

Christian Library

J O U R N A L



This Issue Features:

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Variety**
- **Considering the Lord's Prayer**
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A Letter from the Editor

Dear Readers,

With this issue, we are cutting down on the numbers of reviews per issue. I do all of the initial editing, makeup of each issue, and final edit, along with relating to about one hundred reviewers, writers, many publishers, and readers of CLJ. And my life is in the process of major changes, as I am going to Mozambique, Africa, as teacher/librarian at Christian Academy. I will continue to publish CLJ from there, and various volunteer staff persons are taking on parts of the load to make that possible. We will continue to cover as many children's books and adult Christian fiction as we can, along with some adult Christian nonfiction.

Dr. Raymond Legg is rejoining us in the next issue as editor of the Adult Nonfiction section. New editors joining us are Jenny Lowery with High School Nonfiction; Rosemarie Decristo, Middle School Nonfiction; Maxine Cambra, Middle School Fiction. Sylvia Stopforth is moving from High School and Middle School Fiction to Children's Fiction. If you are interested in getting involved as an editor, email me through our website, and we can discuss qualifications and duties. All positions at CLJ are on a volunteer basis. Plenty of work, no pay! :-)

We encourage you to let us know how we're doing. Your comments help us to improve the journal.

In Christ's love,

A detailed black and white illustration of a desk setup. It features several stacks of books of various sizes, a pen resting on a stack, and a large, open book in the center. The drawing uses fine lines and cross-hatching for shading and texture.

Nancy L. Hesch

Nancy L. Hesch
Editor and Publisher

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The purpose of the *Christian Library Journal* is to provide readers with reviews of both Christian and secular library materials from a Christian point of view. Many titles from both Christian and secular publishers are reviewed each issue. Materials reviewed may reflect a broad range of Christian doctrinal positions and do not necessarily reflect the views of the staff of the *Christian Library Journal*.

Nancy Hesch Editor & Publisher
 Andrew Seddon Editor: Articles
 Mary McKinney Editor: Adult Fiction,
 YA Nonfiction
 Sylvia Stopforth Editor: YA Fiction
 Karen Brehmer Editor: Picture Books

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CONSIDERING THE LORD'S PRAYER

The early church father Tertullian held the opinion that the Lord's Prayer contained a summary of the whole Gospel. Certainly, we know that the prayer rapidly became an integral part of the worship of the early church. In the third century, Cyprian said that "to pray in another way than what [Jesus] taught is not merely ignorance—it is sin." Cyprian did not mean to imply that Christians couldn't pray extemporaneously or by using other formal prayers, but that other prayers should not replace the Lord's Prayer. Jesus taught us the way of prayer, not the strict words of prayer.

But we love these words, and many churches still recite the Lord's Prayer as part of their worship. After all, when we recite it, we are repeating words that Jesus himself spoke. But what does the Lord's Prayer mean for us? Is it just something we say, a rote part of ritual? Do we mean what we say? Do we understand the prayer, and what we are asking? Do we understand the way of prayer implicit in it? If we aren't sure why we say this prayer, if it has lost its meaning for us, then perhaps it's time to step back and examine the Lord's Prayer. So much is contained in the mere sixty-six words (King James version) that Jesus offered after the disciples asked, "Lord, teach us to pray." If we wish to pray, we too can

learn directly from Jesus. The Lord's Prayer is a lesson.

English Baptist (and pastor of Moody Memorial Church) Alan Redpath wrote *Victorious Living*, a book of studies in the Lord's Prayer (Revell, 1957, 1993). Redpath says that "this prayer is full of the Lord Jesus Christ from beginning to end. Just as the book of Esther, in which God is never mentioned, is full of God, this prayer in which the name of the Lord Jesus is never mentioned is full of Him" (p.15). Writing from an evangelical perspective, Redpath illustrates the strands of the Gospel from Jesus' simple yet profound words. The prayer, in this vision, is used to expound upon the good news of salvation. It's a valuable starting point.

W. Phillip Keller views the Lord's Prayer differently. (*A Layman Looks at the Lord's Prayer*, Moody, 1976). In it, he sees "the strength and compassion of our Father in heaven. There moves through it a beauty and serenity which no mortal man can fully explain. It reassures our hearts, strengthens our resolve, and leads us into personal contact with God, our Father" (p.9-10). Keller's is a gentler vision that shows the Master Potter working to make us the way he wants us to be. After we receive the gift of salvation comes the long process of God working in us.

Peter Lewis (also an evangelical Englishman) gives a longer, more detailed exposition of the prayer in *On Our Knees and In His Arms* (Moody Press, 1995). While Redpath focuses on the Gospel, and Keller on our personal relationship with Jesus, Lewis focuses on prayer itself: The Lord's Prayer contains all the main elements of prayer in a few lines. Each of these elements can be built upon as we meditate and pray. In this prayer we

have God's character and His kingdom, His concern for others, and His care for ourselves" (p.10). It can be easy for prayer to become mechanical and rote. If we allow it to teach us, the Lord's Prayer takes us out of repetitive words, and into proper communication with God. As we grow in our Christian lives, communication with our Heavenly Father also grows and deepens.

A fourth perspective comes from N.T. Wright in *The Lord and His Prayer* (Eerdmans/Forward Movement 1996). As would be expected from a leading writer on the "historical Jesus." Wright seeks to place the prayer in its historical context; that is, to understand what the prayer would have meant to Jesus' disciples in first century Judea—"...this prayer sums up fully and accurately, albeit in a very condensed fashion, the way in which [Jesus] read and responded to the signs of the times, the way in which he understood his own vocation and mission and invited his followers to share it" (p.2). Wright encourages us to see how Jesus "lived the Kingdom" and to follow him. Knowing the historical roots of Christianity can help us live out our faith today.

The Lord's Prayer is too deep for any one author or any one book to do it justice. But by viewing it from different viewpoints we can gain fresh perspectives that can enrich and enhance our Christian walk. Jesus' prayer was not just for the first disciples, but for all God's people, always.

Learning Native American Culture Through Children's Literature : The Plains Indians

by Jane Mouttet

The area where the Plains Indians live covers the middle part of North America from Texas into Canada. There are many books in libraries about Plains Indians. Most of the books I've included in this column have been published in the last five years; all are still on the market. Whether you are located in the Great Plains, serve Native Americans of any tribe, or serve the general population, books that teach about the Native America culture of North America deserve consideration for inclusion in your library. Several of the authors are either Native American or have lived near Native Americans. These authors' knowledge of their subject matter improved the quality of their books.

My favorite book in this list is *Alone in the Wilderness* by Hap Gilliland. He takes a Native American and places him in a non-Native environment. The book shows the discrimination some Natives face and how one young person was able to use native skills to gain the respect of his non-Native classmates.

BLACKFOOT/BLACKFEET INDIANS

ACROSS THE STEEL RIVER by Ted Stenhouse (Kids Can Press, 2001, 1-55074-891-2, HB, \$16.95, 222p.)

Grades 5-7 -- Yellowfly is a local hero, at least to the Indians on the reserve. He is a decorated veteran of World War II. The whites of Grayson in 1952 have little use for the Indians. Arthur, an Indian, and Will, a white boy, stumble upon a man beaten and left for dead. The Mounty declares Yellowfly was hit by a train and, because Yellowfly is an Indian, the townspeople accept the Mounty's faulty conclusion. Arthur and Will vow to find the real reason behind Yellowfly's injuries. Because it is the 1950's, people assume Arthur and Will will outgrow their friendship. Instead, during their search for justice, their friendship deepens and they challenge the town to courageously destroy their prejudice. Some language in the book may be inappropriate for some audiences. Author Ted Stenhouse grew up in Alberta. His knowledge of the Blackfoot people is evident in his writing. The story successfully shows what life was like for Native Americans in the 1950's.

BLACKFOOT CHILDREN AND ELDERS TALK TOGETHER by E. Barrie Kavasch and illustrated by A. J. Group and John Bacolo (Power Kids Press, 1999, 0-8239-5228-2, HB, \$19.50 24 p.)

Grades K-4 -- Author E. Barrie Kavasch uses elders and children of the Canadian Blackfoot

people to tell of their customs and culture. The layout is similar to other books in The Library of Intergenerational Learning series. Each chapter is two pages long and, in many cases, one full page is a photograph. Readers will learn about traditional Blackfoot life, celebrations, the Blackfoot creation story, food and prayers of the Blackfoot people of Canada.

THE BUFFALO JUMP by Peter Roop and illustrated by Bill Farnsworth. (Rising Moon Publishers, 1996, 0-87358-731-6, HB, \$7.95, 32 p.)

Grades K-2 -- "I can run faster than he can." Father chose Curly Bear, the older brother, over Little Blaze, the faster runner, to lead the buffalo over the cliff. Little Bear is angry and jealous. When his brother's strength gives out and he stumbles in front of the stampeding buffalo, Little Bear forgets his own safety and helps his brother. For his bravery, his father gives him a new name, Charging Bull. While *The Buffalo Jump* is a story of how the Blackfoot Indians killed buffalo for meat and other needs of the people, author Peter Roop has also told the story of overcoming jealousy to help someone in need. The research done by Bill Farnsworth is evident in his realistic illustrations.

DAWN RIDER by Jan Hudson. (Puffin Books, 1990/2000, 0-698-11859-6, PB, \$4.99, 176p.)

Grades 5-8 -- Kit Fox has a way with animals so when her band of the Blackfoot captures a horse, she can't wait to try to tame it. The

problem is Kit Fox is a sixteen-year-old girl and the warriors have determined that the horse is dangerous and only the warriors should try to ride it. With the help of her close friend, Found Arrow, an eighteen-year-old boy, Kit Fox learns to ride the horse in secret. Kit Fox's ability to ride the horse eventually helps her save her people. Dawn Rider is a fictional story which author Jan Hudson based on actual events in Blackfoot history. Many details of 18th century Blackfoot life are included in the story: family life, courtship, hunting, rites of passage, and interaction with other tribes.

CHEYENNE INDIANS

ALONE IN THE WILDERNESS by Hap Gilliland. (Naturegraph Publishers, Inc., 2001, 0-87961-257-6, PB, \$14.95, 158p.)

Grades 8-Adult -- Flint is a Cheyenne whose family recently moved from the reservation to Billings. As a Native American in a new, non-Native environment, Flint is quiet and chooses to ignore negative, anti-Native remarks. When classmates question the wisdom of the Pilgrims inviting the Indians to the Thanksgiving celebration, he can take no more. The resulting exchange has Flint accepting a bet to take the next semester off from school and spend September 15 to December 15 in a wilderness area, living in a traditional Native way. The book is the story of Flint's preparation for and survival of his three-month adventure alone in Beartooth Wilderness. Flint learns much about himself and his people. *Alone in the Wilderness* is one of the best books I've read. Author Hap Gilliland knows Native Americans and has done a wonderful job of weaving the Cheyenne

culture into the story. Other than one brief mention of sex, this book would be an appropriate read-aloud for students as young as fourth grade.

CAPTIVE TREASURE by Milly Howard and illustrated by Cheryl L. Weikel. (Journey Forth, 1988, 0-89084-440-2, PB \$6.49 167p).

Grades 3-5 -- The Talbot family is traveling by wagon train to help at a mission to the Indians. Carrie falls out of the wagon while trying to save the family Bible when they are chased by Cheyenne. Carrie is captured and, with the Bible, is taken several days journey to the Cheyenne village. There she is placed with a family in which the grandfather is familiar with the Bible. Carrie learns enough Cheyenne to lead the grandfather to Christ before he dies. Carrie stays with the family about a year before a trapper buys her freedom and helps her return to her family. Carrie learns much about the Cheyenne way of life while living with the family. Author Milly Howard's interest in history helps her to create believable historical fiction for children. Cheryl Weikel's black and white drawings show many scenes throughout the book.

DAILY LIFE IN A PLAINS INDIAN VILLAGE, 1868 by Michael Bad Hand Terry. (Clarion Books, 1999, 0-395-97499-2, PB \$9.95, 48p).

Grades 2-6 -- *Daily Life in a Plains Indian Village, 1868* starts with an introduction to four of the more than twenty Plains Indian tribes. It quickly centers on the life of one Northern Cheyenne family. The village, the tipi and how to set one up are described. The chores and activities of men, women and children are shown through text and photographs. The religion, politics, festivals of the tribe and interactions with non-Cheyenne are briefly explained. The book ends with a timeline, glossary and list of sources and places to visit. Michael Bad Hand Terry has put together an excellent reference book on the Cheyenne. The book is illustrated with photographs of actual artifacts, replicas, and re-enactments of daily life.

A DAY WITH A CHEYENNE by Franco Meli and illustrated by Giorgio Bacchin. Translated by Dominique Clift (Runestone Press, 1998, 0-8225-1920-8, HB, \$22.60 48p).

Grades 4-6 -- Part one of *A Day with a Cheyenne* contains reference material and seems to be accurate. Part two is "A Day with Painted Shield, a Cheyenne Hunter." The story incorporates many items of Cheyenne life in the late 1800's: a trip to the trading post, a buffalo

hunt, a traditional Cheyenne game, and story time with the elders around the evening fire. Unfortunately, the story is unbelievable in its time frame of one day in March. The buffalo hunt, the trip to the trading post, and possibly the game were each daylong events by themselves. Also, buffalo hunts were usually held in the summer, not the winter, and the whole village would participate, not just two people. The author also has the family eating three meals; there were usually only two meals a day. Author Franco Meli teaches at an Italian University. Illustrator Giorgio Bacchin is also Italian. The book is illustrated with photos and drawings. The book was originally printed in Italy.

COMANCHE INDIANS

COMANCHE PEACE PIPE by Patrick Dearen and illustrated by Alan McCuller. (Republic of Texas Press, 2001, 1-55622-831-7, PB, \$8.95, 97p)

Grades 4-6 -- Eleven-year-old Fish Rawlings and his cousin Gid are traveling with a wagon train across what is now Texas. It is the time of the Comanche Moon when the Comanche travel south across Texas to Mexico. Eleven-year-old Hunting Bear is traveling his first war trail with his tribe. While hunting alone for food, each for their group, Fish and Hunting Bear meet. In spite of the hatred between white and Indian that has been ingrained in them, Fish saves Hunting Bear's life and the boys become friends. The Comanche raid the wagon train at night stealing livestock. They raid again in the light and Gid is captured. Fish and Hunting Bear work together for peace. Comanche customs of raiding, counting coup (touching an enemy), and prisoner treatment are woven into the story. Author Patrick Dearen has included a chapter on the history behind the story. Sketches by Alan McCuller open each chapter. *Comanche Peace Pipe* is part of the Lone Star Heroes series.

FIRE ON THE HILLSIDE by Melinda Rice and illustrated by Toni Thomas. (Republic of Texas Press, 2001, 1-55622-789-2, PB \$8.95, 108 p).

Grades 4-6 -- Thirteen-year-old Katherine Haufmann has just moved to Texas from Germany. She wants to go back to Germany but the rest of her family is happy in Texas. About the time Father leaves with other men from the community to make a peace treaty with the local Comanche, nightly fires appear on the hillside outside of Fredericksburg. Katherine's curiosity draws her to investigate the fires. In the process, Katherine faces danger, meets some Comanche, and becomes a Texan rather than a German living in Texas. Author Melinda Rice includes a chapter on the history behind the story and an extensive list of sources. The book is well researched and many actual happenings are included in the fictional story. While not much

of Comanche culture is included in the story, the book shows the interaction between the German settlers and the Comanche.

CREE INDIANS

THIS LAND IS MY LAND by George Littlechild. (Children's Book Press, 1993, 0-89239-119-7, HB, \$16.95, 32p).

Grades 5-8 -- *This Land Is My Land* is a biography of George Littlechild. He is part Cree, part Micmac Indian, and part European. He and his family suffered at the hands of Anglos. Mr. Littlechild's pain and anger toward Anglos comes out in the text. While this is a picture book, some of the text would not be considered appropriate for younger children by some. Mr. Littlechild's bright-colored artwork illustrates his text. Readers can get a feel for the injustices endured by Native Americans while reading *This Land Is My Land*. The book has received both the Jane Addams Children's Book Award and the National Parenting Publications Gold Award.

CROW INDIANS

CROW CHILDREN AND ELDERS TALK TOGETHER by E. Barrie Kavasch and illustrated by A. J. Group and John Bacolo. (Power Kids Press, 1999, 0-8239-5231-2, HB, \$19.50 24p).

Grades K-4 -- In *Crow Children and Elders Talk Together*, author E. Barrie Kavasch uses tribal members to tell the story of the Crow tribe. Five-year-old Carina shows she is not much different from other kindergarteners, yet she tells of Crow celebrations and ceremonies. Her father Ken describes the clan system, major Crow customs, and the future of the Crow people. Clara, chairperson of the tribe, talks about Crow land and religion. Dorothy, a great-grandmother, shows the importance of families. The full color photographs allow students to "visit" the places they are reading about.

SIOUX INDIANS

GRANDCHILDREN OF THE LAKOTA by LaVera Rose and illustrated by Cheryl Walsh Bellville. (Carolrhoda Books, Inc. 1-57505-279-2, HB, \$23.93 48p).

Grades K-4 -- Author LaVera Rose is a Lakota Sioux. She has used her experience as a tribal member to write *Grandchildren of the Lakota*. Many things of Lakota life are included in the book: schooling, ceremonies, traditional beliefs, food. The mistreatment of Native Americans by the United States government is also mentioned in several places. If students want or need to learn more about the Lakota Sioux, this book would be a good resource. The author is an

authority on her subject. The photographs by Cheryl Bellville are sharp and colorful and show Lakota in their everyday life.

LAKOTA SIOUX CHILDREN AND ELDERS TALK TOGETHER by E. Barrie Kavasch and illustrated by A. J. Group and John Bacolo. (Power Kids Press, 1999, 0-8239-5226-6, HB, \$19.50 24p).

Grades K-4 -- *Lakota Sioux Children and Elders Talk Together* is part of The Rosen Publishing Group's Library of Intergenerational Learning. The book tells the story of the Lakota Sioux in a way that students ages 7-9 will easily understand. The family groups, celebrations, land, ceremonies, and traditions of the Lakota Sioux are covered. Author E. Barrie Kavasch uses a young Lakota Sioux girl and her grandparents to tell the story. The book is illustrated with full color photographs.

Jane Mouttet has been a mission school librarian on the Navajo Reservation since 1985. She lives with her husband and three children near Window Rock, Arizona. You can reach her at Jane@NativeAmericanChildrensLit.com. She'd love to hear your ideas on using these books in the classroom.

Classroom Connections

Alone in the Wilderness

Plan an overnight stay in a wilderness area.

Across the Steel River

1. Explore the role Native Americans played in World War II. Natives from many tribes played an important role in World War II.

2. Have a classroom discussion on friendship in the face of difficult circumstances.

Comanche Peace Pipe

Research wagon train life and write a short story or article that includes your findings.

Daily Life in a Plains Indian Village, 1868

Use the photographs in the book as a basis for creating dioramas of an Indian village.

NORTH AMERICAN INDIANS by Andrew Haslam and Alexandra Parsons. (Two-Can Publishing, 1995, 0-590-93746-4 PB, \$7.95, 64p.)

North American Indians has detailed instructions for making a tepee that would be a great Classroom Connection to the Plains Indians and any of the books dealing with them.

www.collections.ic.ca/games/ is a great web site for games and toys of the Plains Indians. I found this Cree ball game at this site.

Two or more players form a circle. A ball at least five inches in diameter is volleyed back and forth between players. When a player misses the ball, he is out. The winner is the last one who hasn't missed the ball.

Internet Information

1. BLACKFEET INDIANS—www.blackfeetnation.com is the official site of the Blackfeet Indian Reservation in Montana. This site contains many links to pages of the Blackfeet Nation: tribal government, history, tourism and others.

2. CHEYENNE INDIANS—www.geocities.com/cheyenne_language/ is not an "official" site but it contains basic information on the Cheyenne language.

3. CREE INDIANS—www.luckyman.ca is the official site of the Lucky Man Cree Nation. It has a lot of history and some pictures which would be beneficial to student researchers.

4. SIOUX INDIANS—www.dakotacurriculum.com is an educational source for helping Dakota children learn more about Dakota culture.

5. SIOUX INDIANS—www.kainaiwa.com is the official site of the Blood Tribe. History, the community, business, tribal government, and community services are pages on this site.

6. SIOUX INDIANS—www.sioux.org is the official site of the Cheyenne River Sioux Tribe. It contains basic information about the tribe; some of which would be helpful to students and teachers.

7. GENERAL—www.nativechild.com is a helpful site for teachers teaching about Native Americans. It also has a link to helpful techniques for evaluating Native American web sites.

8. GENERAL—www.nativetech.org/clothing/regions/regn10.html has sketches of Sioux, Crow and Blackfeet traditional dress.

9. GENERAL—www.texasindian.com While not an "official" tribal site, this site by the Texarch Associates is an excellent resource. It contains instructions for a couple of projects and many articles on Native tribes. The site also contains teaching tips. The site is "user supported" and users are asked to make a donation to help keep the site running.

SCHOOL LIBRARIAN'S CORNER

by Leslie Greaves Radloff



Variety: Using the Internet

Looking out my window tonight, I see clear skies and very little sign of snow. Although the wind is blowing, the temperatures are very unlike most Minnesota winters. Many times we are up to our ankles, and sometimes knees, in snow.

