spies, defied her king, risked her life, and found the living God. By the time you finish this six-week study, you will never look at the story of Rahab the same way again.

"With a much deeper dive into this woman in the lineage of Christ, Shadia challenges us to take our faith deeper with a relentlessly faithful God. She reminds us that no one, no matter who they are or what they've done, is outside of God's tender love. Just like he did with Rahab, God extends a rescue cord to each of us."

- —Jennifer Crosswhite, author of the best-selling Christian romantic suspense Protective Custody
- "Insightful and rich in cultural details, Shadia's new Bible study on Rahab takes the reader on a deep and meaningful journey. Because of it, I have a fresh understanding of the God who saves. Highly recommended."
- —Robin Lee Hatcher, Christy Award—winning author of The Legacy of Faith series and I'll Be Seeing You

CHRISTIAN HIGHER EDUCATION

An Empirical Guide

Perry L. Glanzer, Theodore F. Cockle, and Jessica Martin

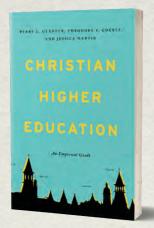
Utilizing a common set of objective institutional markers as a compass, this book guides readers through the terrain of various Christian institutions.

The Christian higher education landscape confuses many people. Future students, parents, staff, and even faculty often do not understand the important subtleties and nuances. They need a guide that empirically explores the ways Christian universities operationalize their Christian identity. This book will guide them through the field of Christian higher education and introduce our Operationalizing Christian Identity Guide (OCIG), which identifies the major ways Christian colleges and universities use their Christian identity to make mission, marketing, membership, curriculum, cocurricular, and other decisions. These markers are identifiable by anyone, no matter their religious or nonreligious background.

The OCIG is then employed to rank and evalute Protestant, historically Black, Catholic, evangelical/multidenominational, and Eastern Orthodox institutions in the United States and Canada. Parents, students, staff, and faculty will be equipped to engage Christian higher education with a clearer understanding of these key elements and their importance to the mission and purposes of individual institutions and Christian higher education at large.

"For those just beginning their Christian higher education journeys, this guide provides an accessible overview of the wide array of institutions with various Christian commitments and expressions. Meanwhile, more experienced scholars and practitioners receive an objective and useable tool for evaluating the way Christian identity influences key institutional practices."

—Shirley V. Hoogstra, JD, President, Council for Christian Colleges & Universities



November 2023 • 176 pp • 6 x 9 PB 978-1-68426-412-4 • \$22.99 eBook 978-1-68426-863-4 • \$9.99

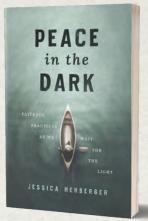
PERRY L. GLANZER is a

Professor at Baylor University, a Resident Scholar with the Baylor Institute for Studies of Religion, and Editor-in-Chief of *Christian Scholar's Review*. He is the author or editor of over a dozen books, including *Identity in Action*.

THEODORE F. COCKLE is a

Postdoctoral Research Associate at Baylor University and a Resident Scholar with Baylor's Center for School Leadership. He is coauthor of Christ-Enlivened Student Affairs (ACU Press, 2020) and serves as the editor of Ideas, an online publication of the Association of Christians in Student Development (ACSD).

JESSICA MARTIN is currently earning her PhD in Higher Education Studies & Leadership at Baylor University. She holds an MA in Higher Education & Student Affairs and has over eight years of experience in various Christian higher education settings.



January 2024 • 160 pp • 5.5 x 8.25 PB 978-1-68426-299-1 • \$16.99 eBook 978-1-68426-876-4 • \$9.99

JESSICA HERBERGER is an author and Bible teacher who comes alive at the intersection of faith, history, and liturgy. She is the author of Break Bread Together and Life Surrendered and host of The Table—an online community gathered around the Word. She is also cofounder of the women's ministry Seasons Northeast. Through her writing and speaking, Jessica encourages others to seek community, walk in obedience, and love others well. Jessica and her husband, Josh, live in upstate New York with their three kids, where she can be found surrounded by books, music, and plenty of love.

PEACE IN THE DARK

Faithful Practices as We Wait for the Light Jessica Herberger

How do we stay faithful as we wait on God?

The time after Good Friday but before Easter Sunday is one of the most overlooked portions of the Bible. We tend to rush ahead to the empty tomb seeking to find the resurrected Lord, but our lives don't come equipped with a fast-forward button. We all face seasons of waiting where we long for a new or better future.