That feeling of “being up to your ankles, knees, and sometimes neck” in things to do is not unusual for a school librarian! Much has been written about making the most of our time and resources, so in this column I’d like to focus on one professional tool, the Internet (which can help in choosing and buying books, providing author studies, and developing a wide variety of lessons for teachers); and the idea of “Book Club” for the teachers, staff, students, and parents of your school.

When I was teaching in a middle grade classroom, I, like many of my colleagues, looked for ways to make the lessons fresh and appealing. I wanted to keep my teaching fresh, and wanted new ways to interest students. The advent of the Internet and some key Internet sites provided ways for me to do that. The following proved to be particularly rich in variety:

www.kn.pacbell.com/wired/bluewebn

This site provides links to many subject areas at many grade levels. Topics include tutorials, projects, activities and lesson plans.

www.reading.org/

The “Read In” lets readers talk with famous authors.

www.acs.calgary.ca/~dkbrown/index.html

If you want information on children’s literature, this is the place. It provides many links to children’s literature and reading created by publishers, teachers, and librarians. One of the best with many links.

www.storyarts.org

Use this to enhance and rev up storytimes.

www.google.com

A search engine that will get you almost anywhere quickly

If you don’t want to subscribe to a list-serve and receive the emails, then at least visit the archives of LM-Net (http://askeric.org/Virtual/Listserv_Archives/LM_NET.shtml) and CHILDLIT (www.rci.rutgers.edu/~mjoseph/childlit/other.html) to find out what people are discussing and the issues that are current in the field of children’s literature and school libraries.

One last place of interest may be a visit to **ebay**. A search of titles of children’s and young adult books led me to find some very good prices (sometimes \$1.00 a book). That with shipping of under \$5.00 is a very good deal indeed. But check first with the school administration to find out about reimbursement if you have to put it on a credit card.

Book Clubs

Now about the hot topic of book clubs. Teachers come and ask for novels to use in their classes; cities decide on a title for all people to read and discuss; Oprah talks about her books; libraries promote book

clubs for children and adults, mothers and daughters, fathers and sons; and many individuals meet to discuss what they are reading. Book clubs are hot. Perhaps teachers in your school have already begun meeting in a “Book Club” format.

If not, and you’ve wondered how to go about setting up and structuring one once it’s going perhaps the following web site will help.

www.Kwr.co.nect.net

This site says it is the biggest book club in the world. It provides titles and discussions.

Like to try without the Web? First, find out if there is interest in discussing a common ‘read.’ This might be a professional title or a popular title. The book club at one of my schools meets one hour a week to discuss chapters. Another group reads a novel before they meet, discusses that novel, and then chooses another title to discuss the next month. Discussions can become hot and animated with different viewpoints, so it’s important to validate all opinions. Some groups vary the selections of books with a serious read followed by a lighter read.

If you are thinking about a book club for mothers and daughters or fathers and sons, then keep in mind that the books should appeal to a somewhat wider audience. The novels in the young adult section lend themselves well to discussion. Send out information, designate a meeting place, have light refreshments, and let the discussions begin!

These are just a few ways to involve people with books. No doubt you have other ideas that would be worth sharing. If you are really Internet savvy and have time, you could even set up or join an existing chat room. Happy Reading!

Books for the Middle Reader: Mighty Mice Tales

by Karla Castle

Mice, dirty little rodents, living in your crawl space? Not the mice in these tales. They are noble creatures fighting evil and answering the call of duty.

Brian Jacques is a prolific writer and has fourteen Redwall books published and two more in process. A complete list can be found at <http://www.redwall.org>. Redwall novels are set in and around the Redwall Abbey populated by animals native to England—mice, badgers, hedgehogs, otters, voles, moles, etc. The main character of *Redwall* (by Brian Jacques, illustrated by Troy Howell, Philomel Books, 2000 (c1986), ISBN 0399236295, 368 p. \$12.99 PB) is Matthias, a mouse who is a young novice at the abbey. Cluny the Sea Rat and his horde of rats, stoats, and weasels attacks the abbey. Matthias becomes a leader and warrior through his harrowing adventures in fighting to save the abbey.

Redwall novels contain some fantasy, in that the characters are animals who talk, wear clothing, and use weapons, but there are few supernatural occurrences. Martin, the legendary warrior of old, appears in dreams or ghostly visions to guide Matthias, but there are no occult practices or magic. These novels present the battles of good versus evil and the values of honor, honesty, valor, and friendship. The one and only complaint I have is that the goodness or badness of the characters is determined by their species – rats, stoats, and weasels are always bad; mice, badgers, and rabbits are always good.

My voracious reader's love of Redwall adventures led me to consider other books about mice:

The Bookstore Mouse by Peggy Christian, illustrated by Gary A Lippincott (Harcourt Brace & Company, c1995, 0152002030. HB, \$16.00, 134p.)

Peggy Christian has provided us with a delightful tale of Cervantes, a mouse who lives in a bookstore. He lives behind a wall of reference books, keeping out of the reach of Milo, the bookstore cat. One day as

Cervantes begins to read a book, he finds himself living the story, interacting with the characters. He assists Sigfried, a novice scribe, in conquering a dragon, named Censor, who has kidnapped all the troubadours and is causing them to forget all their stories, especially those of dragonslaying. After finishing the story, Cervantes is caught by Milo, but manages to negotiate his release by telling Milo the story of Sigfried and offering to read more stories to Milo in exchange for freedom.

The illustrations are pen and ink drawings, which depict a realistic mouse, cat, and boy. The fantasy characters, a giant and dragon, are detailed and fit with the other illustrations. The story is supported well by these illustrations.

This book will be of interest to all ages. The story is delightful, clever, and witty. The plot plays off the complexities of the English language, clearly influenced by the author's experiences teaching English as a second language. I have been loaning this book to all my friends. The paperback edition is scheduled to be released October 2002. Highly recommended.

Beverly Cleary (www.beverlycleary.com) is a prolific and well-known children's author. She has written a trilogy of books about Ralph the mouse, which are classics and will be with us for a long time.

The Mouse and the Motorcycle by Beverly Cleary, illustrated by Louis Darling. (HarperTrophy, c1965, 0380709244. PB, \$5.99, 176p.)

Runaway Ralph by Beverly Cleary, illustrated by Louis Darling. (HarperTrophy, c1970, 0380709538. PB, \$5.99, 192p.)

Ralph S. Mouse by Beverly Cleary, illustrated by Paul O. Zelinsky. (HarperTrophy, c1982, 0380709570. PB, \$5.99, 176p.)

In *The Mouse and the Motorcycle*, Keith meets a talking mouse, Ralph, while staying at the Mountain View Inn. Ralph discovers that he can ride Keith's toy motorcycle by

making motorcycle engine noises with his mouth. Ralph, being a "teenager," thrives on the speed and excitement of riding. Keith becomes sick and Ralph risks life and limb to go to the ground floor of the inn to bring Keith an aspirin. Keith thanks Ralph for his help by giving him the motorcycle for his very own.

Runaway Ralph is Ralph's second adventure, in which he runs away from home because he is tired of having to give his little siblings and cousins rides on his motorcycle. He runs away to a summer camp down the road where he is captured by Garfield, a boy who doesn't quite fit in with the other children; Ralph is caged and kept in the craft shop. Garfield is accused of the theft of a watch, but Ralph knows that the camp cat took the watch. Ralph strikes a bargain with Garfield to clear him of the charges in exchange for help in recovering the motorcycle and returning to the inn.

In *Ralph S. Mouse*, Ralph is back at the inn, but still wants to get away from his demanding family. He asks Ryan, the housekeeper's son, to take him to school. Ralph promises to lay low, but is soon discovered by the class. He is a big hit. Ryan enjoys the attention that Ralph brings. However, Brad and Ryan are at odds. Brad assumes that Ryan is rich, because he lives at the inn. Ralph's motorcycle is broken beyond repair during a fight Brad picks with Ryan. Ralph brings Brad and Ryan together and returns to the inn. The boys replace Ralph's broken motorcycle with a toy sports car.

When classic children's books are reprinted, the illustrations are often changed or updated. Louis Darling's illustrations for the first two books remain intact. The illustrations are realistic, rather than fanciful (well, except for the idea of a mouse riding a motorcycle). The illustrations for the third book are done by Paul O. Zelinsky this time, but he has continued the style of those done by Mr. Darling.

The Mouse and the Motorcycle is a wonderful story about wanting to grow up

fast, about being brave and about being a friend. I remember listening to this story after recess when I was in fourth grade. It has already stood the test of time. When reading *Runaway Ralph*, children who feel like outsiders may be able to relate to Garfield and his struggle to be accepted. Ralph's adventures are action packed and will keep the reader hooked. *Ralph S. Mouse* contains more lessons about friendship and growing up. All highly recommended.

Avi (www.avi-writer.com) is another well-known and prolific children's author. Four of his books form the Tales From Dimwood Forest series.

Ragweed, by Avi, illustrated by Brian Floca. (HarperTrophy, c1999, 0380801671. PB, \$4.95, 208p.)

Poppy, by Avi, illustrated by Brian Floca. (HarperTrophy, c1995, 0380727692. PB, \$5.99, 176p.)

Poppy & Rye, by Avi, illustrated by Brian Floca. (HarperTrophy, c1998, 0380797178. PB, \$4.95, 208p.)

Ereth's Birthday, Avi, illustrated by Brian Floca. (HarperTrophy, c2000, 0380804905. PB, \$5.99, 192p.)

Ragweed is actually the last in the series to be written, but the first to occur chronologically. Ragweed is a young male mouse who leaves his home by the brook to see the world. He hops a train and goes to Amperville. Here he meets Clutch, a female mouse who plays guitar in a rock band and lives in an abandoned Ford Mustang. Together they take on the dreaded coalition of Felines Enraged About Rodents (F.E.A.R.) comprised of two cats, Silversides and Graybar. After the cats destroy the mice's nightclub, Ragweed inspires the mice to open a new club that is catproof in defiance of F.E.A.R. The new club results in a final show down with F.E.A.R. and the mice are triumphant. His task complete, Ragweed boards another train, this time headed for the forest and further adventure.

In *Poppy*, the deer mouse family that lives in

Grey House has grown too large. They must find a new home for at least some of the family. However, they must ask the permission of Mr. Ocax, a great horned owl, who has convinced the mice that he protects them as long as they submit to his authority. Mr. Ocax refuses permission to move to New House on the other side of Dimwood Forest, because he caught Ragweed and his girlfriend, Poppy, out on Bannock Hill without his permission. Poppy deduces that Mr. Ocax has another reason for denying their request and goes on an adventurous trip to find out what it is. She meets Ereth, a porcupine, one of the few animals in the forest that owls fear. Ereth befriends Poppy and agrees to help her find her way to New House in exchange for her help in getting at a salt lick that is on a pole, out of reach. Poppy discovers that Mr. Ocax is frightened away from New House by the fake owl twice his size that sits on the barn. Poppy then encounters Mr. Ocax in an action-packed fight to the death and returns to her family triumphant, announcing that they can now move to New House.

In *Poppy and Rye*, Poppy decides that she should find Ragweed's family and tell them about his bravery and death. Poppy convinces her friend Ereth, to accompany her. Upon arriving at the Brook, Poppy finds that Ragweed's family has been evicted from their home by beavers who built a dam on the brook and flooded their burrow. Poppy helps inspire the mouse family to fight back and find a way to destroy the beaver dam.

Ereth's Birthday begins with a disappointing lack of attention, which causes Ereth to go for a long walk alone. Thus begins a journey into the woods that leads him to adopt a family of fox kits whose mother has been killed by trappers. Unbeknownst to Ereth, he is also being stalked by Marty the Fisher. The kits come to Ereth's rescue when he is cornered by Marty. Marty retreats, only to stumble into a live trap. Ereth and the kits must decide whether to help the fisher by letting him out. They are unable to do so because the trappers come to collect their catch. Because the fisher is rare, the trappers decide to offer him to a

zoo. Ereth returns to Dimwood Forest a month after his birthday to discover that Poppy and Rye had planned to celebrate by bringing Ereth a chunk of the salt lick from New House. Salt is Ereth's favorite.

The illustrations by Brian Floca, like those of Louis Darling (Ralph stories), are realistic pencil sketches, although not as crisp and detailed. The illustrations are action packed and help the reader to visualize the story. In the case of *Ereth's Birthday*, the illustrations tell the story clearly without the text. All the books include a map of the appropriate setting.

The world of humans is a more evident influence in *Ragweed* than in the other Dimwood Forest tales, due to the setting. Ragweed picks up Clutch's slang language – "like," "dude," "you know." Aside from these distracting factors, the story is action packed and includes values of bravery and friendship.

Before reading *Poppy* be forewarned that Ragweed is killed and eaten by Mr. Ocax on page 7. It may be too graphic for some readers. Poppy is a brave, but believable heroine. She rises to the call of duty for her family. The final conflict is exciting and well written. A touching tribute to Ragweed is included at the end.

Poppy and Rye is my favorite of the series. The beavers are, in effect, the villains of this story, but their side is well represented. They build the dam, not to cause the mice and other animals harm, but to provide "housing" for other animals. The environmentalist overtones are not as strong in this book as they are in *Ereth's Birthday*.

Ereth is a difficult character. He is grumpy and easily depressed. It is his habit to exclaim things like "potato pip paste!" or "moldering mouse marbles!" He does not repeat the same exclamation twice. He also tends to call other characters rude names and tells them to "shut up." However, when he is on the receiving end of this, he does not tolerate it well. Avi has attempted to create a grumpy, but charming/lovable character, and has missed the mark.

The theme that trapping animals is bad is

clearly communicated in both the story and illustrations of *Ereth's Birthday*. Also, Marty the Fisher makes an interesting plea that the animals he was just trying to kill should let him out of the live trap because he is part of an endangered species.

Robin Jarvis (www.robinjarvis.com) is a British author whose Deptford Mice Trilogy is currently being published in America.

The Dark Portal, written and illustrated by Robin Jarvis. (SeaStar Books, c2000, 1587170213. HB, \$17.95, 243p.)

The Crystal Prison, written and illustrated by Robin Jarvis. (SeaStar Books, c2001, 1587171074. HB, \$17.95, 250p.)

In *The Dark Portal*, Albert Brown, a middle-aged mouse, father of two, strays through the grill in the basement into the sewers beneath and encounters the rats who dwell there. The rats are under the control of Jupiter, a secretive and powerful dictator who purports to be a god. Jupiter is up to something. He wants to conquer more than just the sewers. Arthur and Audrey Brown, Albert's children, embark on a complicated adventure in search of their father, culminating in the destruction of Jupiter.

In *The Crystal Prison*, Oswald becomes deathly ill following the conflict with Jupiter. Audrey obtains a magical cure from the squirrel queen, the Starwife, but it comes with a high price. Audrey must accompany Madame Akkikuyu, a rat fortune-teller who has gone mad, to the country and must stay with her until the end of Akkikuyu's days. Twit, Arthur, and Audrey accompany Madame Akkikuyu to Twit's home Fennywolde, fields in the country. Akkikuyu, in her madness, is seduced by the lingering spirit of Jupiter into attempting to bring him back into the physical world. Jupiter's plan is foiled at the last minute by Akkikuyu herself.

The illustrations are done by the author. They are cartoon-ish and anthropomorphized. These stories are dark and foreboding. The ugliness of the rats and mice seems fitting, but the cartoon nature seems out of place. The illustrations in the second book show fields of wheat, but the

text consistently refers to cornfields. This will seem odd to American readers. British usage of the word "corn" is much like the American use of the word "grain" as a general term for wheat, rye, barley, oats, etc.

These stories involve occult practices, pagan religions, and cannibalism. In the afterword, publisher Peter Glassman compares Robin Jarvis to Edgar Allan Poe, H. P. Lovecraft, and M. R. James, names not usually connected with children's literature. These stories are not poorly written, but are not appropriate for young readers. Not recommended.

Stuart Little, by E.B. White, illustrated by Garth Williams. (HarperTrophy, c1945, 0064400565. PB, \$5.99, 144p.)

Stuart Little is born the second son to a human family, but appears to be very mouse-like and is only two inches tall. He has various adventures, from retrieving a ring from the drain to sailing a toy boat on the pond in Central Park to nearly being dumped into the ocean with the garbage. The book ends with Stuart still driving his miniature car north in search of his friend Margalo.

The illustrations by Garth Williams are pen and ink drawings, which are realistic except for the depiction of Stuart. He is both mouse and man with a thin torso, long arms and legs, but also a tail, mouse head and a tail. Stuart wears clothes and attempts to adapt to his environment.

Do not expect the book to resemble the recent movie adaptations. Instead of a continuous story, this is a series of episodes in chapter form. The book ends without actually ending. It would seem that there should be more adventures of Stuart, but unfortunately, White did not publish more. This is a classic.

What, Another Book List?

by Donna W. Bowling

In Gilbert & Sullivan's *The Mikado*, KoKo, the Lord High Executioner, sang, "I've got a little list ... They'd none of 'em be missed." As a grandmother and sometime librarian I read annotated bibliographies on children's literature for fun. Recently another such list came to my attention, *The Book Tree*, published by Canon Press. Immediately I wanted to compare it with other lists written from a Christian perspective that I have grown to appreciate for myself--and to use as gifts for young mothers or new elementary education graduates. Did this new list have some special contribution to make, or was it just redundant?

As anticipated, I thoroughly enjoyed my review and comparisons. Then I learned that Gladys Hunt had revised two of my favorite lists, *Honey for a Child's Heart* and *Read for Your Life* (now *Honey for a Teen's Heart*), and added a third title, *Honey for a Woman's Heart*. This meant more reviews and comparisons and a re-evaluation of my personal priority list. My conclusion is that each list has its own unique contribution to make. I would miss any one of them. In fact, I'm keeping the earlier editions of the Hunt books, while sharing the later editions generously. Following my reviews of the four new books, I'll append my personal updated prioritized list, with descriptive comments.

***The Book Tree : A Christian Reference for Children's Literature* / Elizabeth McCallum and Jane Scott. LCCN 00010305. Moscow, Ida.: Canon Press, 2002. PAP, 1885767714, \$14.00. Rating: 4**

011.62. Children's literature--Bibliography; Christian literature for children--Bibliography; Children--Books and reading--United States. 222 p.

"A Christian invitation to children's literature" could easily be an alternate subtitle for *The Book Tree*. This bibliography with nearly 500 entries often refers to additional related titles in the annotations written to invite young and older readers. In the preface, the mother-daughter team of Elizabeth McCallum and Jane Scott answer the questions Why, Who, What, and How, giving their criteria for inclusion: well-written literature, reader-friendly, ethical standards, visual appeal, and accessibility.

Chapters are roughly divided into: Preschool Literature (100 entries), Elementary School Fiction (150 entries), Middle School Fiction (94 entries), Elementary / Middle School Biography (41 entries), High School Fiction (65 entries), High School Biography (43 entries). "Fiction" chapters include folklore, mythology, and poetry. The authors expect some younger readers to choose titles from other age groupings, and most of the "high school" titles are also appropriate for adults. In addition to title and author indexes, a useful detailed subject index also indicates school level.

Entries in each chapter are arranged alphabetically by author (or subject in the biography chapters), and include title, illustrator, and publisher. The descriptive annotations vary in length from a couple of lines to more than a dozen. On nearly every page, one annotation is accompanied by a sidebar featuring a short quotation from the book. About half of these sidebars also include inch-high black and white drawings. These drawings are quite different from illustrations in the books themselves. Many show dressed-up animals in humorous poses which relate in some way to the quotations used, but occasionally are inconsistent with the story content of those books.

Different individuals inevitably make varying choices for such book lists. Around one-third of the titles included in *The Book Tree* are not listed in any of several better-known book lists from a Christian perspective. Many of these titles reflect a special emphasis on biography and historical fiction--of particular interest to the classical Christian school and home school market served by publisher Canon Press. Among the newer titles and newly re-released titles included are several of the historical fiction books by G. A. Henty that had been out of print for years.

There are a few inevitable typos found in this work. The minor imperfections, which may be the result of familiarity, are trivial in view of the definite contribution made by this book list. *The Book Tree* [TBT] now has its place in the list of the children's book selection tools from a Christian perspective that I give or recommend.

***Honey for a child's heart: the imaginative use of books in family life* / Gladys Hunt. 4th ed. LCCN 2001007850. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2002. PAP, 0310242460, \$12.99. Rating: 5.**

028'.9. Children--Books and reading; Children--Religious life. 251 p.

In *Honey For a Child's Heart*, Gladys Hunt shares her vision of literature in the home, a vision that is matched by her inspiring style. In the first half of the book she devotes nine

chapters to "Using Books to Help Children Grow." Chapter 3, "What Makes a Good Book?" presents criteria for good literature--theme, style, plot, characterization--and discusses the issue of censorship of controversial books. Chapter 7, "Honey from the Rock," makes creative suggestions on the use of the Bible with children in the home.

Part Two is a graded listing, with brief sentence-length annotations, of nearly 1,000 "Best-Loved Books for Children." Hunt begins with "A Child's First Books: Ages 0-3." Following two chapters on picture books, one page lists "Picture Books for Adults Who Haven't Completely Grown Up." Books for ages 9-12 are divided into separate chapters by genre. The final chapters list some "Young Adult Novels: Ages 12-14," "Poetry Is for Pleasure," "Nourishing Your Children's Spiritual Life," and "A Book List for Special Occasions."

Plenty of white space, with frequent chapter sub-headings, contributes to a pleasing format. Wide outside margins accommodate occasional pull-out comments or other sidebars, footnote references, or some smaller black-and-white illustrations. Other larger illustrations from many children's books are sprinkled throughout the book. A number of these illustrations are from books that are not listed elsewhere in the bibliography. Several titles mentioned in the text section of this fourth edition are listed instead in the annotated bibliography of *Honey for a Teen's Heart*. Separate author and title indexes include books mentioned in the text as well as those in the annotated book list. Some minor errors in the first printing should not appear in later printings.

Readers familiar with the third edition of *Honey for a Child's Heart* will notice considerable revision and addition of material in Part One. Part Two is completely reorganized and more user friendly. About half of the titles are new. A good number of titles from the earlier edition are now relocated to *Honey for a Teen's Heart*, a few appear in *Honey for a Woman's Heart*, and some have necessarily moved aside to make room for newer titles. Since so many excellent older titles appear only in the third edition, I recommend that readers retain the older edition and then add this valuable new edition and its companion titles in the series to update it.

***Honey for a teen's heart : using books to communicate with teens* / Gladys Hunt and Barbara Hampton. LCCN 2002000783. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, , 2002. PAP, 0310242606, \$12.99. Rating: 5.**

028'.5. Teenagers--Books and reading; Books and reading--Religious aspects--Christianity; Christian teenagers--Religious life; Young adult literature--Bibliography. 301 p.

In *Honey for a Teen's Heart*, Gladys Hunt is joined by co-author Barbara Hampton. Hunt has written the ten chapters in Part 1, "Using Books in Family Life." These include "Using Books to Talk About Values," "Building a Christian World/Life View," "Getting Teens into the Bible," and "Encourage the Best in Books." In "A Word for the College Bound," Hunt includes an annotated listing of works expected as background knowledge for college students. Hunt emphasizes (and Hampton repeats) the importance of asking questions as part of the reading process. In Part 2, Hampton contributes the bibliography listing over 400 books, arranged by subject, with annotations divided into paragraphs for description and recommendation. Age indications specify for Early Teens, Mid Teens, Late Teens, and All Ages; an asterisk indicates basic titles for school libraries.

This companion volume to *Honey for a Child's Heart* has the same pleasing format with generous white space and frequent chapter sub-headings. In Part 1, the wide outside margins accommodate occasional shaded sidebars sprinkled throughout the book listing titles on topics of special interest. (At the end of Part 2, these sidebars are collected and organized in a "Quick Reference" chapter.) In Part 2, a number of sidebars discuss significant authors. A few black-and-white illustrations from several books are placed near their annotations. The separate author and title indexes include books mentioned in the text and/or in the annotated book list.

Hunt and Hampton's *Honey for a Teen's Heart* is a completely revised and updated edition of their *Read for Your Life: Turning Teens Into Readers* (1992). Readers familiar with the earlier edition will find a new chapter in Part 1, with several chapters renamed and the content rearranged and expanded. In Part 2, the "animals" category has been dropped and the books distributed into other categories, and a "sports" category has been added. A number of other books have been shifted around. Nearly 2/3 of the titles were listed in the earlier edition, including many of the nearly 1/3 which had appeared in the third edition of *Honey for a Child's Heart*. Hampton has deliberately included several significant books with non-Christian worldviews as a stimulus to questions and critical thinking. As a companion to *Honey for a Child's Heart*, this is an important title for parents or teachers with older children.

Honey for a woman's heart : growing your world through reading great books / Gladys Hunt. LCCN 2001045576. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, , 2002. PAP, 0310238463, \$12.99. Rating: 5

028'.9. Women--Books and reading; Books and reading--Religious aspects--Christianity. 208 p.

In *Honey for a Woman's Heart*, Gladys Hunt offers an inspiring guide to encourage other

women to join her in a love for reading. The nine chapters begin with "For the Love of Books" and "What Makes a Good Story?" followed by chapters dealing with: literature and the classics, genre fiction, nonfiction, poetry, reading the Bible, spiritual growth books, and sharing books with others. Instead of a formal annotated bibliography, Hunt uses an informal first-person narrative style as she describes many books in each category. In accompanying shaded sidebars, Hunt includes lists of related titles, many annotated, recommended by thirty other women. Several of these women have contributed more than one such list. They come from all walks of life: novelist, librarian, editor, teenager, educator, missionary-linguist, and other avid readers.

It is reasonable that, from the nearly 900 titles included, about 1/6 of them also appear in *Honey for a Teen's Heart*. A sizable number appear in *Honey for a Child's Heart*, fourth edition, with a few found only in the third edition. Readers who miss the section "Helping teens and mature readers grow as Christians" from *Child's 3*, will find *Woman's* chapter 8 picked up some titles and added several more. Others appear in the *Teen's* non-fiction section and the special occasions section of *Child's 4*.

The format is similar to the other Honey books, with wide outside margins and useful sub-headings. The Table of Contents lists these sub-headings, a user-friendly aid to the reader. Separate author and title indexes include all books mentioned by Hunt and her contributors. Although this guide is deliberately geared to women, Hunt recommends some books in categories more frequently read by men. Men, as well as women, should appreciate many of the titles Hunt presents in such an inviting way. This part of the Honey series includes much valuable material not found in the other two books. Alone it will appeal to women without children. For parents and teachers, it makes its unique contribution to the series..

With these new books incorporated, I have now updated my "List of Top Children's Book Selection Aids from a Christian Perspective."

Hunt, Gladys. *Honey for a Child's Heart*, 4th ed. Zondervan, 2002.

Remains my number one choice because of Hunt's vision of literature matched by her style. [around. 1/6 of titles also listed in TBT]

Hunt, Gladys & Hampton, Barbara. *Honey for a Teen's Heart*. Zondervan, 2002.

Companion title for parents or teachers with older children. [around 1/6 of titles also listed in TBT]

Hunt, Gladys. *Honey for a Woman's Heart*, Zondervan, 2002.

This addition to the Honey series discusses many classics, including a number for younger children. [around 5 % of titles in TBT]

Lindskoog, Kathryn & Hunsicker, Ranelda Mack. *How to Grow a Young Reader*, Rev. ed. Harold Shaw Publishers, 1999.

Second major choice because of its scope and greater information on the field of children's literature. Over 1800 titles of "Books from every age for readers of every age." Each genre is considered with a number of recommended titles, many with short annotations. The discussion of books dealing with personal and social problems from a Christian perspective is especially valuable. It also considers the impact of TV and computers on reading. One appendix lists useful web sites. Author and title indexes. [nearly 1/10 in TBT]

McCallum, Elizabeth & Scott, Jane. *The Book Tree : A Christian Reference for Children's Literature*. Canon Press, 2002.

Third major choice because of its special emphases and detailed subject index.

Family Research Council. *Home Remedies*. Stock no. BL 024, 1997.

This booklet of "Reading lists and curriculum aids to promote your child's educational well-being" is particularly geared to home schooling families, but is useful for all parents and educators. Good annotations for 300 children's books plus another 200 entries for curriculum aids and books for instruction in school subjects. Several short essays interspersed with chapters of book annotations on various topics (e. g. "Classics") arranged by grade level. Center foldout "Reading Road Map" lists around 100 titles from K through Grade 12. Appendix lists addresses of publishers and book sources arranged alphabetically, but no index to authors or titles. [more than 1/3 in TBT]

Wilson, Elizabeth L. *Books Children Love : A Guide to the Best Children's Literature*. (Crossway, 1987).

For those more motivated, this remains a valuable listing of fine books with lengthy annotations prepared for parents and teachers (including home school teachers). It includes more than 850 titles arranged by subject, with about 1/6 of the titles repeated with varying annotations for books with multiple uses. Criteria for selection include literary quality and implied values. Combined index lists titles

alone and with author entries. [nearly 1/8 in TBT]

Association of Christian Schools International. *Survey of Recommended Reading Lists : Preschool through Grade Twelve. Professional report # 6256, [1997].*

High priority for Christian schools. For each two-grade span, one listing of around 25 most-recommended titles arranged by author with brief annotations, followed by a second listing (without annotations) of around 40 additional titles. Includes [my] article on "Reading lists for Christian schools: selection issues." Author and title indexes. [around 1/4 in TBT]

Bob Jones University. *Best Books: For Kindergarten through High School, comp. by Donna Hess. BJU Press, 1994.*

Useful bibliography of nearly 1200 titles for Christian schools. Arranged alphabetically within grade-level groupings, with brief annotations. Includes lists of "Books for Analysis and Discussion," with more lengthy annotations, for upper grade levels. Additional listing of more than 100 "Biographies and Autobiographies," which were annotated earlier in the volume. "Guidelines for Choosing Books" discusses principles for evaluating literature. Combined author and title index. [around 1/8 in TBT]

Additional listings available online include:

Evangelical Church Library Association. *Core Collection Children's and Middle Grade Fiction and Non-fiction & Core Collection of Children's Mix of Secular and Christian Titles. (2000).*

<http://www.eclalibraries.org/core_collection_children.htm> and

<http://www.eclalibraries.org/core_collection_children_two.htm>.

Arranged alphabetically by author's last name, without annotations. Second list divided into three grade levels, repeats many titles from first list. [9 in TBT]

"50 'Must Read' Children's Books." *Christian Parenting Today (July/Aug. 1999).*

<<http://www.christianitytoday.com/cpt/9g4/9g4025a.html>>.

Includes listings for "Birth-3 years," "3-5 Years," and "5-7 Years," without annotations. Also lists "17 Ways to Encourage Reading." [14 in TBT]

Steffen, Bonne & Bishop, Randy. "10 Christian Books No Child Should Miss." *Christian Reader (Sep./Oct. 1999).*

<<http://www.christianitytoday.com/cr/9r5/9r5062.html>>.

Lengthy annotations for each title or series. "Other mentions" in list at end of article. [7 included in TBT]

For further children's literature recommendations from a Christian perspective, I refer to literature study guides such as those by Progeny Press, or Lifeway's Across the Centuries series. In a more comprehensive listing I would also include special subject lists and secular book selection tools.

Donna W. Bowling, Library/Educational Consultant, "Retired," volunteering part-time at the Graduate Institute of Applied Linguistics, Dallas, TX, and ChristWay Academy.

Good Reading:

Books to Ignite Worship

by Lydia E. Harris

"True worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth, for they are the kind of worshipers the Father seeks" (John 4:23 NIV).

Worship, both personal and corporate, is central to the Christian life. Although methods and styles may change, the One we worship remains the same. After reading these books, I no longer go to church. I go to worship. Add some of these books to your library to inspire a deeper intimacy with God through wholehearted worship.

Books for Adults

BLENDED WORSHIP: Achieving Substance and Relevance in Worship by Robert E. Webber (Hendrickson Publishers, 1565632451, 1996, 2000, PB, 181 pages, \$12.95)

Writing from personal experience and observations, Webber examines the wide spectrum of worship styles. He discusses how churches can benefit from blending traditional and contemporary styles to achieve renewed worship. Each chapter includes a short bibliography, and appendices cover principles and patterns of convergence in worship.

THE DYNAMICS OF CORPORATE WORSHIP by Vernon M. Whaley (Baker Books, 0801091098, 2001, PB, 191 pages, \$12.99)

Although written as a practical guide for pastors, any believer can benefit from Whaley's solid teaching. He draws five foundational elements of corporate worship from Psalm 96: music, evangelism, giving, praying, and preaching. He also examines God's plan for worship from the Old and New Testaments and discusses the impact of spiritual awakenings on worship. Filled with personal experiences and insights, this resource guides pastors through the changing dynamics of worship. Chapter notes and a short bibliography are included.

EXPERIENCE GOD IN WORSHIP by Michael D. Warden, editor (Group, 0764421336, 2000, HB, 191 pages, \$24.99)

Ten respected church leaders, such as George Barna, Jack Hayford, and Bruce Leafblad, share perspectives on the future of worship.

They explore forms of worship ranging from charismatic to evangelical to liturgical. Far from dull, this valuable resource provides relevant insights into current worship trends and suggests innovative ways to worship God in the third millennium.

EXPLORING WORSHIP: A Practical Guide to Praise and Worship by Bob Sorge (Oasis House, 0962118516, 1987, PB, 289 pages, \$13.00)

Written in two parts, section one is for all believers and discusses praise, worship, and prophetic worship. Section two offers specific guidance to worship leaders and includes tips on planning worship services. Appendices geared toward worship leaders include references and resources. A separate discussion guide is available

FRESH WIND, FRESH FIRE by Jim Cymbala with Dean Merrill (Zondervan, 310211883, 1997, HB, 188 pages, \$18.99)

Cymbala, pastor of the Brooklyn Tabernacle Church in New York, shares the powerful story of how God revived this dying church as the congregation made prayer a priority. He recounts stirring testimonies of transformed lives, illustrating what happens when God's Spirit invades the hearts of his people. Cymbala exhorts churches to put aside diversions from God's best and to emphasize prayer. An inspiring read.

THE HEART OF THE ARTIST: A Character-Building Guide for You and Your Ministry Team by Rory Noland (Zondervan, 0310224713, 1999, PB, 344 pages, \$14.99)

Written for Christian artists by the music director of Willow Creek Community Church, this frank book covers issues that artists in worship ministry face. Topics include jealousy and envy, excellence versus perfectionism, and servanthood versus stardom. Noland writes with transparency and personal examples, encouraging integrity and godliness among ministry leaders. For the greatest benefit, he recommends studying this book with a small group and includes discussion questions and personal action steps. A practical, convicting resource.

A HEART OF WORSHIP by LaMar Boschman (Creation House, 0884193594, 1994, PB, 191 pages, \$10.99)

Practical and easy to read, this book is one of the best written for lay people. Boschman wants to draw believers' hearts to a deeper level of worship. To accomplish this he uses historical and biblical teaching, personal experiences, and ideas to kindle a rebirth in worship. The appendix contains a message for pastors and

worship leaders. Chapter notes and bibliography are included

KNOWING GOD by J. I. Packer (InterVarsity Press, 083081650X, 1973, revised 1993, PB, 286 pages, \$12.99)

A contemporary classic first published in 1973, *Knowing God* discusses the attributes of God and their relevance to our lives. Packer reveals his discovery: knowing God's Word leads to knowing God. A meaty book with spiritual depth that ignites the heart to worship. An index of Bible passages is included

A LIFESTYLE OF WORSHIP: Making Your Life a Daily Offering by David Morris (Renew Books, 0830721991, 1998, PB, 212 pages, \$9.99)

Writing in a conversational style, Morris teaches principles of worship applicable to all believers. He emphasizes the importance of daily personal worship as well as corporate worship. One chapter covers prophetic worship. An extensive bibliography is included.

PARENTING IN THE PEW: Guiding Your Children into the Joy of Worship by Robbie Castleman (InterVarsity Press, 0830816275, 1993, PB, 132 pages, \$10.99)

Castleman believes children should attend church to worship God, not to be kept quiet or entertained. She encourages parents to sit with their children during the service to train them in worship. Parents with children from toddlers to teens will value her practical suggestions. A study guide is included.

REAL WORSHIP: Playground, Battleground, or Holy Ground? by Warren W. Wiersbe (Baker, 080106189X, 2000, PB, 222 pages, \$12.99)

Wiersbe provides a solid, Scripture-based examination of worship that will benefit pastors and worship leaders. He begins with a definition of true worship followed by a discussion of four elements of worship: wonder, witness, warfare, and wisdom. The appendix answers questions about worship followed by notes, bibliography, and a Scripture index.

RETURN TO WORSHIP: A God-Centered Approach by Ron Owens with Jan McMurray (Broadman & Holman, 0805418881, 1999, PB, 210 pages, \$14.99)

The author's call people back to worship, focusing on the "Who," not the "how" of worship. Written as a series of letters, part one is for the church, and part two is for worship leaders. Owens covers relevant topics with warmth, conviction, and scriptural

understanding. Useful appendices for ministry leaders are included.

SPIRITUAL DISCIPLINES FOR THE CHRISTIAN LIFE by Donald S. Whitney (NavPress, 1576830276, 1991, PB, 266 pages, \$14.00)

This book guides readers through important spiritual disciplines, such as prayer, worship, Scripture meditation, and evangelism. Suggestions to cultivate these traits are included. A study guide by the same title is available (NavPress, 1994, 0891097597, PB, 95 pages, \$7.00).

UP WITH WORSHIP: How to Quit Playing Church by Anne Ortlund (Broadman & Holman, 0805424601, 2001, PB, 159 pages, \$8.99)

Ortlund has revised and expanded her enduring classic first published over twenty years ago. Full of practical worship tips for congregations and their leaders, it's both refreshing and convicting. Solid biblical insights, short thought-provoking chapters, and stirring illustrations make it a memorable read.

WHATEVER HAPPENED TO WORSHIP? by A. W. Tozer, compiled and edited by Gerald B. Smith (Christian Publications, 0875093671, 1985, PB, 128 pages, \$9.99)

This book was compiled from tapes of Tozer's sermons more than twenty years after his death. Tozer decries modern worship as entertainment and pleads for a return to genuine worship in spirit and truth. Saying we were created to worship God, he rekindles the fire for worship.

THE WONDER OF WORSHIP by Ronald B. Allen (Word, 0849914442, 2001, HB, 307 pages, \$24.99)

Part of the Swindoll Leadership Library, the book calls readers to rediscover the wonder in worship. Allen states even though there will be differences in styles, true worship can unite instead of divide. Two important chapters deal with who God is and our worship response to Him. Although aimed at pastors and worship leaders, this volume will bless any Christian worshiper. A scholarly yet readable book with endnotes, resources, and Scripture and subject indices.

WORSHIP EVANGELISM: Inviting Unbelievers into the Presence of God by Sally Morgenthaler (Zondervan, 031022649X, 1995, 1999, PB, 307 pages, \$16.99)

Morgenthaler believes worship and evangelism are not incompatible and real

worship will draw the unchurched to God. Both theoretical and practical, it's considered an important guidebook for this generation. Indices and a study guide are included

WORSHIP HIS MAJESTY: How Praising the King of Kings will Change your Life by Jack W. Hayford (Regal, 0830723986, 2000, PB, 272 pages, \$12.99)

Hayford, known for his beloved song "Majesty," says worship is a gift from God and views the worship service as a time "to serve God with our praise and to serve people's need with His sufficiency." He uses biblical figures such as Adam, Samuel, and David to illustrate the power and purpose of worship, then adds contemporary applications for renewing worship today

WORSHIP IS A VERB: Eight Principles for Transforming Worship by Robert E. Webber (Hendrickson Publishers, 1565632427, 1995, 2000, PB, 225 pages, \$12.95)

Webber states that worship involves participation. It is actively done "by us" not "for us or to us" and focuses on Jesus Christ. In this readable, dynamic book, Webber presents eight principles to transform worship. He also includes a guide for group or personal study and an extensive bibliography on worship resources.

WORSHIP IS...WHAT?!: Rethinking Our Ideas About Worship by Tom Kraeuter (Emerald Books, 1883002389, 1996, PB, 109 pages, \$8.99)

A quick read that gives breadth to the meaning and definition of worship. Putting aside the controversial, Kraeuter keeps the focus on the real object of our worship: God Almighty. Useful appendices are included.

Devotional and Bible Study Books

BEHOLD YOUR GOD by Myrna Alexander (Zondervan, 0310371317, 1978, PB, 124 pages, \$7.99)

A Bible-study workbook for women that discusses attributes of God such as love, holiness, and sovereignty. This study leads to a deeper understanding of God's character which encourages praise and worship.

FACE TO FACE: Praying the Scriptures for Intimate Worship by Kenneth Boa (Zondervan, 0310925509, 1997, PB, 324 pages, \$9.99)

Praying the Scriptures back to God can lead to intimate worship. In this resource, Boa guides readers through three months of daily prayers using Bible passages he adapted and personalized. Each day includes prayers of adoration, confession, renewal, petition, intercession, affirmation, and thanksgiving. The book also includes morning affirmations to renew the mind, as well as blank pages to record personal prayers. A powerful volume to add structure and depth to devotional times

I EXALT YOU, O GOD: Encountering His Greatness in Your Private Worship by Jerry Bridges (WaterBrook Press, 1578564212, 2001, HB, 186 pages, \$12.95)

An introductory chapter on God's worthiness and the importance of private worship precedes the thirty-one devotions centered on God's attributes. This guide helps readers exalt God for His greatness, holiness, wisdom, and love and grow in their personal worship through the teaching and prayers. Also included are notes and a Scripture index.

31 DAYS OF PRAISE by Ruth Myers with Warren Myers (Multnomah, 1576733343, 1994, HB, 160 pages, \$9.99)

A personal praise guide that includes teaching plus thirty-one Scripture-based devotions focused on praise and worship. Deep, heartfelt thoughts help the reader cultivate a lifestyle of praise and develop a closer walk with God. Packed with power, it deserves frequent reading

Books for Children

CELEBRATION PUZZLE PIECES: The Church Year by Judith A. Christian (Concordia, 0570070589, 2000, PB, 64 pages, \$8.99)

With more than twenty-five activities, this worship notebook for kids eight-twelve teaches about the special days during the church year such as Christmas and Easter. Reproducible pages, creative ideas to strengthen faith, and adult-child interactive pages make it useful for parents, teachers, and pastors.