Peace in the Dark invites you to look again and acknowledge the reality of Holy Saturday. The example of the early disciples in those in-between hours offers a depth of wisdom about what to do when things have gone wrong. Their practices can serve us as we face our own disappointments, trials, and even traumatic experiences. There is a way to not just live but to experience peace when God seems silent. Rooted in Scripture, nature, and her personal experiences of years of trial, Jessica Herberger guides us through what was happening on that day, why it matters, and how we can approach our Holy Saturdays with hope and faithfulness.

"Jessica Herberger manages to take a quiet day that we know little about—Holy Saturday—and offers us a gift we hardly knew we needed. Through careful reading of Scripture and history, compelling narrative, and lived wisdom, she shows us what it means to grieve, feast, endure the quiet, trust what can't yet be seen, and allow paradox to be an invitation instead of a frustration. *Peace in the Dark* will help you discover fullness within the emptiness of the space between the crucifixion and resurrection, and how—even there in the deepest darkness—Light remains."

—**Adriel Booker**, author of *Grace Like Scarlett* and *Tethered to Hope*

"With the heart of a teacher and a hope formed out of loss, Jessica's words ring true and timeless for all of us who live amidst life's shadows. As a mom who has lost a son, my soul breathed yes from beginning to end, and I hope we can all lean in to her invitation to put down our silver linings and dip our toes in the sacred nuance of the in-between, where hollow spaces can be holy places for God to dwell."

-SARAH E. WESTFALL

speaker and author of The Way of Becoming

"Here is a book about darkness that is still somehow teeming with light. Jessica Herberger invites her readers into the darkest day in Christian history, Holy Saturday, and welcomes us into the waiting we all still wrestle with in our todays. Drawing from our beloved Adirondack lakes and loons and mountains, she reimagines that dark day of death and helps us to trust that even there, in the unknown, there is still a depth of goodness to be found."

—LORE FERGUSON WILBERT

author of A Curious Faith, Handle With Care, and The Understory

"As a therapist, all the tools I would want you to have for coping are included here. Even better, the person of Christ, who compassionately enters into our stories, is exalted in this hands-on guide for overcoming trauma."

—KRISTEN HATTON

Professional Counselor and author of Parenting Ahead

"Kristen's book explores the intersection of pain, healing, and spiritual formation, integrating scientific knowledge, Scripture, and a faith in God who offers a path to freedom. Legacy Changer offers a unique perspective on considering our suffering and finding solace in a God committed to our generational healing. It is a delightful read."

—KARRIE SCOTT GARCIA

author of *Free and Fully Alive*, Trauma Informed Story Coach, host of *The Honest Pod* podcast

LEGACY CHANGER

Heal the Hurt, Redeem Your Story, Create Hope for Your Family Kristen Hallinan

Heal from your past and create a stronger, healthier family. Be a Legacy Changer.

The pain we experience today—in marriage, parenting, friendships, self-esteem, and even faith—oftentimes has roots in the wounds we experienced growing up. Many of us unknowingly repeat the mistakes of our parents and grandparents, passing on an unnecessary family legacy of pain and suffering. Through biblical wisdom, relatable storytelling, and tips for practical application, *Legacy Changer* equips women to heal their wounds of generational toxicity and create a healthier, more hopeful legacy for their families.

Facing generational pain allows us to heal from the lies and shame of our past and move toward truth and hope for our future. No matter what has happened in the past or what mess you might be in today, you are not destined to carry on your family's wounds, unhealthy behaviors, or toxic relationships. It doesn't have to be this way. Your legacy can be different.

"Legacy Changer is a vital toolkit for gently reflecting on past trauma (no matter how big or small) in order to write a new story. Kristen walks alongside readers, providing pragmatic resources to work through past wounds to gain a better understanding while also providing biblical wisdom for healing. This book invites you to handle yourself with tender care to walk in a new path. It's a must-read."

-Mandy Arioto, President and CEO of MOPS International

"Kristen beautifully shows us through real-life examples, biblical references, and practical tips just how important it is to deal with the pain of our past and work toward what matters most. She helps readers transition their mindset to the truths of Jesus while ushering them into a healing journey. If you want to be a legacy changer, then this book is for you!"