CHILDREN WORSHIP! by MaryJane Pierce Norton (Discipleship Resources, 0881772232, 1999, PB, 128 pages, \$21.95)

Norton believes children belong in the worship service and has developed a thirteen-lesson course that teaches five-to eight-year-olds what to expect and how to participate. A comprehensive manual, it includes detailed lesson plans plus reproducible activity sheets, bulletin inserts, and letters to parents. Suggested prayers and songs are from The United

Methodist Book of Worship and The United Methodist Hymnal.

HALLELUJAH! HURRAY!: The Worship Time by Judith A. Christian (Concordia, 0570055962, 2000, PB, 64 pages, \$8.99)

This worship notebook for kids eight-twelve includes more than twenty-five activities that teach the meaning behind the liturgical worship service. It can supplement church or school curriculum or be used by parents at home to instruct their children on the whys behind worship. Pages are designed to copy and compile in a folder or notebook

HELPING CHILDREN KNOW GOD compiled and edited by Christine Yount (Group, 1559456051, 1995, PB, 112 pages, \$15.99)

Suitable for home or classroom use, this valuable resource contains 140 practical ideas to help elementary-age children grow in their faith. It includes activities, games, crafts, field trips, service projects, and discussion questions that teach characteristics of God. Some of the eleven traits covered are God's faithfulness, forgiveness, and love.

THINGS I SEE IN CHURCH by Julie Stiegemeier (Concordia, 0770054893, 1999, HB, 16 pages, \$5.99)

Designed for children up to four years, this sturdy board book helps children understand the worship service. It shows what toddlers see in church: the church building, people, water for infant baptism, books (Bible and hymnal), communion cup and plate, cross, and pastor. Pictures are accompanied by short sentence descriptions. The plastic handle makes it easy to carry along to church

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12 Reasons You Serve as a Christian Librarian

by Donna Davis

In the ABC courtroom drama, *The Practice*, District Attorney Helen Gamble periodically turns to her coworker during times of discouragement and mechanically asks for “the speech.” The speech in question includes stirring words of motivation, emotionally reminding her why she became a district attorney to begin with; why she refused positions with more prestige and remuneration to pursue a calling that serves, protects and defends the people. The verbal exchange usually takes place near the end of a particularly harrowing episode, while the two are seated in a crowded restaurant, ending with the camera fading out as the music rises.

The effect is dramatic and the viewer can automatically identify, whether he is an attorney, systems analyst, sanitation worker, or librarian. We all need to be reminded of our first love: of the particular shade of green grass in our own pasture. It is not always external pressure causing one to need the speech; sometimes the antagonist comes from within, in the form of apathy. Whether you are exhausted from the labor-intensive work of cataloging and shelving books or annoyed by critics of your selections, or just feel like you need a break, this, Christian librarian, is your speech.

You serve as Christian librarian:

1. For the widow who lost her husband last year and makes it one day at a time by escaping into the remote and dramatic world of Thoené.
2. For the pre-teens (reading “up” in the teen category) who have something better than Tiger Beat or Seventeen to influence them during their formative years.
3. For aspiring writers (whose books may one day line your shelves) who have access to resources they would otherwise be unable to afford.
4. For young adults who walk fifteen minutes longer on their treadmills just to hear the next song, as headphones resound with the invigorating beats of “Swing Praise.”
5. For the pastor, who finds the makings of his next sermon in Max Lucado’s description of guilt-ridden Americans who contribute to the “conscience fund.”

6. For young girls making the painful transition from childhood to maturity who find friendship and first love vicariously through Janette Oke’s timeless characters.
7. For the boy in junior high school with a pierced ear and shaved head who turns to Extreme Teens instead of the streets.
8. For the “average guy” who avoided making a spiritual commitment until he read the Left Behind series and devoted his life to Christ, along with Buck and Rayford.
9. For the businessman who drives over an hour each way to work and not only stays awake, but receives daily inspiration, by listening to Christian audio books instead of absorbing mindless radio.
10. For the preschooler whose eyes widen in wonder and amusement like the colorful caricatures in *The Beginner’s Bible*, and for the child’s mother who realizes she enjoys their reading time as much as her child.
11. For the wife, happily married to her husband for 40 years, now serving as his sole caregiver, who receives daily encouragement and hope from Spirit Walk devotions.
12. For the person who spends hours perusing www.christianbook.com and www.crossings.com for book bargains, agonizes over the subtle differences between “self help” and “inspiration” categories, takes care of a hundred other details involved in maintaining a library, while finding purpose and fulfillment known only when answering God’s call in ministry.

And finally, and most importantly, you serve as a Christian librarian for the one who inspired the words in Galatians 6:9-10, “Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up. Therefore as we have opportunity, let us do good to all people, especially to those who belong to the family of believers (NIV).”

Donna Davis is a systems analyst, freelance writer, and volunteer church librarian in Greenville, North Carolina.

RALPH MOODY: FRIEND TO THE FAMILY

by Cathy M. Elliott

How did Ralph Moody, the author of winsome books like *Man of the Family*, become what many consider a friend to the family? “My goal in writing is to leave a record of the rural way of life in this country during the early part of the twentieth century, and to point up the values of that era which I feel that we, as a people, are letting slip away from us.” Refreshing words to read? You bet. And his books are as absorbing and applicable today as when the first title was released in 1950.

“After reading these absolutely wonderful stories, I didn’t think I would ever complain again! I wanted to be good and hard working and loving like the boy in the books. He’s my hero,” said Pam, an admiring reader from Washington State. “I told people that the influence of these books caused my life to change and opened up a whole new world for me.”

Laurie, a California home schooling mom, added, “These books were a gentle tool that instructed our kids in the building of their character. It was better to watch the protagonist of a story learn a lesson than to wag a finger at a child.”

Sixteen-year-old Lindsay, the eldest of Laurie’s four children, read *Little Britches* together with her family and offered her own incentive for other kids to do the same. “It is a great book filled with real experiences; Ralph’s thoughts and attitudes were just like any kid and made it fun to read. My brothers really enjoyed it, too. They would sit still and listen – it’s a good boy book,” Lindsay said enthusiastically. “It made me want to be outdoors more, build a fort, and have a horse. And it really made me appreciate my dad’s job as well as the daily things they didn’t have back then. Running water was real precious.”

High praise for any author, but those who have read and loved his autobiographical

series for more than fifty years do not consider Ralph Moody just any author. *Little Britches*, the compelling story of young Ralph’s experiences on a Colorado ranch, is considered a classic by Moody fans. Seven more titles follow Ralph’s adventures, taking the reader from Colorado to Massachusetts, Maine to Arizona, and Nebraska to Kansas. Rich with tales wonderfully told, the Moody books capture the essence of Americana in the first several decades of the twentieth century. Heartwarming family life, unpretentious ingenuity, struggles against almost insurmountable odds, and courage in the face of desperation pepper each page and provide the reader with take-away that is life-changing.

“Moody has recorded with fidelity and skill a time and a place and a way of life that is, in itself, the essence of the American dream. Reading his books is like returning to Grandmother’s kitchen with the heavenly smell of sugar cookies escaping from the oven,” according to the *Chicago Sunday Tribune*. Enticing reviews like this one may peak a new reader’s interest, but procuring copies of the series have proved difficult at times. Often, even one’s local library does not carry a complete set. So when the University of Nebraska Press announced the republishing of these beloved books in Bison Books editions, it was considered to be very good news – especially for Moody devotees who have long prized his literary contributions.

Ralph Owen Moody, born in 1898 in East Rochester, New Hampshire, found his way west in 1906 when his family was persuaded by gold-toothed Uncle Phil that “...all a man has to do is toss out seed in the spring and harvest his crop in the fall.” They sold out and moved from Ralph’s hometown to a Colorado ranch, sight unseen. The house was in such ill repair that Ralph and his

father had to scavenge for construction materials while the rest of the family waited in a Denver hotel. The fodder for what would later become his first novel began to form.

Because of insufficient water rights, ranching was nearly impossible and the family moved to Littleton within a short time. In 1910, father was killed in a horse-automobile accident and Ralph, the eldest at eleven years of age, became the “man of the family.” He began pulling dandelions for ten cents an hour and then landed a higher paying job, more than doubling his wages, overseeing other boys herding cattle to the railroad stockyards. Always the entrepreneur, Ralph made good money selling his mother’s home cooking from door-to-door.

The family eventually ended up back East where Ralph helped support with any odd job available, managing to finish the eighth grade and extend his education with night classes. Later, diagnosed with a leaky heart that turned out to be diabetes, he was unable to answer his country’s call to volunteer for the Great War in Europe. “The Boston doctors gave me less than a year to live, put me on a stiff diet, and sent me to the country to cash in my chips,” Moody recalled.

On his way back to Littleton, Ralph stopped in Kansas where he tried his hand at the livestock business. He prospered well and after four years, decided that the doctors were mistaken. Finding that he could make a good living in town, Moody married his Massachusetts sweetheart, Edna Hudgins, in 1932. They moved to Kansas City, Missouri, where they added three children to their family. Ralph’s career with Proctor & Gamble Company led to a partnership with B/G Foods and relocation to California.

Moody admitted he longed to write a story from the time he was first able to read but

hesitated because of his lack of education. "I'd been a constant reader since childhood, led into it by my mother reading aloud to the family," he said. "And strangely, I found that I'd learned to write from reading." He made up his mind to work, save, and retire by the age of fifty and then begin to write.

Though he didn't meet his retirement goal, helping his daughter with a creative writing assignment proved to be the catalyst that pushed him toward his other objective. Moody enrolled in a beginner's short story class at a San Francisco night school to learn the craft. His first paper was returned with the teacher's note, "Don't let this go for a short story – expand it into a book." The result was the enduring classic, *Little Britches: Father and I Were Ranchers*, published by Norton in 1950, later reissued as *Little Britches*.

In addition to the autobiographical series, Moody wrote other books about the old west including: *Kit Carson and the Wild Frontier* (Random House, 1955), *Geronimo, Wolf of the Warpath* (Random House, 1958), *Riders of the Pony Express* (Houghton, 1958), and *Wells Fargo* (Houghton, 1961). *Stagecoach West* (Crowell, 1967) has been reprinted by University of Nebraska Press, along with the popular autobiographical series, and is currently available. His works also consisted of non-fiction books about horses, mining, and a play, *The Valley of the Moon*, first produced in San Francisco in 1966.

Completing nineteen books in all, Moody returned to his roots in New England at the age of eighty-three. There, he passed away in the home of his sister on June 28, 1982. His marvelous legacy of integrity, honor, and hard work live on through his books, challenging and changing readers with his simple stories of courage and family life.

SERIES SUMMARY: Ralph Moody

LITTLE BRITCHES: FATHER AND I WERE RANCHERS illustrated by Edward Shenton. Bison Books, Paper:1991. ISBN 0-8032-8178-1, \$13.95, 260 pages

Ralph and his family move to Colorado and experience the risks and rewards of ranching together in the early 1900's. Family picnics, cowboy games, auctions and antics flavor this

gripping tale. "This is a gallant book – from the first sentence until the last..." Christian Science Monitor.

MAN OF THE FAMILY illustrated by Tran Mawicke. Bison Books, Paper:1993. ISBN 0-8032-8195-1, \$12.95, 272 pages.

Father has died and Ralph assumes his role at the tender age of eleven. The family bands together, fortified with Yankee ingenuity and western can-do, and assisted by neighbors who understand how to help without humiliating. "...The terrifying passion of a small boy's heart, where...every victory and every disappointment is oversize and overwhelming." New York Herald Tribune.

THE FIELDS OF HOME illustrated by Tran Mawicke. Bison Books, Paper:1993. ISBN 0-8032-8194-3, \$13.95, 335 pages.

Ralph finds that, hard as he tries, he is not a city boy and always getting into trouble. New adventures await when he is sent to his grandfather's farm in Maine. "A lively story...warm with humor, bright with incident and personality." San Francisco Chronicle.

THE HOME RANCH illustrated by Tran Mawicke. Bison Books, Paper:1994. ISBN 0-8032-8210-9, \$12.95, 279 pages.

New challenges are just around the bend for Ralph when he spends the summer driving cattle for a dollar a day on a ranch with real cowboys. Packed with enough action for any cowpoke wannabe. "For the real western cowboy fan, young or old, this is a natural." Kirkus.

MARY EMMA & COMPANY illustrated by Tran Mawicke. Bison Books, Paper:1994. ISBN 0-8032-8211-7, \$10.95, 235 pages.

Mother, whom the readers met in the first two books, shines in this heartwarming story of the family's return east to start a new life. "It is a story of family industry and ingenuity...children, particularly, will find it pleasant reading." New York Herald Tribune Books.

SHAKING THE NICKEL BUSH illustrated by Tran Mawicke. Bison Books, Paper:1994. ISBN 0-8032-8218-4, \$11.95, 236 pages.

Sick and suffering from diabetes, nineteen-year-old Ralph hustles jobs as he hunts for fresh milk and leafy green vegetables. Struggling to survive, he works as a stunt rider for a movie company and teams up with Lonnie, riding around the Southwest in a Ford named Shiftless. "Moody has a splendid talent for bringing the ashes of the past into life." Chicago Sunday Tribune.

THE DRY DIVIDE illustrated by Tran Mawicke. Bison Books, Paper:1994. ISBN 0-8032-8216-8, \$11.95, 230 pages.

With a dime in his pocket, Ralph arrives in western Nebraska. It takes only three months for him to turn that dime into a prosperous business. But the forces of Mother Nature and human nature combine to keep things lively for the twenty-year-old. "...Should be read aloud in every family circle in America." Sterling North.

HORSE OF A DIFFERENT COLOR: REMINISCENCES OF A KANSAS DROVER. Bison Books, Paper:1994. ISBN 0-8032-8217-6, \$11.95, 272 pages.

Moody's roving days come to an end in this rich tale of pre-Depression days. The collapse of the livestock market results in monumental debt for Ralph, causing him to use his wits to free himself from bondage and save an entire town from bankruptcy. "It is not a bit 'preachy,' but it warms your heart. It would be as appropriate for a secluded retreat for keyed-up executives as for a junior high library." Best Sellers.

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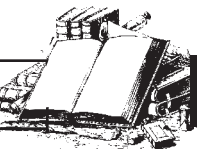
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Cathy M. Elliott is a freelance writer who lives in Northern California and works as a Library Information Technician at a local community college. She is currently working on her first novel – a cozy mystery.



And it was so! (Cherub wings; 10.) Worcester, Pa.: Gateway Films, Vision Video, 2002. VID, 1563645548, \$12.99. Small children. Rating: 5

E. Forgiveness--Fiction; Easter--Fiction. 1 video, col., 25 min.

Geared for the three-seven year old group, this children's video, *And It Was So* by Gateway Films, has an appealing beginning that will quickly pull the viewer into the storyline. The songs are easy, pleasant melodies with simple yet truth-filled words understandable for the youngest viewers. The computer animation is excellent and exciting, taking the cherubs on a "Star Wars" type journey through the asteroids and planets, and finally reaching their destination, Planet Earth. It is here that the little cherubs present some of the teachings of Jesus through cartoon and real life scenarios. The mix of media holds one's interest and gives impact to the lessons.

Different aspects of Jesus' resurrection are featured, presented with music, drama, and cartoon animation. The full video is twenty-five minutes in length, and I would suggest using sections of the video at separate times for very young viewers so that they can receive the full impact of each teaching presented.

Mary McKinney, Editor, Writer, Conference Speaker, Educator, Port Orchard, Washington

Animals / Thomas Kinkade; [text by Sally Lloyd-Jones]. (Light my world.) LCCN 2001132143. Nashville: Tommy Nelson, Thomas Nelson, 2001. BOARD BOOK, 0849977304, \$5.99. Small children. Rating: 3

E. Animals. unsp.

Colors / Thomas Kinkade; [text by Sally Lloyd-Jones]. (Light my world.) LCCN 2001132145. Nashville: Tommy Nelson, Thomas Nelson, 2001. BOARD BOOK, 0849977282, \$5.99. Small children. Rating: 3

E. Colors. unsp.

Numbers / Thomas Kinkade; [text by Sally Lloyd-Jones]. (Light my world.) LCCN 2001132122. Nashville: Tommy Nelson, Thomas Nelson, 2001. BOARD BOOK, 0849977754, \$5.99. Small children. Rating: 3

E. Numbers. unsp.

Shapes / Thomas Kinkade; [text by Sally Lloyd-Jones]. (Light my world.) LCCN 2001132142. Nashville: Tommy Nelson, Thomas Nelson, 2001. BOARD BOOK, 0849977290, \$5.99. Small children. Rating: 3

E. Shapes. unsp.

Throughout the country, the work of the highly-acclaimed artist Thomas Kinkade appears in many formats, from limited edition framed prints of his distinctive paintings hanging in homes, to placemats and mugs on dining-room tables. Several of his paintings provide the stimuli for this Light My World series of concept books about animals, colors, numbers, and shapes. Each of these books has eight board pages. Sally Lloyd-Jones provides a few lines of instructional text, frequently rhyming, directing the young child's attention to the pictures.

Animals introduces six animals, naming physical features and distinctive sounds. The name of each animal appears in large type below a silhouette of the animal—horse, duck, cat, dog, deer, and cow. The final double-page spread challenges the child to find all the animals in the picture, with "Did God make you?"

Colors introduces seven colors made by God that are characteristic of the various seasons—

R A T I N G S Y S T E M

- 5 The best you can find on this subject/area- buy even if you have a very small library/small budget
- 4 Very good, strong appeal—buy if you possibly can
- 3 Good, will be useful—buy if you have a bit more money
- 2 Pretty good, nice to add to complement other titles in an area—buy if you have a larger budget
- 1 Poor—Not necessary to purchase

* Outstanding Book of Its Genre

A Note from the Editor: by Karen Brehmer



Picture This

Picture books are my favorite books of all period. I love to get lost in a story and experience an entire adventure in just one sitting. I read them to myself and aloud to anyone who will listen. I study the illustrations, in awe of how a still picture can look so alive and how the visual images can evoke feelings inside me. I marvel at the authors' and illustrators' abilities to make story characters become my friends. You read your adult novel; give me a stack of picture books and I'll be quite happy.

For my sanity, I choose to believe that there are other adults like me, who prefer to read children's books over those written for adults. But I am sure the occasions are rare when librarians recommend picture books for adult pleasure reading. However, there is room to broaden our scope.

Traditionally, picture books have been designed with illustrations foremost and the text secondary. The intended audience is generally preschool through primary aged children. They are fun books, sure to encourage an excitement for reading.

Children should be given the chance to flip through the pages, and discover the story unfolded by the illustrations. Even preschoolers can catch the general idea of the story, their imaginations giving life to each page. Some picture books, however,

are excellent tools for further learning. For the parent wanting to add to the home reading experience, the librarian providing extension activities, or the teacher enriching curriculum, picture books offer a perfect starting point.

Coming in for a closer look, however, we find that "picture book" does not necessarily mean "easy book." One can find many that have few words, but a challenging vocabulary. There are multiple versions of fairy tales, folktales, and classic short stories in picture book form. For older children, they offer excellent opportunities for critical analysis and comparison writing, considering both the text and illustrations.

Many picture books have complicated plots, with action twists and surprise endings. Take, for instance, *Tuesday*, a wordless book by David Wiesner. It shows flying frogs cruising through a town, causing all sorts of trouble. It is action packed, filled with suspense, and the last page foreshadows another animal adventure. Readers have a lot to take in, and rereading the book always reveals something new. Another wonderful choice is *The Mysteries of Harris Burdick*, by Chris Van Allsburg. Open it to find fourteen individual pictures, with only a title and a caption matching each one. Every page invites imagination to explain the unusual circumstances behind each illustration. Both new writers and adults are sure to be intrigued with this book.

Picture books are a wonderful way to encourage children's writing skills. Assignments for the same book are easily adaptable for many age levels. Students can write their own text to go with the

illustrations. Students who study the style and consider the intended audience for their favorite books can be challenged to write a companion book, prequel, or sequel with original text and drawings. Using a book as a springboard for writing not only helps spark student ideas; it also exposes them to quality children's literature and introduces them to authors whom they can further pursue.

And how about the appeal of picture books to the artist in all of us? Have children study the illustrations from their favorite books. They can identify the medium used, the style it most resembles, and pick out the dominating elements of art. Then, let them try their hand at it, copying illustrations from books and then making original pictures in the style of their artists. Again, assignments using the same book can be adapted for many ages. Comparing and contrasting pictures helps children grow in their own artistic abilities and helps them further appreciate the story, as well as what it takes to create a mood for a book.

Picture books are for all ages. Parents, librarians, and teachers—take the time to look through a stack of them often. Each reading will provide a wonderful adventure. Mostly, encourage reading for the sheer pleasure of it. Don't analyze and assign so much that books lose their appeal. But keep a close eye out for those special ones that provide opportunities to encourage the creativity in writers and artists of all ages.

white, pink, yellow, blue, green, orange, and red. Below the four lines of rhyming text, a swath of color is followed by the color word in large type.