-Nicole Jacobsmeyer, speaker & author of Take Back Your Joy



February 2024 • 192 pp • 5.5 x 8.25 PB 978-1-68426-297-7 • \$17.99 eBook 978-1-68426-873-3 • \$9.99

KRISTEN HALLINAN, a

sought-after writer and speaker, is passionate about helping women redeem the pain of their past and move toward a healthier and more hopeful future. On a mission to equip women and support families, Kristen previously worked as Director of Development for MOPS International. She enjoys working with teen moms, crisis pregnancy centers, and serving as a premarital mentor with her husband, Shawn, in Dallas, TX. You can find her other writings in publications like Relevant Magazine and The Joyful Life. Laughing with and chasing after her four children helps burn off the calories she consumes of her favorite treat-homemade glutenfree churros.



March 2024 • 208 pp • 5.5 x 8.25 PB 978-1-68426-298-4 • \$17.99 eBook 978-1-68426-874-0 • \$9.99

Rachel Miller is an author and speaker who teaches on faith, creativity, and communication. She works with best-selling authors and speakers to help them craft compelling messages. She has written for Lifeway, YouVersion, Proverbs 31 Ministries, The Daily Wire, and Ramsey Solutions. She is the cofounder of The Writer's Room—a community of writers that offers annual conferences and gatherings. She and her husband, Jeff, love stand-up comedy, being outside, and planning global adventures from Base Camp, their home in Franklin, Tennessee. Connect with Rachel at rachelmillerauthor.com and on Instagram at @rachel.s.miller.

WHEN IT HURTS TO HOPE

Honest Conversations about Living with Unmet Longing
Rachel Miller

Embrace the tension of unmet longing and live with hope—even when life doesn't look like you thought it would.

Maybe you've chosen to bury your dreams, denying your desires and sleepwalking through life. Maybe you've let your longing take the driver's seat and now you feel frantic and out of control. Even worse, you find yourself growing cold to God, wondering, *If I never get what I want, is God still good?* This book tackles that hard question—and many others.

In many church circles, we're told to bury our God-given longings. In our current culture, we're encouraged to overindulge them. When It Hurts to Hope will show you the middle ground: how to honor God and honor your desires at the same time. Drawing upon her own experience of heartache, Rachel Miller offers encouragement and practical advice on embracing the tension of unmet longing. She shares tools for readers to be emotionally and spiritually healthy, including teachings on toxic shame, spiritual bypassing, lament, and community. Ultimately, Jesus is the only one who can meet every longing. Delayed dreams can deepen our intimacy with God while we hope for the day when he wipes away every tear and heals every heartache.

"Each page of When It Hurts to Hope is a beautiful gift of truth and encouragement—a field guide for living well while waiting and for how to still hope when your dreams may never come true. Hilarious and honest, Rachel speaks into tender topics that are often spiritually bypassed in a way that is both helpful and hopeful. Whatever unmet longing lives in your soul, this book is for you in this season."

-Meredith Boggs, author of The Journey Home

"Like a close friend, When It Hurts to Hope will meet you where you are, acknowledge your pain, and empower you to rely on God as you aim to live your life for him."

-MANDY JOHNSON

writer featured in Proverbs 31 Ministries, Esther Press, and The Fellowship of Christian Athletes

"If you are in a season of wrestling with unmet longings or maybe walking alongside someone who is, When It Hurts to Hope will point you to the One who fulfills our deepest desires to be fully known and fully loved. Filled with love, grace, encouragement, and transparency, the words on these pages allow our sadness and grief to coexist with the gift of experiencing the beauty of true dependence and intimacy with the loving God."

—KATHY KOON

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lead pastor of Willow Creek Community Church



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pastor at North Point Community Church and founder of North Point Ministries

FRIEND OF GOD

Letting Jesus Say Who You Really Are Rusty George

The only person who gets to say who you are is Jesus.

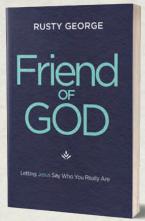
Did you have a nickname growing up? Most are fun and harmless, but sometimes the names get mean. Then, after we swallow a few other negative internal messages, we believe the lies. What others say becomes what we begin to believe about ourselves.

The apostle John grew up just like us. People handed him a ready list of labels—the brother of James, a Jew, a fisherman, a hothead—but then Jesus gave him a new direction in life. Writing about these events many years later, John referred to himself using a curious label. He always writes as "the one Jesus loved." Many wonder about this choice. Some even think it's presumptuous. Why would anyone single themselves out as the *one* loved by Jesus?