Numbers introduces the numbers one to ten as an occasion to count God's blessings. Below a couple of lines of rhyming text, a large numeral is followed by the number word in large type. The pictures provide opportunity to count the items mentioned in the text.

Shapes introduces square, circle, triangle, rectangle, star, heart, and cross. Below four lines of rhyming text, a sample of the geometric shape lifted from the accompanying painting is followed by the name of the shape in large type. The cross on a hill means "God loves us, one and all!"

Promoted by the publisher for ages zero to four years, the concepts and illustrations in these books are accessible to children three or four years old, and perhaps some younger ones. (Older siblings enjoy helping the younger ones.) The quality of the text is uneven, with occasional meter problems in a few of the rhymes; most readers will not be distracted by this. Children's interest will be in locating in the pictures the examples of the concepts featured. Some of these are more difficult than others. A couple of examples (i.e. triangle sail, and deer in the final animals scene) seem to have been trimmed off or blocked by text. Mothers and children interviewed preferred *Animals* and *Colors*, then *Numbers*, then *Shapes*. The Kinkade name and distinctive style will likely attract many adults.

Donna W. Bowling, Graduate Institute of Applied Linguistics Library, Dallas, Texas

***Beverly Billingsly borrows a book / by Alexander Stadler.* LCCN 2001001548. San Diego: Silver Whistle, Harcourt, 2002. HBB, 152025103, \$16.00. Small children. Rating: 4**

E. Books and reading--Fiction; Libraries--Fiction; Librarians--Fiction; Worry--Fiction. unip.

Beverly Billingsly and her mother visit the Piedmont Public Library. Today Beverly is to receive her very own library card. She politely tells the librarian, Mrs. Del Rubio, why she has come. After the librarian fills out her card, she searches the shelves for a book on dinosaurs. Mrs. Del Rubio stamps the due date on the last page and tells Beverly the book must be returned by April 7.

When Beverly finishes the book she realizes it is April 8. The book is overdue. A worried Beverly asks her school friends if they know what happens when a library book is overdue. Their imaginations run wild and view a library fine as a terrible consequence. Now Beverly is even more upset. That night she has a nightmare where a green triceratops tells her, return me, return me. She tells her mother what happened and they return the book the next day.

Alexander Stadler, a first-time author is also the illustrator. He uses simple pen and ink figures

attractively dressed in pastels. The characters vary from grayish bears to the red headed Mrs. Del Rubio who has a remarkable resemblance to a woodpecker. After the library book is returned, the story continues in a type of postscript showing Beverly and a friend at the library starting the Piedmont Dinosaur club.

Beverly Billingsly Borrows a Book teaches library etiquette, responsibility, and time management. Home school mothers and teachers of young children will both appreciate this. Librarians will appreciate Stadler's book with the emphasis on respecting the book's due date. This aspect sets Stadler's book a notch above other stories focused on first library cards.

Maxine Cambra, Freelance Writer, Anderson, California

***Blizzard / Carole Gerber; illustrated by Marty Husted.* LCCN 00043829. Watertown, Mass.: Whispering Coyote, Charlesbridge, 2001. HBB, 1580890644, \$15.95. Small children. Rating: 2**

E. Snow--Fiction; Bedtime--Fiction; Stories in rhyme. unip.

Blizzard captures the contrasts of winter through the poetic text of Carole Gerber and bright illustrations of Marty Husted. A little boy watches the fury of a winter snow storm from the security of his cozy home, comparing the comforts of his inside life with that of the wild, white one outside. The juxtaposition of the cold, stark wintry outside scenes with those of the warm, colorful inside house scenes show well the innocent, simple perceptive of a young child. While snow is piling up, the child drinks his cocoa. As the child watches the storm swirl and furl its white impact upon the landscape, the boy contemplates how cozy it is in his secure, warm house. When the storm finally passes he decides its time to go outside just long enough to swish a snow angel. Going back inside he admires his handiwork before going to bed, pleased to mingle some of the outside and inside together before going to sleep.

Gerber's text begins with simple images, such as

Outside, a snowstorm swirls and blows

Inside, the fireplace toasts my toes,

and continues to present the winter storm in terms young children can relate to. What keeps the book from becoming too bogged down in oversimplified imagery is the climax stanza,

Outside, I see it's gray and white.

A snowy blanket wraps the night.

Stars gleam bright in a vast, dark sky.

The moon's round face drifts slowly by.

The book winds down anti-climactically with the child rinsing his cup, folding his quilt up, and dressing to go outside to create a snow angel. The angel is a peaceful reminder that while storms may rage in our lives at times, no matter how young we are, God is there watching over us through the day and the night. Those

looking to add to their winter book collection will want to consider *Blizzard*.

Pam Webb, School Library Technician II, Sandpoint, Idaho

***The bus for us / Suzanne Bloom.* LCCN 00102348. Honesdale, Pa.: Boyds Mills, 2001. HBB, 1563979322, \$10.95. Small children. Rating: 2**

E. Schools--Fiction; School buses--Fiction. unip.

Tess and her big brother Gus are waiting for the school bus. While they linger at the bus stop, Tess asks Gus about every vehicle that comes down the busy street. She thinks that each one might be the bus. Gus informs her that she is seeing a taxi, a tow truck, a fire truck, an ice cream truck, a garbage truck, and a backhoe. As they are speaking, a multi-ethnic crowd of children with their colorful clothes and differing looks begins to surround Tess and Gus as they also wait for the bus. Finally it really is "the bus for us" and all the children board.

The Bus For Us by Suzanne Bloom is a pleasing story for beginning readers. It introduces not only various vehicles on each page but each illustration, also by Bloom, cleverly introduces a new child. By the end, the crowd waiting is full of many individual children representing distinctive ethnicities. The illustrations are especially lovely with bright brilliant colors that are appealing for younger children.

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

***A bus of our own / written by Freddi Williams Evans; illustrated by Shawn Costello.* LCCN 2001000888. Morton Grove, Ill.: Albert Whitman, 2001. HBB, 0807509701, \$15.95. Small children. Rating: 4**

E. African Americans--Fiction; Schools--Fiction; School buses--Fiction; Segregation--Fiction. unip.

Mable Jean loves school and her teacher Miz Powell, even if it does take a long time to walk the five miles to get there. There is a school bus but it is only for the white children being taken to an all white school. She suffers through twisted ankles and blisters, but still she perseveres. Finally she begs her parents to find a way to provide transportation for her and her friends. Her parents are reluctant to try because they realize that the county does not see the need to transport black children to school, and making a fuss may endanger their jobs. One day, wealthy Cousin Smith gives Mable Jean and her brother a lift in his car and she asks him for help. He promises to buy the bus if the parents will help support it by paying for their children to ride. Everyone agrees to take on extra work to pay for the upkeep of the vehicle. When the bus is purchased, everyone pitches in to fix it up and finally the children have a bus of their own.

A Bus of Our Own by Freddi Williams Evans is based on real events that took place in Madison, Mississippi, after WWII. An author's note

explains the facts upon which this story is based. The paintings by Shawn Costello are evocative of this era and have a beauty, depth, and color which amplify the sweet story. This would be a wonderful book to use during Black History Month or to share with any elementary classroom in celebration of Martin Luther King Jr. Day. This book would definitely be a good discussion starter concerning Civil Rights and/or the fact that Jesus loves us all equally.

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

***A cat in the stable* / Troon Harrison; illustrated by Benrei Huang. LCCN 0054316. Minneapolis: Augsburg, 2001. HBB, 080664057X, \$17.99. Small children. Rating: 3**

E. Cats--Fiction; Christmas--Fiction; Christian life--Fiction. unip.

Sophie's pet cat, Muffin, has died and Sophie is heart-broken. While planting bulbs, Sophie notes that they are hard and dead looking. Her mother answers that in the spring God will bring them to life in a new plant. Sophie reasons that if God can bring a hard old bulb back to life, he can bring Muffin back too. At Christmas, Sophie's prayers intensify as she reasons that if God can bring Jesus back every Christmas, then surely he can bring Muffin back. While the other children are making figurines of camels and donkeys for the stable, Sophie is making a cat. While the others are writing and mailing letters to Santa, Sophie is writing a Christmas prayer which she slips under the straw of the church nativity scene. "Dear God, I want a Christmas miracle. Please bring Muffin back."

On Christmas morning, Sophie's hopes are dashed when Muffin is not in her stocking. No longer able to control her disappointment, she rushes from church to tear up her letter. But as she reaches into the straw of the stable, her hand touches something soft. A stray kitten has taken refuge in the warmth of the stable. For Sophie, it's love at first sight. Sophie names the kitten Miracle. It is not Muffin, but it is a kitten who needs the love of a little girl.

A Cat in the Stable author Troon Harrison realistically portrays the heartbreak and reasoning of a young child, as well as the wisdom of a mother in helping her child face her pet's death while still giving her hope for the future. Illustrator Benrei Huang, through large expressive illustrations, excellently conveys the variety of emotions the story evokes.

Judy A. Driscoll, Retired Teacher, Poulsbo, Washington

***Clarence and the great surprise* / written and illustrated by Jean Ekman Adams. LCCN 2001019774. Flagstaff, Ariz.: Rising Moon, Northland Publishing, 2001. HBB, 0873587952, \$15.95. Small children. Rating: 4**

E. Pigs--Fiction; Horses--Fiction; Dogs--Fiction; West (U.S.)--Fiction. unip.

Smoky the purple horse takes his friend Clarence the pig on a special trip in this book, *Clarence and the Great Surprise*. As they travel through Arizona to "the great surprise," they meet up with a humming, dancing dog named Edgar who joins them on their trip. They enjoy a lake trip, a campfire sing-along with horses Smoky knows, and stay in a hotel before finally reaching their destination, a well-known northern Arizona landmark.

A sequel to *Clarence Goes Out West and Meets a Purple Horse*, which won regional and national recognition, this book combines a sweetly humorous tale with whimsical pictures. The story is pleasant and gives a nice lesson in friendship without being heavy-handed. There is just enough mystery and tension along the way to keep the reader's interest. The pictures are colorful and amusing, portraying the varying landscapes of that state as a background to the wonderful characters. Having lived in Arizona myself, I find that the book nicely captures the bold colors and interesting character of the state in a fun, fantastical way.

The book would be a good addition to any library. Its moral tone is good and the lesson on friendship worthwhile. Its easy style and talking animal characters make it best suited for pre-kindergarten to second grade age children. The amusing story and great pictures give it strong reader appeal. It can also be used for the moral lesson it teaches or as an addition to a thematic unit on the Southwest, especially Arizona. Both titles in this set would seem worth a look, based on this one.

Betsy Ruffin, Librarian/Teacher, Cleburne, Texas

***A day at Gramma's* / Marcia Cate Overstreet. LCCN . Grand Rapids: Kregel, 2001. HBB, 0825434718, \$13.99. Small children. Rating: 4**

E. Grandparent and grandchild--Fiction; Grandparenting--Fiction. 48 p.

Little Forrest Cate the Fourth loves to visit Gramma Marcia but wonders why she calls him "Angel Boy." She explains that it is a pet name because he is God's special message of love to her. Outside he visits with Mr. Crawford, the neighbor, and asks if his dog has a pet name. Forrest then goes to plant petunias with Gramma Marcia just as a fire engine comes down the street and stops. Sergeant Riley the firefighter is very kind and he not only shares his secret pet name with Forrest, but also allows him to sit in the fire engine. Forrest and Gramma eat lunch, read a book, and then he takes a nap. When he wakes up, his mother is arriving to take him home. Gramma Marcia gives him a box with a bird's nest they found together and a popsicle to take with him. He has had such a fun day!

Marcia Cate Overstreet, the author and illustrator of *A Day at Gramma's* based this story on times she has had with her oldest grandchild Forrest. The graphics are a lovely bouquet, mixing both pastel and bright colors.

Each page has a special thought about children – "Lord protect them," "let us be examples," etc. with an accompanying short prayer. This is a splendid book for a grandmother to share with a younger grandchild or for grandparents and parents to read with the special little ones in their lives, reminding them what special and precious gifts children are.

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

***Don't go!* / story and pictures by Jane Breskin Zalben. LCCN 0065796. New York: Clarion Books, Houghton Mifflin, 2001. HBB, 0618072500, \$15.00. Small children. Rating: 3**

E. First day of school--Fiction; Nursery schools--Fiction; Schools--Fiction. 32 p.

It's Daniel's first day of school, and understandably enough, he doesn't want to go. His mother packs all his favorite items for school, though, and off they go. Daniel is introduced to all the fun play items at school such as the sand box and the building blocks, but he still doesn't want his mother to leave him. Mr. Berry begins to read a story to all the children, and Daniel's attention becomes focused on his surroundings more than his mother. Does he stay? Pick up the book to find out!

Don't Go tells the tale of hundreds of boys and girls across the years as they prepare for their first day of school. Jane Zalben brings the story down to the preschoolers level, using colorful, vivid pictures to illustrate the story line. Ms. Zalben mentions making cookies in the story, and provides the recipe at the end of the book in case your preschooler wants to feast on the same cookies. There is also a section at the back of the book on tips for how to make the first day of school for your preschooler a happy and smooth transition.

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

***Family stories you can relate to.* (Reading rainbow readers.) LCCN 2001034468. New York: Seastar, North-South Books, 2001. HBB, 1587171031, \$14.95; PAP, 158717104X, \$3.99. Small children. Rating: 3**

E. Family life--Fiction; Short stories. 64 p.

Family Stories You Can Relate To features five chapters taken from books by popular authors and illustrators. Favorite characters Henry and Mudge endure sloppy kisses at a family reunion (from *Henry and Mudge in the Family Trees*, Cynthia Rylant, author; Susie Stevenson, illustrator). Louise finds that help from Lionel is nice but somewhat frustrating (from *Lionel and Louise*, by Stephen Krensky; pictures by Susanna Natti). Rex and Lilly surprise mom on her birthday (From *Rex and Lilly Family Time*, author Laurie Kransny Brown; pictures by Marc Brown). Pip teaches his grandmas about

bedtime routines (from *The Grandma Mix-up*, by Emily Arnold McCully). Lastly, Oliver explores the world by posing questions, questions, questions to his dad (from *More Tales of Oliver Pig*, author Jean Van Leeuwen; illustrator, Arnold Lobel).

A Reading Rainbow Reader, this book intends to "bring together the best easy-to-read stories to encourage independent readers." That goal is accomplished as it presents quality literature with excellent illustrations, at a beginning reader's level. Although each selection is a complete short story, it will be a frustrating tease to some readers, as the quick chapters leave one hanging, wondering what the rest of the book is about. On the positive side, lovable characters are introduced, prompting the reader to go out and get the complete chapter books.

Teachers of beginning readers will find this book useful as a primer, especially for the blossoming independent reader. For someone new to transitional chapter books, *Family Stories You Can Relate To* is a fine way to introduce a variety of writers and illustrators. For the children's librarian (or anyone else who is already familiar with these authors and books), the money is much better spent for the individual books themselves.

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

***Fat chance Thanksgiving* / by Patricia Lakin; illustrated by Stacey Schuett. LCCN 2001000803. Morton Grove, Ill.: Albert Whitman, 2001. HBB, 0807522880, \$14.95. Small children. Rating: 3**

E. Thanksgiving Day--Fiction; Neighbors--Fiction; Apartment houses--Fiction; New York (N.Y.)--Fiction. unip.

"Fat chance," says Mama when Carla asks about having a Thanksgiving feast. It's not meanness that prompts the response, but reality. A fire destroyed their apartment, taking everything but one book, *A Pilgrim Thanksgiving*. After spending a year in a hotel, Carla and Mama are given a new apartment. It's tiny, they have little money, and they're no longer living near their friends. This year Thanksgiving's impossible, Mama says. But Carla, influenced by the pictures and story of *A Pilgrim Thanksgiving*, won't listen. Maybe all the apartments in her building are tiny, but why can't they have a feast in the lobby—and invite everyone? She tells her plan to the building's super who agrees to allow the feast... if Carla can convince ten neighbors to attend.

Fat Chance Thanksgiving is nicely done. The dialog is realistic, Carla and Mama are well-developed, and the New York City setting gives the story a multi-ethnic cast of characters. (Carla and Mama are African-American, and neighbors are West Indian, Latino, Irish, and Asian). Patricia Lakin's not-too-sweet text is complimented by Stacey Schuett's illustrations which, done predominantly in browns, purples, reds, and blues, are soft and dreamy yet suitably

urban. The story has a rhythm and grace suited for its being read aloud, but can also serve as an easy reader for children ready to read on their own. Subtle lessons about sharing, optimism, and the power of friendship make *Fat Chance Thanksgiving* a lovely purchase for most libraries, especially those with an ethnic or urban audience.

Rosemarie DiCristo, Freelance Writer, The Bronx, New York

***A fiddle for Angus* / Budge Wilson; art by Susan Tooke. LCCN 2001086823. Toronto: Tundra Books, 2001. HBB, 0887765009, \$16.95. Small children. Rating: 3**

E. Violinists--Fiction. unip.

Mom plays the accordion, Dad plays the whistle, Tom plays the guitar, Molly sings and the smallest, Angus, hums. But one day Angus, against the protestations of his family, decides that humming just isn't good enough. So Dad takes Angus to choose an instrument to play in the family orchestra. He gives his decision a lot of serious thought until his family attends a ceilidh and he listens to the fiddles. He has found his instrument, but at first all he can produce are squeaks and squawks. Angus takes lessons from Big Murdoch MacDougall, who promises to show him where the music is hidden in his fiddle. By summer when his family meets on the beach near Cape Breton village where they live, Angus is a fiddler.

Budge Wilson has woven a sweetly tranquil tale in *A Fiddle For Angus* which portrays the importance of shared talents in families and the benefits of what happens when a child works toward his desire. The vivid and detailed art by Susan Tooke leaps right off the page and brings Angus, his family, and Cape Breton village to life. This would be a pleasurable read for any grade school aged child and a nice companion book to a beginning music program in an elementary school.

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

***Granny Mae's Christmas play* / Bob Hartman; illustrated by Lynne Cravath. LCCN 2001018195. Minneapolis: Augsburg, 2001. HBB, 0806640634, \$16.99. Small children. Rating: 4**

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

As the family gathers for their annual Christmas celebration, Granny Mae announces a surprise. "We're going to put on a Christmas play!" She puts all their protests and questions to rest and hands out paper bags filled with costumes and one line each—except for Kevin, who has three. The family traipses to the kitchen where Kevin, posing as the angel Gabriel, jumps out of the pantry yelling, "Ta-da!" Granny Mae patiently narrates the Christmas story and the children speak their lines at the appropriate time.

In spite of Brian's portrayal of a disgusted Joseph who must marry his cousin Caitlin (Mary), the play continues upstairs in the bedroom. Aunt Robin carries a big cardboard "9" around her neck to symbolize the passing of time until the birth of the Savior. Dad wears Grampa's old brown socks over his ears and is a funny-looking donkey. Uncle Evan, as three angry innkeepers, makes up his own lines.

Bob Hartman's delightful *Granny Mae's Christmas Play* retells the old, familiar story with a twist. There is wacky humor and lots of personality from Granny and the players. But the sweetness of the story and a reverence for the marvelous wonder of it all is also evident. The reader is left feeling like Granny Mae's family had a memorable time marking an amazing event.

Illustrations by Lynne Cravath lend a whimsical impression and lots of laughter for the reader. One can learn how to put on a similar play by studying the ideas in each page. The author's Notes for Readers at the conclusion of the book give more insight for planning a Christmas play of one's own. An utterly charming book and highly recommended reading.

Cathy M. Elliott, Freelance Writer, Anderson, California

***Happy to you!* / by Caron Lee Cohen; illustrated by Rosanne Litzinger. LCCN 99039433. New York: Clarion Books, Houghton Mifflin, 2001. HBB, 0618042296, \$15.00. Small children. Rating: 3**

E. Babies--Fiction; Mother and child--Fiction; Happiness--Fiction. 32 p.

Hearing the children sing "Happy Birthday to You" at a party, toddler Daniel sings "happy to you." He carries that idea through the rest of the day as he says it to things at the party, people and animals he sees on the way home, and finally to his own toys and bed at home as he settles down to sleep. Daniel has clearly had a good and cheerful day with friends and family.

The story line and vocabulary are fairly simple and Daniel's made-up descriptive words, such as "wishedy wind" and "lippity leaves," and the sound-effects language, like "wrrrrrr" for the airplane, give it a certain lilt. Sweet, colorful pictures, large enough for reading-aloud to a group, accompany the text. Though there's not much action, the story is sweet, and the language is fun.

The book is best suited for a parent and toddler read together time, though a pre-kindergarten group should also take to it well. As such, families, church libraries (especially those with day care), or public libraries would be the recommended purchasers. It's a "lap-cuddle" book with a nice thought about happy times in a family, using interesting but not overwhelming language. It's definitely family-friendly.

Betsy Ruffin, Librarian/Teacher, Cleburne, Texas

Having to hurry. (MaryLou's FlipFlop Shop; 3.) LCCN . Nashville: Tommy Nelson, Thomas Nelson, 2002. VID, 0849975166, \$12.99. Small children. Rating: 3

E. Self-acceptance--Fiction. 1 video, col., 30 min.

This children's video presents MaryLou Retton, Olympic gymnast champion, at the Flipflop Shop with all her friends. They are trying to organize a play, "The Flipflop Shop's Great Vegetable Patch Mystery," but run into trouble when the star of the show, Shelbie, is too busy to make practices. Miss Warble fills in the part as Shelbie continues to make excuses and wrong priorities. At last the play is ready to be performed but now Shelbie is upset that she isn't doing the lead. At last she realizes that she should officially give away her part to Miss Warble, being assured that the other kids will still like her even if she isn't the star.

The costumes are colorful and Miss Warble does an admirable job keeping her role interesting, but the storyline is thin and not too engaging. The point made, getting too busy and forgetting the really important things in life, is stated by MaryLou at the end. She mentions God once and the rest of the video seems to be geared toward entertaining. This video is best for four to seven year olds.

Mary McKinney, Editor, Writer, Conference Speaker, Educator, Port Orchard, Washington

The incredible discovery of Lindsey Renee / Joni Eareckson Tada; illustrated by Irena Roman. LCCN 009403. Wheaton, Ill.: Crossway Books, Good News Publishers, 2001. HBB, 1581341954, \$14.99. Small children. Rating: 4

E. Christian life--Fiction. 31 p.

Lindsey Renee is thirteen, and doesn't understand why she has to sit in church on a Saturday night. Does it matter to her if it's a missions night? No! As the offering plate gets closer to her, she makes a quick exit out of the sanctuary, wanting to keep her \$5.00 for herself.

Lindsey wanders a dark hallway when she comes upon a very bright light streaming from a half-opened door. Inside is a grandfatherly-type man sitting at a computer working diligently.

Somehow he knows her name and invites her in. He introduces himself to her and shows her the book that he is working on, a *Book of Her Life*. Inside are entries describing incidents from Lindsey's young life: a kindness shown to a friend and how that friend was invited to church and later gave her heart to Jesus, and how a Bible accidentally left at camp was used to bring a boy to Jesus.

Lindsey is reminded of the \$5.00 that she promised to give to missions and the man shows Lindsey a scene on the computer screen that shows a need on the mission fields and how her money would be used to meet that need.

Joni Eareckson Tada has written a wonderful story about the power of giving to Jesus, and the watercolor illustrations by Irena Roman beautifully enhance the words.

Debby Willett, Teacher, Home School Parent, Canyon, Texas

It's not my job! / by Ted Lish; illustrated by Charles Jordan. LCCN 2001117911. Victorville, Calif.: Munchweiler Press, 2002. HBB, 0794000045, \$15.95; Spanish ed., 0794000118, \$15.95. Small children. Rating: 3

E. Helpfulness--Fiction; Family life--Fiction. unip.

Dad, Mom, Brother, Sister, and Baby have just moved into a beautiful new home. Mom even bought matching trashcans to help keep the house clean. Soon the trashcans are full and Mom asks if anyone will please take out the debris. But Dad, Brother, and Sister are too busy and Baby is too little. They all claim it's not their job, but Mom doesn't think that it is her job either. As they go about their lives, the trash begins to overrun the house and every time someone suggests that it should be cleaned up, no one wants to take responsibility for it. By the fifth week they have misplaced Baby in all the gargantuan mountains of garbage and their lovely new home is filthy. Will anyone ever take out the trash?

Ted Lish spins an amusing tale in *It's Not My Job* that also serves to teach the simple lesson that sometimes everyone must take responsibility. Younger children will be able to identify with people who refuse to do a simple task that grows into a huge problem. This is an excellent book for parents to share with children and will get the point across in a humorous and gentle way. The illustrations by Charles Jordan are whimsical cartoon drawings that greatly add to the humor in the story. As a bonus, he has hidden elves in the pictures.

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

Mayor for a day / by Carl Sommer; illustrated by Dick Westbrook. (Another Sommer-Time Story.) LCCN 99035276. Houston: Advance, Advance, 2000. HBB, 1575370131, \$14.95. PB. Rating: 5

E. Conduct of life--Fiction; Behavior--Fiction; City and town life--Fiction. unip.

King of the pond / by Carl Sommer; illustrated by Greg Budwine. (Another Sommer-Time Story.) LCCN 99035284. Houston: Advance, Advance, 2000. HBB, 1575370166, \$14.95. PB. Rating: 5

E. Tadpoles--Fiction; Frogs--Fiction; Bullies--Fiction. unip.

Proud rooster and little hen / by Carl Sommer; illustrated by Greg Budwine. (Another Sommer-Time Story.) LCCN 99035280. Houston: Advance, Advance, 2000. LIB, 1575370107, \$14.95; HBB, 1575370603, \$9.95. PB. Rating: 5

E. Behavior--Fiction; Roosters--Fiction; Domestic animals--Fiction. unip.

The ugly caterpillar / by Carl Sommer; illustrated by Greg Budwine. (Another Sommer-Time Story.) LCCN 99035282. Houston: Advance, Advance, 2000. HBB, 1575370158, \$14.95; PAP, 1575370581, \$9.94; LIB, 1575370581, \$16.95. PB. Rating: 5

E. Insects--Fiction; Beauty, Personal--Fiction; Conduct of life--Fiction. unip.

Your job is easy / by Carl Sommer; illustrated by James Kennon. (Another Sommer-Time Story.) LCCN 99017376. Houston: Advance, Advance, 2000. LIB, 1575370670, \$14.95; HBB, 1575370182, \$9.95. PB. Rating: 5

E. Farm life--Fiction; Family life--Fiction; Work--Fiction. unip.

Friendship, humility, respect, self-discipline, forgiveness, sportsmanship, citizenship, and respect for the law. These various attributes are inter-woven into these delightful stories by Carl Sommer.

In *Mayor for a Day*, as a reward for winning the soccer championship, Davy is chosen mayor for a day. Davy and his friends thought they would have a wonderful time, and his first act as Mayor was to have all rules removed. This book teaches that rules and guidelines are important.

In *Your Job is Easy*, after Jane complains about the crooked rows that Sam had plowed, and Sam complains about Jane's work, they decide to switch jobs for a day. Both Sam and Jane expect to have lots of free time after each finishes the other's "easy" job. But Sam and Jane encounter one calamity after another doing each other's chores. They are SO grateful once their day is over. After having a good laugh at the end of the day, they apologize to each other and realize how important each others jobs really are.

In *King of the Pond*, Tombo the tadpole thinks he is the king of the pond. Tombo, the self-proclaimed biggest, fastest, and strongest tadpole, teases and chases all the other tadpoles. However, while Tombo is showing off doing a triple flip, a boy catches him. The boy puts him into a fish tank and gives him fish flakes to eat, a food Tombo despises. When Tombo turns into a frog, the boy releases him back into his pond. Then Tombo discovers that he is no longer the biggest and fastest, but he does learn the value of friendship. Tombo finally learns that having friends is better than being King of the Pond.

In *Proud Rooster and Little Hen*, Proud Rooster, always ignoring everyone's advice, gets into all sorts of trouble. Filling his tummy with green strawberries, falling off a tree while showing off, and skating on thin ice after being warned, nearly do him in. But his hard lessons change him forever. Proud Rooster is glad to learn that it is not too late to obey.

In *The Ugly Caterpillar*, Speckles the spider and Crumbs the cricket think Katy the caterpillar is much too ugly to be their friend. But Annie the

ant doesn't agree, and she and Katy become best friends. As Katy the caterpillar begins her strange transformation into a beautiful butterfly, her friend Annie is shocked and amazed. Speckles and Crumbs finally learn the true meaning of beauty and friendship -- and caterpillars! This book is a great way to teach children about the importance of true friendship, and the importance of being kind to others.

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

Maury had a little lamb / by Janette Oke; illustrated by Nancy Munger. (Janette Oke's animal friends.) LCCN 0012203. Minneapolis: Bethany Backyard, 2001. PAP, 0764224573, \$5.99. Small children. Rating: 4

E. Sheep--Fiction; Animals--Infancy--Fiction; Farm life--Fiction; Orphans--Fiction. 79 p.

Prairie dog town / by Janette Oke; illustrated by Nancy Munger. (Janette Oke's animal friends.) LCCN 0012200. Minneapolis: Bethany Backyard, 2001. PAP, 0764224557, \$5.99. Small children. Rating: 4

E. Prairie dogs--Fiction; Animals--Infancy--Fiction; Conduct of life--Fiction. 76 p.

Shandy isn't able to be taken care of by his mother anymore, so he moves into the farmhouse to be bottle-fed by the people. He learns to love being in the house, but soon has outgrown his welcome and is sent back outside to a new and exciting world of adventures. His attempts to fit in with the rest of the sheep, though, end up in frustration. Will he ever be able to fit in?

Flick the prairie dog doesn't fully understand why he must follow the rules all the time, especially the rule about not leaving the tunnel after night. One night of adventures outside after dark, a close encounter with a dangerous animal, and a close call for his mother, brings the need for prairie dog rules back into clear focus for Flick.

Maury Had a Little Lamb and *Prairie Dog Town* are two more books in Janette Oke's series, *Animal Friends*. The books show various animals in everyday situations that will help your six-ten year old better understand how to handle them the best way. The simple writing, with the colorful illustrations by Nancy Munger make these a must read for your early reader.

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

Oops! Sorry! (Cherub wings; 8.) Worcester, Pa.: Gateway Films, Vision Video, 2001. VID, 1563645467, \$12.99. Small children (Elementary). Rating: 3

E. Forgiveness--Fiction. 1 video, col., 25 min.

Out of bounds! (Cherub wings; 9.) Worcester, Pa.: Gateway Films, Vision Video, 2001. VID, 1563645475, \$12.99. Small children (Elementary). Rating: 3

E. Obedience--Fiction. 1 video, col., 25 min.

Cherub is making a cake when Chubby accidentally pushes him into it, but Cherub doesn't get mad because he knows that God's plan is for him to forgive. Chubby goes off to help some humans resolve a conflict while Cherub explains forgiveness. He illustrates this with the songs "I Can Forgive" and "Even As God." He tells the Bible stories about the man who was forgiven his debt but who refused to forgive his debtor and Peter's asking Jesus how many times he has to forgive someone. Oops! Sorry! concludes as Cherub shares the story of the weed-seed garden, about two friends who encounter a stranger who plants weeds in their gardens. Only one is willing to forgive him. So having shared the songs and stories, Cherub hopes all his listeners will be good forgivers.

In *Out of Bounds* finds Cherub and Chubby in a cloud boarding competition. They can zoom as fast as they want, but they must stay within the golden lines. Chubby goes over the line and has to be rescued after he crashes. Cherub shares that this is a good example of why his listeners should practice obedience. Cherub sings "It's Best To Obey" and "If You Know These Things." Cherub tells the story of the two men, one of whom built on rock and one who built on sand, to illustrate good and bad choices. Then he shares about Troy and Roy who try to build a go cart together but Troy doesn't follow the directions and disaster strikes. Cherub finishes with "Crazy," a wacky song about what the world would be like if everyone did his or her own thing.

Oops! Sorry! and *Out of Bounds* are episodes eight and nine in the endearing Cherub Wings animated series. Cherub is a small angel sent to share God's truths. Any small child who loves the sweet silliness of Barney, the gentleness of Mr. Rogers, or the catchy tunes from Sesame Street will love these charming tales, plus these are designed to teach God's truths. The stories are cute enough and the songs are singable enough that even children up to about third grade will be able to enjoy the adventures of Cherub. They could even be used with older elementary for discussion starters.

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

Perfect puppy / by Stephanie Calmenson; illustrated by Thomas Yezerski. LCCN 0065732. New York: Clarion Books, Houghton Mifflin, 2001. HBB, 0618011390, \$15.00. Small children. Rating: 4

E. Dogs--Fiction; Animals--Infancy--Fiction. 32 p.

Perfect Puppy, by Stephanie Calmenson, is a gentle and engaging tale about a puppy who (you guessed it) is determined to be perfect. In

this way, he will ensure that "his girl" will love him and take good care of him. Needless to say, the path to house-broken perfection is soon strewn with shredded homework, chewed slippers, and—oh dear—tell-tale puddles on the kitchen floor. So puppy runs away, to wallow in self-pity, convinced he is beyond all hope. "I give up. My paws are muddy. I have a flea."

Much to his surprise, his girl comes looking for him. Having found him, she carries him home for a bath, a treat, and some affectionate cuddling. At last, safe in the arms of his girl, puppy realizes that in her eyes, he is a "perfect puppy."

The author's understated humor is nicely complemented by Thomas Yezerski's delicate watercolor palette. Neither the puppy nor his girl are named, and so they stand for "Every puppy," and "Every child;" just as in a traditional tale, a male protagonist often stands for "everyman." This allows the reader to see him/herself in the story, and to take to heart the gentle message that we are indeed loved, just as we are.

Buy this book for the perfectionist in your life—or in yourself. *Perfect Puppy* is sure to become a favorite among the picture book crowd.

Sylvia Stopporth, Librarian, Trinity Western University, British Columbia, Canada

Piggy Monday / written and illustrated by Suzanne Bloom. LCCN 2001000805. Morton Grove, Ill.: Albert Whitman, 2001. HBB, 0807565296, \$15.95. Small children. Rating: 4

E. Etiquette--Fiction; Schools--Fiction; Pigs--Fiction. unp.

Mrs. Hubbub has a wild grade school class. They rudely refuse to behave. They insist on being first in line, they shove, and no one says "please." They gossip and tease. Then one day they begin to sprout tails, big floppy ears, hooves, and snouts. They are literally turning into pigs! The school secretaries know just who to call—The Pig Lady! Can she tame these hog wild children and teach them common courtesy and pleasing manners? Can she have enough of an effect that they will learn to be kind to each other and turn back into children?

Piggy Monday, written and colorfully illustrated by Suzanne Bloom, is an entertaining and lively way of presenting manners to young children. The captivating watercolor pictures have lovely fluid movement and are an entrancing addition. The story is told in verse and is very entertaining, certain to capture and keep a child's attention. A great book for preschool through second or third graders.

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

***Rachel captures the moon* / Richard Ungar; adapted by Samuel Tenenbaum. LCCN 2001086826. Toronto: Tundra Books, 2001. HBB, 088776505X, \$16.95. Small children. Rating: 5**

E. Moon--Fiction. unip.

In the tiny village of Chelm, the people are fascinated by the moon and they are determined to capture it, so that they may enjoy it any time they wish, night or day. The carpenter builds a ladder high into the sky; one woman offers special noodle soup to tempt the moon's taste buds; the violinist plays his very best music; the weaver fashions an enormous blanket; and the fisherman uses his net, all to no avail. The villagers call a meeting to discuss their dilemma, but remain unable to solve the problem of how to capture the moon. Rachel, the carpenter's young daughter, finally tells the group that she knows of a way to capture the moon. Sceptically, the entire village watches as Rachel proceeds to fill a barrel with water, roll it up the hill, and position it in the path of the rising moon. As the moon reaches its zenith, it blazes forth light from the barrel. The villagers are so impressed that they decide they like the barreled moon even better than the real thing.

Rachel Captures the Moon by Richard Ungar is a delightful tale about how a child really can help solve problems. Ungar, a lawyer who paints and writes as a hobby, depicts each scene in brightly colored, child-like renderings that invite children of all ages to join in the magic of this contemporary fable. Ungar's first published picture book is outstanding, and this reader hopes it is only the first of many. Highly recommended for all children's collections, preschool and up.

Kim Harris, Librarian, Newman Riga Library, Churchville, New York

***Rivka's first Thanksgiving* / written by Elsa Okon Rael; illustrated by Maryann Kovalski. LCCN 0058738. New York: Margaret K. McElderry Books, Simon & Schuster, 2001. HBB, 0068939014, \$16.00. Small children. Rating: 5**

E. Thanksgiving Day--Fiction; Jews--United States--Fiction; Immigrants--Fiction. unip.

What a wonderful book! Replete with beautiful illustrations, *Rivka's First Thanksgiving* will be greatly enjoyed by its readers. It is the tale of a young Jewish girl, attempting to explain to her immigrant mother and grandmother why Thanksgiving is for all Americans, Jews included. She is taken to the Rabbi for his consideration of this issue and what ensues between them is delightful. Youngsters will especially appreciate that yes, sometimes a child may have an insight that those older and wiser do not have. This book speaks to all of us, that we should be grateful to our God for what He has provided for us, Pilgrims as well as modern day Americans.

The idea for *Rivka's First Thanksgiving* actually arose from a family memory of author Elsa Okon Rael. This book belongs on the shelves of school and public libraries and will be enjoyed by all that have the pleasure of opening its covers.

Ceil Carey, Young Adult Librarian, Public Library, Plano, Illinois

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***Sailing off to sleep* / by Linda Ashman; illustrated by Susan Winter. LCCN 99047055. New York: Simon & Schuster Books for Young Readers, 2001. HBB, 068982971X, \$12.95. Small children. Rating: 5**

E. Zoology--Arctic regions--Fiction; Imagination--Fiction; Bedtime--Fiction; Stories in rhyme; North Pole--Fiction. unip.

When Mom goes to tuck her young daughter in for the night, Daughter resists. Understanding her daughter's longing not to miss out on anything by going to sleep, Mom asks what Daughter will do, instead. Daughter tells Mom that she is setting sail for the icy Arctic in a boat tied to a whale's tail. Mom asks about what will happen if she gets cold or lost. Daughter says she will find help from a fat walrus, a warm polar bear, soft bunnies, a furry seal, a sleigh with caribou, funny little auks, a gentle moose, and cuddly wolf pups. Daughter begins to get tired and miss Mom, so imagines that a snow goose gives her a ride home to Mom's hugs and kisses. Mom encourages Daughter to get started on her long adventure, but Daughter decides to start adventures tomorrow. As she snuggles down in bed with her stuffed animals, the reader discovers that the cuddly creatures curiously resemble the animals imagined in her adventure.

Sailing Off to Sleep, written by Linda Ashman and illustrated by Susan Winter, is a delightfully smooth sailing tale, in writing style, as well as in it's storyline. Illustrations are clear and soft and remind the reader of the warm, snugly bedtimes of a secure childhood. Ashman's love of children's writing is obvious, and Winter's watercolor renderings add a dreamlike quality to each page. Highly recommended for all picture book collections.

Kim Harris, Librarian, Newman Riga Library, Churchville, New York

***Scatterbrain Sam* / Ellen Jackson; illustrated by Matt Faulkner. LCCN 00064860. Watertown, Mass.: Whispering Coyote, Charlesbridge, 2001. HBB, 0881063940, \$15.95. Small children. Rating: 5**

E. Cookery--Fiction; Riddles--Fiction; Tall tales. unip.

Sam is so scatterbrained that he wears an alarm clock around his neck, keeps his cow on the roof, and eats his soup with a pitchfork. He is the talk of the town! Finally, fed up with his own mistakes, Sam goes to visit Widder Woman who has mystical potions that may cure him by

causing his thoughts to stick and to make sense. She proceeds to mix up a batch of Glue Stew over her fire. For the final ingredient she must add something that Sam loves. Sam returns with Toodles, his pet canary, but he can't bear to drop Toodles in the stew. So the widder gives him a riddle to solve instead. He is having difficulty figuring out the answer, but lucky for him, he has caught the eye of the lovely aviatrix Maizy Mae and she is one clever girl. But solving the riddle only means that Sam must bring something else he loves—his cat Sweet Sadie. Again with the aid of Maizy Mae, Sam successfully solves a riddle and saves Sweet Sadie. But he must still sacrifice something he loves. Unfortunately he has begun to love Maizy Mae! What will he do? Will the Glue Stew ever be made and will his thoughts ever stick?

Scatterbrain Sam by Ellen Jackson is a thoroughly charming tale and the exquisitely detailed illustrations by Matt Faulkner are a marvelous addition to the sweet story of a man who may not have common sense but finds true love. The pictures transport the reader to Sam's odd world and have great touches such as the giant egg beaters carried by Widder Woman to mix the stew and the shape of Rattlesnake Ridge. This book deservedly won the Parents' Choice Award. A fine read for all elementary ages of any culture.

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

***Snow in Jerusalem* / Deborah da Costa; illustrated by Cornelius Van Wright & Ying-Hwa Hu. LCCN 00010204. Morton Grove, Ill.: Albert Whitman, 2001. HBB, 0807575216, \$15.95. Small children. Rating: 5**

E. Cats--Fiction; Snow--Fiction; Jerusalem--Fiction. unip.

A special white cat brings a little peace to Jerusalem in the book *Snow in Jerusalem*. Two boys, one Jewish, one Muslim, are each caring for a beautiful stray cat, neither knowing the cat sees the other also. The cat disappears for a few days, only to reappear, skinny and dirty. One boy finally follows the cat, only to discover the cat's other helper. An argument ensues, to be halted only by a snowstorm. The boys, worried more about the cat's welfare than their differences, follow it and discover it has had kittens. After another argument, they find a compromise that allows both to care for the mother and kittens.

This is a delightful book, with a wonderful story and great pictures. The story of peace and friendship between these two cultures, Jewish and Muslim, is particularly considering recent violent events in the Middle East. It is an appealing tale with a good lesson in learning to live in peace when both parties are willing to give a little. The watercolor pictures are well done, giving the flavor of Jerusalem, while bringing out the story and the characters. A

glossary of the Arabic and Hebrew words used in the book and an author's note on Jerusalem add to the book's value.