Rusty George wisely sees that John called himself "the one Jesus loves" so every reader could see that Jesus values and deeply loves them. *Friend of God* takes you inside John's writings—his Gospel, his letters, and the Revelation—so you can discover how Jesus saw John, and thus how he sees you.

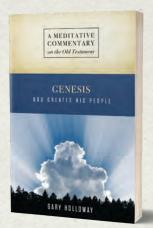
You are not the sum of what other people think of you. You are more than your victories or your mistakes. You, like John, are the one Jesus loves.

Written as short devotional entries, *Friend of God* encourages you to take the next 45 days and see how your relationship with Jesus grows.



March 2024 • 144 pp • 5 x 8 PB 978-1-68426-372-1 • \$17.99 eBook 978-1-68426-867-2 • \$9.99

RUSTY GEORGE is the lead pastor of Real Life Church Ministries in Valencia, California. For almost twenty years, Rusty has provided visionary leadership and teaching to his churches in the Santa Clarita Valley and Simi Valley, California. Rusty's heart for those far from God drives his organizational leadership, weekly teaching, and conference speaking engagements. Rusty is a loyal Kansas City Chiefs and Royals fan and lives in Santa Clarita with his wife, Lorrie, and their two daughters.



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GARY HOLLOWAY is the past Executive Director of the World Convention of Churches of Christ. Before that he taught spiritual formation at Lipscomb University in Nashville. Holding degrees from Freed-Hardeman, Harding, the University of Texas, and Emory University, he has written or edited over thirty books, including several volumes in the Meditative Commentary on the New Testament series. He is married to Deb Rogers Holloway.

A Meditative Commentary on the Old Testament **GENESIS**

God Creates His People Gary Holloway

The spirituality of Genesis centers on God as Creator and God as a Faithful Partner.

"In the beginning, God . . ." The Spirit of God hovers over the creation. The Lord makes all things. He is therefore the God of all power and wisdom.

What's more, he creates everything good. Very good.

Now it looks as if most everything is bad. Pain, injustice, violence, and disaster surround us. If there is a God, some say, he must be evil, or powerless, or unconcerned. But the good news of Genesis is that the God we serve is not only powerful and wise—he is good. He made things good. And when they go bad, he still works his good will.

So things are not the way they were supposed to be. Genesis begins the story of a God who is working to make things right.

When humans abandon their proper place and rebel against the Lord, he punishes them as any loving father would. But he does not abandon humanity or the rest of his creation. Genesis tells the story of how God works in surprising ways through human choices, good and bad, to reclaim and restore his creation. He works in unlikely people—Abraham, Sarah, Isaac, Jacob, Joseph, Pharaoh, and others. He initiates covenant with them. Even when they break covenant, he faithfully pursues them.

Genesis tells of a faithful God. And the Lord in turn expects his people to be faithful. That means trusting him, especially when his ways do not make sense. Abraham is willing to sacrifice his own son. Joseph trusts even when he is a slave and a prisoner. As we meditate on these stories of those who trusted, followed, and wrestled with God, let us open ourselves to his Spirit. Let us trust his inscrutable ways. Let us believe God so he might, through his covenant of love, count us as righteous.

A Meditative Commentary on the Old Testament

EXODUS TO DEUTERONOMYGod Goes with His People

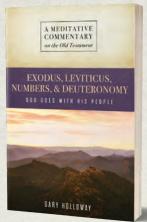
Gary Holloway

Have you ever started reading the Old Testament and got stuck in the law of Leviticus? If so, get unstuck with trusted teacher Gary Holloway.

The stories of Exodus—Deuteronomy remind us that right relationship with God is reflected in right relationship with the neighbor. God's people are often reminded of their obligations to family, tribe, and nation. What's more, they are to have right relationships with strangers and foreigners, remembering that God has love for all nations. The Lord calls them to treat people, animals, and the land as God treats them. They are to be "for me a kingdom of priests and a holy nation" (Exod. 19:6).

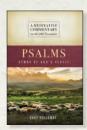
The laws found in Exodus—Deuteronomy (and there are many of them) reflect and embody the covenant God has made with Israel. They show what it means to be God's people and to have relationship with him. This is why the first phrase of the Ten Words (or Ten Commandments) is "I am the Lord your God, who brought you out of Egypt, out of the land of slavery" (Exod. 20:2). Relationship with God is based on the Lord's gracious act of choosing and delivering Israel. It is not based on their obedience (which is good, because they often did not obey). However, because God has chosen them to be his people, the laws show them what it means to reflect the character of God, to "be holy because I, the Lord your God, am holy" (Lev. 19:2).