The book has the potential for wide appeal and should do well in any library or with individuals, especially cat-lovers, of any age, though it will be best suited for elementary ages. It could well be used in school situations as an adjunct to studies about the Middle East, or as a character-building tale on getting along or working together to help someone else. It calls us to friendship by concentrating on our similarities rather than our differences. This is a book that should be strongly considered for purchase in light of the events of September 11 and the escalating Middle East conflict.

Betsy Ruffin, Librarian/Teacher, Cleburne, Texas

The story of Jonah / illustrated by Nadine Wickenden. LCCN . Carol Stream, Ill.: Tyndale Kids, Tyndale House, 2002. BOARD BOOK, 0842360557, \$7.99. Small children. Rating: 2

E. Jonah (Biblical prophet); Bible stories. O.T. 12:00 PM.

This oversize board book (8 1/2 x 11) in the shape of the giant fish that swallowed Jonah offers a simplistic retelling of the story of Jonah and the whale. While its rhyming text captures the basics of the story: "God said to Jonah, 'I'm getting quite mad from watching those people do things that are bad,'" it is Nadine Wickenden's vivid and bright illustrations that will capture the young viewer's interest. The facial expressions on Jonah as his emotions change from rebellion, to fear, and then obedience are convincing and the whale appears as a benevolent rescuer.

The final page of the book encourages parents to discuss the story with their children and includes a list of suggested topics, such as: "Think about why God wanted Jonah to go talk to the people." It also contains a prayer for parent and child to share concerning the importance of obedience and forgiveness. One drawback to the condensed format of the book is that no mention is made of Jonah's initial reaction to God's forgiveness of the people of Ninevah, nor of the vine that God caused to grow and then destroyed in order to help Jonah understand God's mercy.

Lillian Heyvelt, Public Librarian, Denny Ashby Memorial Library, Pomeroy, Washington

Summerbath, winterbath / written by Eileen Spinelli; illustrated by Elsa Warnick. LCCN 0055095. Grand Rapids: Eerdman's Books for Young Readers, Wm. B. Eerdmans, 2001. HBB, 0802851797, \$16.00. Small children. Rating: 3

E. Baths--Fiction. unsp.

Althea, who lived about one hundred years ago, loves taking her baths. But her bathing rituals differ according to the seasons. In summer her father lets a tub of water warm in the sun, while Althea plays barefooted with her cousins, cools off with ice chips, picks fresh vegetables, and

helps care for her baby brother. After supper she dons her bathing suit and bathes while singing a song of "tree frogs and crickets." In the winter her bathwater is heated on a woodstove and she spends her time inside eating warm food, playing marbles and jacks with her cousins, and again caring for her brother. This time, she uses a makeshift sheet curtain in the kitchen and bathes behind that, humming "with the whispering wind."

Eileen Spinelli has done an enchanting job of evoking a bygone age in this sweet and gentle book. The illustrations by Elsa Warnick in *Summerbath, Winterbath* set just the right tone with their water-color beauty. As Althea goes through her days and takes her baths, children will get a picture of a more leisurely era but will still identify with a little girl who likes to play. This is an especially nice picture book for younger children.

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

Talk to God. He listens! : all about prayer. (Mr. Henry's wild & wacky world; 3.) LCCN . Nashville: Tommy Nelson, Thomas Nelson, 2002. VID, 0849977029, \$12.99. Elementary (Small children). Rating: 4

E. Prayer--Fiction. 1 video, col., 40 min.

Frank Perretti portrays a very funny and entertaining Mr. Henry in this fun video *Talk to God. He Listens*. The main point of the entire video is prayer, and the subject is explored in a variety of interesting ways. Mr. Henry tries to invent a perky message for the Okay to Pray Company but the concept of replaying and repeating a prayer all day long just doesn't seem right. As Mr. Henry goes through some clever antics and speaks to his brother in Israel, there are several different mediums used to make different biblical points about prayer. The story of Nehemiah is presented in cartoon form, bringing forth the challenge to not let the enemy scare you but persevere in prayer until the job is done. There is a musical number sung, and the story of Daniel in the Lion's den is acted out with live characters. There are interludes with talking animals, etc., all adding to the delight of the story. This video would appeal to second through sixth graders, and the ideas presented allow for great discussion about prayer on many different levels.

This video presents lots of action, good humor, and great points without losing its focus—prayer.

Mary McKinney, Editor, Writer, Conference Speaker, Educator, Port Orchard, Washington

Another point of view: Rating: 3.

Talk to God. He Listens! All about Prayer is the third video in Mr. Henry's Wild and Wacky World. In this episode, The Okay to Pray Company has asked Mr. Henry to try out the Pray All Day Machine, and tell them what he

thinks of it. We join Mr. Henry in his workshop, exploring the topic of prayer. He addresses such questions as "What is prayer?" "Why should we pray?" and "Why pray if God knows everything?" There are games and puzzles, two Bible stories, and a visit from Frank Peretti's bluegrass band.

This video covers a lot of information in its forty minutes. No one will go away from it without gaining some insight on prayer. A fine companion for discussions and activities centered on prayer, the information can be focused down to one or two points or expanded to include the bigger concepts. This makes it appropriate for all elementary-aged children. The action changes often, with short clips interrupting Mr. Henry's conversation. This will lose younger (preschool) viewers. And although the biblical content is right on, the games are too easy and Mr. Henry's wild wackiness is a bit too strange for the middle school child. More than one viewing is helpful for children to become familiar with the show and they might catch on to something new. The band's music is nice but the song is not one kids will be able to learn or sing along with.

The animated story is of Nehemiah, exposing children to a not-so-familiar Bible character who prayed and trusted in God. The live version of Daniel and the Lion's Den is overacted and has too many extra details. Similar to the other videos, an unlikely threesome quizzes the audience with questions that have obvious answers, serving as a way to include further discussion on the topic.

Talk to God. He Listens! contains choice lessons on prayer, clearly and firmly stated; points that kids need to hear. And although the delivery is a bit crazy, it has variety that keeps kids' attention, making it an okay video choice that will teach children about prayer. The story of Daniel and the Lions' Den is included in Mr. Henry's Wild and Wacky Totally True audio series, along with other stories about Daniel and his friends, and other biblical examples of faith. (Worth checking into—titled *All About Faith*—also from Tommy Nelson.)

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

Thank you : a very special story for children / story written by Stephen Elkins; narrated by Ray Boltz; illustrated by Ellie Colton. LCCN 2001035739. Nashville: Broadman & Holman, 2001. HBB + CD, 0805424008, \$14.99. Small children. Rating: 4

E. Christian life--Fiction; Heaven--Fiction. 32 p. + 1 CD.

I dreamed I went to heaven, and you were there with me.

While dreaming in his bed, one young boy and his mom take a stroll through heaven passing by the crystal sea, listening to angels sing, and walking the streets of gold. The sights, all so

beautifully described in the Bible, come to life for these two as they meet others who have been touched by their giving of time and resources to Jesus. This boy's dream shows what a joy to live our life as a faithful servant to Jesus.

While the message of this book is one of edification, the illustrations by Ellie Colton beautifully express the desire of one's heart to show the love of Jesus to others. This story, written by Stephen Elkins, is based on the Dove Award song by Ray Boltz and is but one of a series called the Dove Award Signature Series for Children.

As a plus, a CD is included in the cost of the purchase. A child can follow along with the book as the story is narrated, or listen to the beautiful song that won the Dove Award.

Debby Willatt, Teacher, Home School Parent, Canyon, Texas

Thank you, Paul / written by Charlotte Lundy; illustrated by Margaret Ray James. LCCN 00131765. Mooresville, N.C.: Bay Light Publishing, 2001. HBB, 0967028078, \$15.95. Small children. Rating: 3

E. Paul, the Apostle, Saint--Fiction; Baseball--Fiction; Determination (Personality trait)--fiction. unip.

Thank you, Esther / written by Charlotte Lundy; illustrated by Miriam Sagasti. LCCN 2001129040. Mooresville, N.C.: Bay Light Publishing, 2002. HBB, 0967028043, \$15.95. Small children. Rating: 3

E. Courage--Fiction; Esther, Queen of Persia--Fiction. unip.

Thank you, Solomon / written by Charlotte Lundy; illustrated by Miriam Sagasti. LCCN 2001129041. Mooresville, N.C.: Bay Light Publishing, 2002. HBB, 0967028000, \$15.95. Small children. Rating: 3

E. Responsibility--Fiction; Solomon, King of Israel--Fiction; Dogs--Fiction; Animals--Infancy--Fiction; Christmas--Fiction. unip.

Young Alan is elated that city recreational baseball is starting soon. His parents are glad to allow him to participate, but remind him that it will take a lot of practice. Alan works hard but whenever he comes up to bat he is unable to make contact with the ball. Soon he is discouraged. His mother tells him the story of Paul the Apostle who wanted nothing more than to spread the gospel but kept encountering obstacles, not the least of which was being imprisoned. But Paul did not let that deter him and sent letters from prison. Alan's mother assures him that with God's help he can have the same kind of determination. The next day Alan has a reason to say "thank you, Paul"!

In *Thank You, Esther*, Elizabeth does not want to go to her first day at school. She would much rather hang out with her two cats and her dog than to go and attempt to make new friends. Her mother realizes that Elizabeth's timidity is due

to fear, so she tells her the story of brave Queen Esther who risked death in order to save her people. Elizabeth is inspired by Esther's example of courage and goes to school. When she arrives she finds the room full of class pets. Maybe this will be fun after all!

Zachary couldn't be more excited! Not only is it Christmas, but his father is taking him to pick out a new puppy. He chooses a puppy from a litter and names it Rusty. Zachary is told he must wait a week for Rusty to be ready to leave his mother. As they drive home, his father discusses the responsibilities involved with caring for a pet and tells Zachary the story of Solomon and how he was responsible for building God's temple. Zachary takes the story to heart and when they return for Rusty he is determined to take good care of his new dog.

This charming and pleasant series by Charlotte Lundy does a capital job of making biblical people relevant to young contemporary readers. The stories illuminate the characters of these early believers and thus illustrate how the protagonists can resolve their personal conflicts.

Thank You, Paul and *Thank You, Esther* are winsomely illustrated by Margaret Ray James. Her artwork is colorful and engaging, adding to the stories. For example, in *Thank You Paul*, (the winner of the Benjamin Franklin Award presented by the Publishers' Marketing Association) there is always a baseball angel that is cheering Alan on. The illustrations by Miriam Sagasti in *Thank You, Solomon* are equally pleasing and the beautiful color work is especially eye-popping. The inventive borders add a fun touch to the pages.

Overall, this is a sweet series aimed at small children. The Bible stories are simply told and are worked seamlessly into the modern day plots. The teacher or parent could easily use these books as a starting place to discuss either the Bible characters or the problems of fear, responsibility, or discouragement.

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

Trouble in a fur coat / by Janette Oke; illustrated by Nancy Munger. (Janette Oke's animal friends.) LCCN 0012201. Minneapolis: Bethany Backyard, 2001. PAP, 0764224565, \$5.99. Small children (Elementary). Rating: 3

E. Bears--Infancy--Fiction; Forest animals--Infancy--Fiction; Conduct of life--Fiction. 73 p.

Two bear cubs explore the world outside their cave with their mother. Natook and his sister Kimwa learn about eating berries and bugs, drinking from the stream, and fishing as their mother teaches them what they'll need to know to be grown-up bears. Natook, more adventurous, lands in trouble more than once, even becoming lost as hibernation time nears. Will the family find each other in time and will Natook learn to listen to Mom so he stays out of trouble?

The story is cute and the bear cubs are charming characters. Mother is wise and loving, presenting a good parent image. There's enough action to keep interest, and the details of bear life give an opportunity for learning more about these animals. A lesson/moral is implied, but it's not direct or heavy-handed. Primarily, it's simply a nice story from a well-known and respected author. As a beginning chapter book, there are fewer pictures, but the ones included are in full-color and are well and appealingly drawn.

The book would make a good purchase for almost any library. Teachers as well as parents could use the book and enjoy it right along with the children. Best suited for grades 2-4 to read themselves or younger ages as a read aloud, this book can be used as a springboard to a study on bears, a discussion of safety, a lesson on obeying parents, or just enjoyed as a fun story. Coming from Janette Oke, it should appeal particularly to her many fans. It's well worth the price and time.

Betsy Ruffin, Librarian/Teacher, Cleburne, Texas

Uncle Walt's Christmas box / Ark Boekin; illustrations by Michel de Boer. LCCN . Grand Rapids: Candle Books, Kregel, 2001. HBB, 0825472431, \$10.99. Small children. Rating: 3

E. Christmas--Fiction; Jesus Christ--Nativity. unip.

Uncle Walt and his cat Filbert hear a knock on the door one snowy evening. Since it is close to Christmas, could it be Santa? To his delight, it is Uncle Walt's favorite niece and nephew, Rosie and Robin. They have come for a visit.

While snacking on hot chocolate and special Christmas cookies, the children notice the absence of the Nativity set. Together with Uncle Walt, they explore the attic and find the box in which the set is stored every year. As Uncle Walt takes out each figurine, he talks about whom it represents. "That's Mary," he says. "One day an angel came to visit her..." With each new figure, Uncle Walt fills in more details of the Christmas story until every part of the Nativity set is in place and the story is complete.

Uncle Walt's Christmas Box by Art Boekin is a simple but creative way to present the Christmas story to early readers. While it begins with Uncle Walt's niece and nephew, it ends with the beauty of the Savior's birth. The strong, expressive illustrations by Michel De Boer, give this book added appeal. An interesting technique is used when Uncle Walt picks up the first figure and the picture opposite that text shows an illustration of the incident narrated. The bright pictures in the second half of the book tell the Christmas story in biblical times, scene by scene.

The book ends by giving Scripture references for those who would like to read the Christmas story directly from the source. A pleasant read.

Cathy M. Elliott, Freelance Writer, Anderson, California

What does love look like? / Janette Oke; illustrated by Cheri Bladholm. LCCN 2001004289. Minneapolis: Bethany Backyard, 2001. HBB, 076422509X, \$14.99. Small children. Rating: 5

E. First day of school--Fiction; Schools--Fiction; Love--Fiction; Christian life--Fiction. 32 p.

Emily Walters is welcomed to her new school by her teacher and takes her seat in the back of the room. The assignment is to draw a picture of something you can't measure, touch, or hold in your hand. "If you were to draw a picture of love, what would you draw?"

Author Janette Oke and illustrator Cheri Bladholm have captured the excitement and busyness of a first grade classroom. When completed, the pictures cover everything from flowers that make people happy to soft blankets that keep people warm, from a table with room for everyone to a circle with no rough edges to hurt anyone. Emily grows more and more nervous as each child shows his or her picture of love. But when she shows her picture of three crosses on a hill, the teacher and the students applaud and pin Emily's picture to the special merit board.

The story is captivating with a rich, unexpected ending. The illustrations are bright and charming. This is a beautiful story for adults, too.

Helen Hunter, Freelance Writer/Editor, Cedar Rapids, Iowa

When Kangaroo goes to school / by Sonia Levitin; illustrated by Jeff Seaver. LCCN 2001019027. Flagstaff, Ariz.: Rising Moon, Northland Publishing, 2001. HBB, 087358791X, \$15.95. Small children (Elementary). Rating: 4

E. Kangaroos--Fiction; Etiquette--Fiction; First day of school--Fiction; Schools--Fiction. unsp.

When Elephant goes to a party / by Sonia Levitin; illustrated by Jeff Seaver. LCCN 00051008. Flagstaff, Ariz.: Rising Moon, Northland Publishing, 2001. HBB, 0873587510, \$15.95. Small children (Elementary). Rating: 4

E. Elephants--Fiction; Etiquette--Fiction; Parties--Fiction. unsp.

Everyone knows what happens when you give a mouse a cookie, but what about when you take Kangaroo to school? She wants to do everything that a normal child does. She wants to do share and tell and have a yummy lunch. She rides the school bus without being noisy and sits in a special desk without scratching her name into it. She raises her paw for permission to speak and she waits in line for the jungle gym. She even e-mails a friend in Australia, participates in a fire drill, and gets ready for Open House because she is the smartest kangaroo in school.

When Elephant goes to a party she picks just the right frock and paints her toenails and picks just the right gift to give to the birthday girl. She answers questions politely, does not climb on

the furniture, and is careful not to break anything. She waits until food is offered and waits for her turn in the games. She never pushes the others, does not snoop, and never calls her relatives in Africa and Arabia on someone else's phone. Elephant says goodbye without getting everything wet with elephant tears, because she had a lovely time and wants to be invited again.

In *When Kangaroo Goes to School* and *When Elephant Goes to a Party*, Sonia Levitin has done a delightful job of telling a charming and humorous story while instructing children on the proper way to behave at school or at a party. The elephant book concludes with a page of fun elephant facts. Reading these books would give young children confidence to face these life challenges. Third and fourth graders may still enjoy the books as they identify with Elephant and Kangaroo and their experiences. The captivatingly comic illustrations by Jeff Seaver add just the right touch. They are at once humorous and endearing. These would be especially good books for an older sibling to share with a younger brother or sister.

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

Where do I sleep : a Pacific Northwest lullabye / Jennifer Blomgren; illustrated by Andrea Gabriel. (The Dove Award signature series.) LCCN 2001020940. Seattle: Sasquatch Books, 2001. HBB, 1570612587, \$15.95. Small children. Rating: 3

E. Animals--Infancy--Fiction; Sleep--Fiction; Lullabies; Stories in rhyme. unsp.

Where Do I Sleep? is a charming picture book for first-timers author Jennifer Blomgren and illustrator Andrea Gabriel. What makes this particular nocturnal picture book so appealing is how it features animals from all around the Pacific Northwest. The soothing text is accompanied by equally soothing illustrations. Children will delight in reading of the more familiar—bears, wolves, deer, and fox; and will have fun learning about the lesser known animals like puffins and water dippers. There is, in fact, a little something for all animal lovers, whether they be from the Pacific Northwest or not. The sing-song text found in *Where Do I Sleep?* and the appealing illustrations explore a variety of animal nocturnal habits. It ends showing a small child wrapped snug in his or her own bed surrounded by favorite stuffed animals, conveying how special it is to be warm and tucked in for the night.

Reminiscent of Margaret Wise Brown's *Goodnight Moon*, *Where Do I Sleep?* is a charming entry to the overflowing market of lullaby stories. The collaboration of a localized theme, winsome illustrations, and lyrical text place this book as a definite consideration to any library collection, or as a gift idea. This would be an especially useful addition to zoo gift shops and nature museums. Jennifer Blomgren takes

her readers from the heights and depths all over the Northwest, providing a guided tour of a generous land of flora and fauna, while gently lulling little ones to sleep

Pam Webb, School Library Technician II, Sandpoint, Idaho

Why should I? : all about obedience. (Mr. Henry's wild & wacky world; 2.) Nashville: Tommy Nelson, Thomas Nelson, 2002. VID, 0849977487, \$12.99. Small children. Rating: 3

E. Obedience--Fiction. 1 video, col., 40 min.

Come spend some time in Mr. Henry's rustic workshop. Today our friend is hiding from God. During our visit with Mr. Henry, we play four games, watch two Bible stories, and even jam with his bluegrass band. Most importantly we learn the truth about obedience and we find out that one can never hide from God.

Expanding upon his audio series, this is Frank Peretti's first video in Mr. Henry's Wild and Wacky World. Peretti takes the role of Mr. Henry, talking right to the viewer. *Why Should I? All About Obedience* approaches the theme of obedience in many different ways. The "boxing match" between Jonah and God has interesting animation, is true to the Biblical account, and is fun to watch. The comic asides in the live version of Adam and Eve are distracting and have a sarcastic feel to them. Frank Peretti's band is great but they come and go so fast you wonder if they were really there at all. Sir Curious (a robot), Harriet (the moosehead on the wall), and Bubbles (the fish) involve the listener in playing games and solving puzzles. The answers are obvious, patronizing the older viewer. But they are used as a teaching tool, as the discussion between the answer choices reinforces the key points on obedience.

I prefer the audio CD/cassette from Mr. Henry's Wild and Wacky Totally True Bible stories titled *All About Obedience* (also from Tommy Nelson publishing). Along with the Jonah tale, it has three other Bible stories (no games or puzzles, no rustic workshop). The audio version also has jokes, embellishments, and interesting narration to keep the listener interested. It teaches about obedience too, but gives a broader scope of God's people obeying (and disobeying) him.

The video is more focused on specific lessons for the viewer to take with him/her. It is entertaining, and kids will laugh. By using Scripture and offering a variety of activities, this forty-minute video really does teach important lessons about obedience, in a fun format, most appropriate for middle elementary aged children.

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

***The Wild Rattle in the Woods*, written by Becky Freeman; (Camp Wanna Banana mysteries; 1) LCCN 00068636. Colorado Springs: WaterBrook Press, 2001. PAP, 1578563496, \$5.95. Small children. Rating: 3.**

E. Twins – Fiction; Brothers and sisters – Fiction; Camps – Fiction; Christian life – Fiction.

Ten year old twins Jake and Joy and their pet monkey Munch-Munch are helping their parents clean up Camp Wanna Banana, a camp in Arizona which they own, before the summer campers start to arrive. Joy is not really happy, though, because she longs for a “kindred spirit” like “Anne of Green Gables.” Her mother reminds her that her brother is a friend. Joy thinks he is rather goofy and that they have nothing in common, however she decides to spend the day with him. They encounter mysterious rattling noises and Joy is afraid that they are hearing rattlesnakes! They find a lone cabin in the woods and Jake sees someone running outside. He devises a plan to find out who it is and what is causing “The Wild Rattle in the Woods.” As they solve the mystery, Joy finds that God does provide for her and knows her desires. She also discovers that her brother is more inventive, funny and brave than she ever gave him credit for.