While you might get lost in Leviticus, you must remember that obedience is all about relationship to God. That's why Israel is often reminded of what the law and obedience are about: "Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength" (Deut. 6:5).



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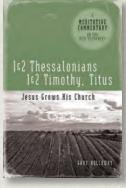
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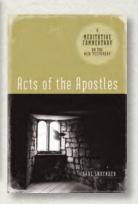
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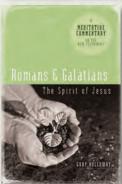
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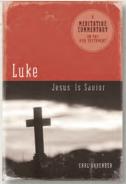
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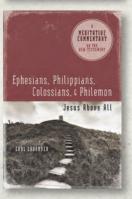
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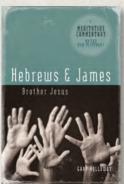
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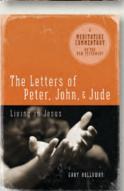






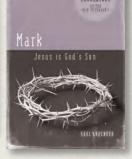
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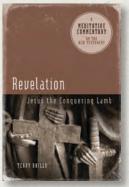
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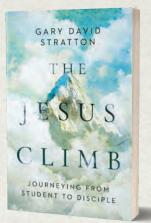
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GARY DAVID STRATTON (BA,

Wheaton College; MA, PhD, Talbot School of Theology) is a leading expert in the spiritual formation of students in educational settings. A Senior Fellow for the Association of Biblical Higher Education (ABHE), Gary cofounded the Future of Hope youth theology institute and the award-winning website TwoHandedWarriors.com. Gary and his wife, Dr. Sue Stratton, have served as church planters, youth pastors, campus ministers, administrators, and professors at twelve schools in the United States and China. Gary is currently Professor of Spiritual Formation and Cultural Leadership and Dean of the School of Arts and Sciences at Johnson University.

THE JESUS CLIMB

Journeying from Student to DiscipleGary David Stratton

What if following Jesus was meant to be as challenging as climbing Everest, yet as effortless as taking your next breath?

The Jesus Climb crafts the epic story of the quest to climb the world's tallest mountain into a parable illustrating how Jesus trained his first disciples to scale the summit of his greatest commandment—loving God and others with everything within us. Just as climbing Mount Everest is only possible after intense acclimation training, Jesus transformed his first disciples through a two-part spiritual acclimatization journey. The disciples' ascent into a higher and higher commitment to loving God and neighbor with all their heart, soul, mind, and strength was made possible by their descent into a deeper and deeper experience of the intimate, transforming, and other-centered love of God. By teaching and modeling both aspects of this two-part journey, Jesus transformed his first students into a discipleship community capable of loving as he did, changing their world through the power of othercentered love.

The Jesus Climb maps out eight key "expedition camps" through which Jesus acclimated his first disciples on their journey from student to disciple. Each chapter explores the life of a historical exemplar who lived out Jesus's teachings in their day and concludes with a personal discipleship "climbing guide" with contemporary spiritual practices for Christ followers today. Chapters also include links to online bonus materials for further personal, small group, and classroom study.

A higher spiritual life is possible. Allow Jesus to transform you, as he did his first students. See your Christ-centered community grow and become agents of his self-sacrificial love.

"Gary's book has the potential to revolutionize the life of an individual, family, and church by inviting us into a rigorous and ravishing vision for following Jesus and how we can genuinely shine his beautiful light in the world."

—PETER B. KAPSNER

Talk Show Host, Deeper Magic Media, Theology Professor, Northwestern University St. Paul

"Gary David Stratton shines a light, bright and clear on the spiritual journey Jesus crafted for his disciples. *The Jesus Climb* engages the heart and the mind from start to finish. Rich in design, centered on scripture, full of inspiring examples, and transformational application, Stratton delivers within these pages what he has shared with tens of thousands of students in his classrooms and conferences. I am grateful for Gary's mentorship and discipleship in my ow life and thrilled you can join the Jesus Climb as well."

—SCOTT REITZ

Associate Professor of Intercultural Studies and Director of Global Service Learning and First-Year Studies, Alliance University

"I've been privileged to learn from Gary's lifelong journey and devotion to the Lord. The discipleship concepts in *The Jesus Climb* transformed my life as a student. Now they are transforming the lives of the students in my classroom. I trust you too will grow as you learn to follow our Lord Jesus as your *TEACHER*, and to live out Jesus's teachings in your every area of your life."

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Professor of Service Learning, Director of First-Year Studies, Johnson University

"I thought I would read a little and ended up reading the whole thing in one sitting—which means this is a great read. Leonard Allen writes with a candor schooled by a life made possible by a faith that demands truth. He is serious but entertaining. We are fortunate to have the witness of one whose life is inseparable from a church he loves critically."

-STANLEY HAUERWAS

Duke University; author of Hannah's Child: A Theological Memoir

"This moving memoir is two stories in one. It is a young boy's emotional journey from an isolated island through a desert to embrace the Trinitarian dance of love. It is also a scholar's journey to build a bridge from that island to the mainland in a way that appreciates both the restorationist impulse and the Great Tradition."

—JOHN MARK HICKS

author of Meeting God at The Shack

THE BOOKROOM

Remembrance and Forgiveness—A Memoir C. Leonard Allen

A moving memoir that is two stories in one.

When we grow up Christian, it is always in a small place. At first, we don't even know it is a small place. It's just our place, and it feels like home. We launch out from this small place, and we discover that the Christian way is longer and richer than we ever dreamed.

But such a journey can be perilous, as Leonard Allen's story shows. His story begins at age eight in his father's small bookroom—and with an emerging set of questions about the faith he inherited. The search for answers leads him to tough places—eventually to a long season in the desert. Then into a season of creative work he had not imagined. And to some surprising gifts.

Readers will smile, probably laugh, and feel some of the grief along the way. And they will get glimpses into the rich texture of their lives—the place of memory, the influence of tradition, the desert experiences, the need for forgiveness, the gifts along the way.

"The driving theme of this memoir is Leonard's relentless search for answers to the perplexing theological questions growing out of his childhood experiences. It is all there—the good times and the bad and everything in between. Readers who have grown up in a similar heritage will relate immediately to the struggles of his journey."

—Royce Money, President Emeritus, Abilene Christian University



May 2024 • 176 pp • 5.5 x 8.25 PB 978-1-68426-043-0 • \$17.99 eBook 978-1-68426-855-9 • \$9.99

C. LEONARD ALLEN is the

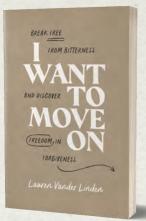
author of several widely read books, including *The Cruciform Church*, *Distant Voices*, and *Poured Out*. He has taught theology and ethics at John Brown University, Fuller Seminary, and Abilene Christian University. He currently serves as dean of the College of Bible and Ministry at Lipscomb University, Nashville.

More from C. Leonard Allen



POURED OUT The Spirit of God Empowering the Mission of God 208 pp • 6 x 9

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LAUREN VANDER LINDEN is

passionate about making complex issues simple by understanding and applying God's Word. As a former worship pastor, speaker, and business leader at a Fortune 250, she has had to work with, forgive, and receive forgiveness from many people! She and her husband, Travis, call Des Moines, Iowa, home, but they also love to travel. On their adventures, you can catch her husband looking at the views and Lauren incessantly looking around to avoid dangerous wildlife. You can find more writings about faith, travel, and lifestyle on laurenvanderlinden.com.

I WANT TO MOVE ON

Break Free from Bitterness and Discover Freedom in Forgiveness

Lauren Vander Linden

You know you should move on—so why can't you?

Regardless of how long ago you were hurt, feelings of betrayal, bitterness, and confusion still repeat in your mind. You can't deny your anger, fears, or frustrations without giving the enemy a foothold. Bitterness grows wherever its given a chance to thrive. You find unwanted thoughts creeping in:

I would never do to them what they did to me.

How can they be a Christian and act this way?

God, why did you allow this?

My bitterness isn't as bad as what they did to me.

But I didn't do anything wrong.

If I don't fight for myself, no one will.

I can wait to forgive.

I Want to Move On was born out of this struggle. Each chapter addresses a different unwanted thought and combats them with biblical truths to give you the practical tools to beat bitterness once and for all.

By exposing bitterness and trusting God to bring justice in his way, you can finally get your life back! What are you waiting for? Get unstuck and break the cycle for good. Open the book!



"As Christians, we talk a lot about forgiveness. We expect to be able to forgive and move on. But actually living what we believe is no easy task. We carry hurt, bitterness, and pain for years, even a lifetime. Lauren offers a catalog of human emotions, excuses, and the help we all need to actually move forward and find the freedom Christ offers. Her engaging format and conversational style will meet you wherever you're feeling stuck."

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