In *The Secrets of Thief Cave* the exploits of Jake and Joy continue but this time the campers have arrived and Jake and Joy are sharing their adventures with twins Marco and Maria, who have become their closest friends. This time Jake is having a rough time. First Joy accuses him of “borrowing” her gold locket for a fishing lure. Later while exploring with Marco in the woods he overhears Mr. Grant the greedy bank president talking with Rick, a geologist, about taking over the camp and building condos! He is so infuriated that he loses his temper and attacks Mr. Grant and Marco must restrain Jake. Afterward he is discussing these events with his father when word comes that Mr. Grant is accusing him of stealing his watch. Jake’s dad tells him that he must learn to practice self-control, relax and trust God to set his problems right. Jake and Joy set out to discover the thief and figure out a way to help save the camp, but then Jake discovers something that makes him suspect Marco!

The new series “Camp Wanna Banana Mysteries” by Becky Freeman are an innocent and pleasant diversion for young readers who are just learning to read chapter books and yet still provide enough adventure for fourth or fifth graders. Children will not only be able to identify with Jake and Joy and their true to life problems but will be reminded that God guides and helps us in every situation. In addition, each volume contains recipes, games and crafts suggestions at the conclusion of the stories.

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

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You are mine / Max Lucado; illustrations by Sergio Martinez. LCCN 2001000235. Wheaton, Ill.: Crossway Books, Good News Publishers, 2001. HBB, 1581342764, \$15.99. Small children. Rating: 5

E. Conduct of life--Fiction; Self-acceptance--Fiction. 31 p.

A little wooden person named Punchinello lives in Wemmicksville along with other Wemmicks carved by the woodworker Eli. When the other Wemmicks begin collecting more and more boxes and balls, Punchinello sells all his possessions to buy all the boxes and balls he can buy. He spends all his time working and ignores his friends’ request to play with them. He wants to feel that he is important; he thinks that having more toys will make him a good Wemmick. As he is striving to prove his importance, Punchinello accidentally stumbles into Eli’s workshop. There the Wemmick-maker explains to Punchinello that he has not only sacrificed his possessions, but also his happiness, his friends, and especially his trust in his maker to make him happy. Although he has made that mistake, Eli invites him to stay—and reminds him,

You’re special because of who you are.

You are mine. I love you.

You Are Mine is a sequel to Max Lucado’s best-selling *You Are Special* (CLJ, March/May 1998, p. 13). The high quality full-color illustrations by Sergio Martinez maintain perfectly the flavor of the earlier book. (Some young children may look in vain for the stars and dots they remember from *You Are Special*.) While the two books share the theme of self-acceptance, they point out different fallacies in the search for significance. *You Are Special* shows that the opinion of others pales in light of the Creator’s love. *You Are Mine* demonstrates the costs, as well as the futility, of relying on possessions for self-worth. Each book makes an important contribution, and does so with engaging and convincing artistry. If the lessons that grow out of these delightful stories inoculate children against falling for such fallacies, as adults they may be spared much heartache.

Donna W. Bowling, Graduate Institute of Applied Linguistics Library, Dallas, Texas

You’re a brother, Little Bunny! / by Maribeth Boelts; illustrated by Kathy Parkinson. LCCN 2001000804. Morton Grove, Ill.: Albert Whitman, 2001. HBB, 0807594466, \$14.95. Small children. Rating: 3

E. Rabbits--Fiction; Babies--Fiction; Brothers--Fiction. unpag.

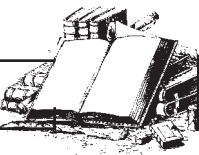
In the tradition of books like *A Baby Sister for Frances*, this one tells of a child’s jealousy over a new baby. In *You’re a Brother, Little Bunny, Little Bunny* is at first excited about the prospect of being a big brother, but when the baby bunny finally arrives, he discovers that the adults have less attention for him. He resents it until they

take baby Kale to school for a special show and tell.

The story is sweet and well done, though the plot is very familiar. The family is a human-style rabbit family with good family values displayed. The pictures are colorful, and the rabbits look cuddly and loveable. Though the book is typical in some ways, it is still nicely done in both text and illustration.

The book has a nice family tone to it. It would do fine in any library or for families, especially those facing a new arrival, with children already in the house. The parent-child bond shown is good, and the parents, while busy with the baby, also work to give time to the older child. It will most appeal to preschool through first graders because of the simple story and good pictures.

Betsy Ruffin, Librarian/Teacher, Cleburne, Texas



About-face space race / Robert Elmer; illustrated by Paul Turnbaugh. (AstroKids; 5.) LCCN 2001003949. Minneapolis: Bethany House, 2001. PAP, 0764223607, \$4.99. Elementary. Rating: 4

F. Space stations--Fiction; Christian life--Fiction; Science fiction. 108 p.

Theodore "Tag" Ortiz, the youngest of the AstroKids aboard space station CLEO 7, tells the story of the 2175 Martian Mega-Marathon space scooter race. The two girls on the AstroKids team, "DeeBee" Ortiz (Tag's older sister) and Kumiko "Miko" Sato work on their space scooter only to have Tag give it a trial drive when their backs are turned and end up upside-down in the workshop. Meanwhile, Vladimir "Mir" Chekhov expects his new T-1 space scooter to arrive on the next space shuttle. It looks awesome on the outside of the box, but who knows that it needs to be assembled? And that it is a "tangle of teeny, tiny titanium techno-things?" How will they ever get it assembled in time for the space scooter race? Enter Deeter Meteor, the antagonist, whose space scooter is all-together a hot number. How will the AstroKids deal with his ridicule of their homemade scooters? And can either of the two AstroKids scooters win against Deeter's "triple-charged 454 hyperion drive?" Tag comes to the rescue with a good idea—take the best parts of the girl's scooter and the best parts of Mir's and put them into one great scooter! For that great idea the AstroKids decide that Tag will get to drive it.

As Tag takes the AstroKids scooter through its paces heading for Mars—that tiny bright spot between the Andromeda Galaxy and Deneb, suddenly there is an explosion in Deeter's scooter. This is Tag's chance to win. Will he pass Deeter by with a smile and win the race, or will the "love your enemies" theme of the book win out? Kids interested in science fiction and space stories will love this book.

Robert Elmer successfully integrates Tag's pretend Amazing Adventures of Captain Cosmos, as well as his ability to call people and things by their name spelled backward—for example, nworq pu. Grown up! In addition, the story is filled with space jargon that children will love. Paul Turnbaugh's black and white sketches help identify the characters and make the reader aware of the multi-racial space team.

Helen Hunter, Freelance Writer/Editor, Cedar Rapids, Iowa

Adventure stories that will thrill you. (Reading rainbow readers.) LCCN 2001034403. New York: Seastar, North-South Books, 2001. HBB, 1587171015, \$14.95; PAP, 1587171023, \$3.99. Elementary. Rating: 4

F. Short stories. 64 p.

Adventures Stories That Will Thrill You is a Reading Rainbow Reader. These readers are a great concept. They make a book by combining chapters from longer works around a common theme. The common theme for this book is "adventure." Each chapter stands alone as a short story. Authors included are Arnold Lobel, Betsy Byars, Cynthia Rylant, Stephen Krensky, and Megan McDonald. From Frog and Toad trying to be brave, to sitting out a hurricane, to Poppleton's first sailing trip, each adventure combines humor and drama.

There are so many reasons to like this little collection. First, a reader who is just transitioning to independent reading can read a "chapter book," yet not have to remember every detail from the previous chapters in order to carry the story forward. Second, the writing styles are distinct enough to give the children exposure to variety. Third, the illustrations provide wonderful variety as well. Fourth, while a child might be drawn to the book because it has a selection from Poppleton or Frog and Toad, the child will meet new authors, whetting his appetite for their works as well. Fifth, the chapters selected are so good, a child can't help but want to read the larger works. Finally, at \$3.99 this is a great bargain for librarians—variety, good writing, and inexpensive enough to order several!

Kelley Westenhoff, Parent-Librarian, Dominion Christian School, Oakton, Virginia

Auntee Edna / written by Ethel Footman Smothers; illustrated by Wil Clay. LCCN 98049252. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans' Books for Young Readers, Wm. B. Eerdmans, 2001. HBB, 0802851541, \$16.00. Elementary. Rating: 4

F. Aunts--Fiction; Cake--Fiction; Baking--Fiction. unsp.

Tokee is having a "stale" day. How boring to have to stay all day at Auntee Edna's! She's so boring that she doesn't even have a TV, and if that wasn't bad enough, her big sister Reba is going off with Geraldine, a new friend. "Stale, stale, stale." But Auntee Edna has some surprises for Tokee. First they make teacakes together—from scratch and even without a recipe being written down! As they are preparing the ingredients Auntee Edna

entertains Tokee with stories from her youth. She describes flour sack clothes, gathering eggs, and being kicked by a cow. Soon Tokee is laughing with her. After they cut out teacakes with a jar, they go to find a button to replace one of Tokee's missing ones. Auntee Edna has quite a button collection with some dating back over a hundred years. Then they make a toy with a button and string called a zoo-zoo. While the baked cookies are cooling, Auntee Edna gives Tokee paper bag rollers all over her head. Finally Reba returns and they all enjoy teacakes, paper bag rollers, and fireflies together.

Ethel Footman Smothers has done an exceptional job of portraying the wisdom and the gifts that older generations have to share with contemporary children in her gentle story *Auntee Edna*. The illustrations by Wil Clay are an additional treat. The luminescence in the oil on canvas paintings is lovely. Tokee's boredom is typical and true to life, but we all should have an "old-fashioned" Auntee Edna to show us that we don't need technology to have fun. Tokee not only has her eyes opened but draws closer to her aunt. This would be an excellent book to have grandparents and other older relatives share with a child.

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

Belle Teal / Ann M. Martin. LCCN 00136292. New York: Scholastic, 2001. HBB, 0439098238, \$15.95. Elementary. Rating: 4

F. Family life--Fiction; Schools--Fiction. 214 p.

Belle Teal lives with her mother and grandmother in the tiny town of Coker Creek, where everyone knows everything about everyone. Belle's dad died before she was born, so her mother works long, hard hours to provide for the three women. Grandma prepares the meals, and all goes pretty well, until she starts calling Belle by different names and believes every place is Sunday school.

Belle begins fifth grade in the early nineteen sixties, and experiences the first year of racial integration. Belle and her best friend, Clarice, make friends with Darryl, the new African-American boy in their class, and decide to invite him to the Halloween party. Little Boss, a friend-enemy of Belle's, and his friends find out, and give the trio a hard time. Belle and Darryl secretly decide to play a trick by switching costumes at the last minute. When the ruse is revealed, shock and anger reverberates through the party. The worst reaction is from Big Boss, Little Boss' dad, and not long after the party, Big Boss spreads a rumor that Darryl has shot Little

Boss in the foot. Little Boss soon reveals the truth to Belle, that he accidentally shot himself in the foot, and he and his father move out of town.

Belle Teal by Ann M. Martin is a light book about some heavy racial issues. Martin is best known for her Baby-sitter Club series for juveniles and her light journals for teen girls. Though not a Mildred Taylor classic (*Roll of Thunder, Hear my Cry*, Dial Press, 1976), Martin presents a good first-exposure-to-civil-rights tale from the perspective of a small town, white girl. Recommended for all children's collections, as well as classroom reading to introduce the sensitive issue to second graders and up.

Kim Harris, Librarian, Newman Riga Library, Churchville, New York

Boy who was generous with salt / by Corinne Demas; illustrated by Michael Hays. LCCN 99055535. Tarrytown, N.Y.: Cavendish Children's Books, Marshall Cavendish, 2002. HBB, 0761450998, \$15.95. Elementary. Rating: 4

F. Cooks--Fiction; Birthdays--Fiction; Sea stories. ump.

Eight year old Ned must help support his family and so the captain of the sailing ship Adeline, who is a cousin of his deceased father's, has agreed to hire Ned as a cook. Fortunately Ned knows something about cooking from his mother, whom he is reluctant to leave. But he especially hates to say goodbye to his younger sister Nancy who gives him a cloth filled with lavender to remind him of home. Once aboard, the vessel leaves Wellfleet Harbor and sails past Cape Cod out into the deep ocean. Ned asks Ezra, the first mate, when they will return because his birthday is July 25th and he wants to celebrate with his family. Ezra replies that they will return when they've "wet the salt," meaning when the salt used for preserving the cod they catch is gone. Ned fights his homesickness and works hard and is generous with the salt when he packs the cod but it looks like it will never run out. Each night he dreams of home but during the day he works hard to earn his money and then to catch cod himself with which he earns extra money. Will he make it home before he is nine?

The Boy Who Was Generous With Salt by Corinne Demas does a fine job of evoking an era when children sometimes had to work at strenuous jobs at young ages. Readers will identify with Ned's longing for home. The way he uncomplainingly works hard but does what he can to speed the day by being generous with the salting of the cod is a good illustration for children of working responsibly to achieve a goal. The lovely canvas paintings by Michael Hays are full of light and movement. This is a wonderful book for all ages but would be especially useful in conjunction with American history curriculum.

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

Butterflies and lizards, Beryl and me / by Ruth Lercher Bornstein. LCCN 2001047473. New York: Marshall Cavendish, 2001. HBB, 0761451188, \$14.95. Elementary. Rating: 3

F. Depressions--1929--Fiction; Eccentrics and eccentricities--Fiction; Interpersonal relations--Fiction; Old age--Fiction; Moving, Household--Fiction; Missouri--Fiction. 144 p.

Charley (Charlotte) has problems. Due to the Great Depression, Charley and her mother have to move from the exciting city to the b-o-r-i-n-g country. While her mother is fortunate to have even the stinky job at the cannery, Charley is sad because her father is not with them and resentful at the move. A petty thief, Charley enters the garden of the eccentric neighbor, planning to steal a bicycle she sees there. Instead, the neighbor, Beryl, invites Charley to tea. Through Beryl's confusion about Tommy, but her firm resolution that Charley has come to help her, Charley finds herself helping Beryl despite her intentions not to do so. Thus begins a friendship that assists Charley in becoming a better person. When Beryl's friend Walt, a hobo, shows up, Charley learns even more about the beauty of unconditional love.

Butterflies and Lizards, Beryl and Me captures the smell and color of a country morning as seen for the first time through a city child's eyes. Ruth Lercher Bornstein, an artist, describes with fascinating detail Charley's thoughts and actions of drawing and coloring. One can almost get a piece of paper and crayons and duplicate the drawings based on her words. Eleven years old, angry and unsupervised, Charley makes some poor choices, but her relationship with Beryl helps her move beyond her selfishness. Her volatile relationship with her mother eases towards hope in the end. Because of Beryl, Charley finally begins to understand the frailties of all humans, and to accept them as they are—even her still absent father. This book will appeal to the more proficient reader, ages nine to eleven, and would be a good starting point for discussions about life during the Great Depression.

Kelley Westenhoff, Parent-Librarian, Dominion Christian School, Oakton, Virginia

The copycat mystery / created by Gertrude Chandler Warner; illustrated by Hodges Soileau. (Boxcar children mysteries; 83.) LCCN 2001017899. Morton Grove, Ill.: Albert Whitman, 2001. HBB, 0807512966, \$13.95; PAP, 0807512974, \$3.95. Elementary. Rating: 3

F. Brothers and sisters--Fiction; Orphans--Fiction; Practical jokes--Fiction; Mystery and detective stories. 137 p.

The haunted clock tower mystery / created by Gertrude Chandler Warner; illustrated by Hodges Soileau. (Boxcar children mysteries; 84.) LCCN 2001026561. Morton Grove, Ill.: Albert Whitman, 2001. HBB, 0807554847, \$13.95; PAP, 0807554845, \$3.95. Elementary. Rating: 3

F. Buried treasure--Fiction; Universities and colleges--Fiction; Brothers and sisters--Fiction; Orphans--Fiction; Mystery and detective stories. 137 p.

The mystery of the screech owl / created by Gertrude Chandler Warner; illustrated by Hodges Soileau. (Boxcar children mysteries; special #16.) LCCN 0012281. Morton Grove, Ill.: Albert Whitman, 2001. HBB, 0807554812, \$13.95; PAP, 0807554820, \$3.95. Elementary. Rating: 3

F. Brothers and sisters--Fiction; Orphans--Fiction; Camps--Fiction; Quebec (Province)--Fiction; Mystery and detective stories; Canada--Fiction. 117 p.

The mystery of the tiger's eye / created by Gertrude Chandler Warner; illustrated by Hodges Soileau. (Boxcar children mysteries; special #17.) LCCN 2001026560. Morton Grove, Ill.: Albert Whitman, 2001. HBB, 0807554841, \$13.95; PAP, 080755488X, \$3.95. Elementary. Rating: 3

F. Haunted houses--Fiction; Brothers and sisters--Fiction; Orphans--Fiction; Mystery and detective stories. 121 p.

The summer camp mystery / created by Gertrude Chandler Warner; illustrated by Hodges Soileau. (Boxcar children mysteries; 82.) Morton Grove, Ill.: Albert Whitman, 2001. HBB, 0807554782, \$13.95; PAP, 0807554790, \$3.95. Elementary. Rating: 3

F. Brothers and sisters--Fiction; Orphans--Fiction; Camps--Fiction; Mister and detective stories. 112 p.

The Alden children take a trip back in time when their Aunt Jane surprises them with a visit to Wagner Farmhouse, an old Victorian house that has been turned into a museum. When strange things happen at the museum, the Aldens wonder if the ghost of practical joker Horace Wagner really haunts the house. Or is someone trying to destroy the museum's chances for success?

The Boxcar Children are spending a weekend at Goldwin University for Grandfather's college reunion. They are immediately fascinated by the tall, mysterious clock tower that overshadows the campus. When they learn that a valuable secret from the past lies hidden somewhere at the school, they think the clock tower might hold the key to discovering it.

Grandfather and the children are visiting Broken Moon Pond, where Grandfather used to vacation as a child. The children are enchanted by the beautiful wilderness. But they soon encounter a strange set of coincidences, mishaps, and mysteries that threaten to spoil everyone's fun. When one night they see an empty boat rowing

itself across the water, the Aldens wonder if the pond is really haunted, as the townspeople claim!

Grandfather's college roommate, Edward, has spent years collecting toys, gadgets, and rides from carnivals and state fairs. When the Boxcar Children visit Edward, his mansion seems like a toy-filled paradise for them. But they soon discover that something is very wrong in the old house. Strange music plays in empty rooms, machines turn themselves on and off, and furniture moves itself from room to room. When they find out that the world's most famous magician once performed there, they begin to wonder—could Edward's house be haunted by the ghost of Harry Houdini?

The Boxcar Children are going to summer camp and are looking forward to a week of new friends, exciting activities, and, most of all, the annual camp Olympics. As soon as camp begins, everything begins to go wrong for the Aldens—they lose their luggage, the camp flag disappears from Henry's cabin, and campers on the other team use one of Jessie's ideas to score points for themselves. Are some campers so desperate to win the Olympics that they are willing to cheat?

These books are just five more reasons to invite your children to cuddle up and enjoy a series that celebrates its sixtieth year in publication. Ms. Warner's helpers continue to thrill generations of new readers with these light and delightful additions to her successful series.

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

The cosmic camp caper / Robert Elmer. (AstroKids; 6.) LCCN 2001003950. Minneapolis: Bethany House, 2001. PAP, 0764223615, \$4.99. Elementary. Rating: 4

F. Space stations--Fiction; Christian life--Fiction; Science fiction; Camps--Fiction. 108 p.

The AstroKids are spending three weeks at Camp Little Dipper (located on Jupiter's moon Io) but camp isn't what they expected. Food is nonstop vegetables, and the only recreation is frequent jogs over the camp's rugged cliffs. The girls deep-freeze the guys' underwear (then roof it), and best them at all sports events. Can it get worse? Well, the volcano outside camp just erupted...

Robert Elmer's *Cosmic Camp Caper* is lively and fast-moving, with a delightful blend of slapstick humor, silly wordplay, and just-plain-funny situations that never become mean-spirited, and never talk down to the reader. Buzz, DeeBee, Tag, Miko, and Mir, five friends from CLEO-7, a space station in the year 2175, are wonderfully drawn. They're sometimes rivals (DeeBee's a "genius" who's more mature than the boys; Mir, the station commander's son, can be annoying) but they all truly respect and like each other, despite differences in age, gender, and ethnic background. (The kids are

black, Japanese, Hispanic, and Russian). Paul Turnbaugh's illustrations deftly capture the action, and are often gross in a kid-appealing way: for instance, the shot of Tag spitting out a mouthful of beet juice.

There are robots who act and look human, and Zero-G, the AstroKids' dog, talks—and reasons. The characters refer to space as God's solar system, and prayer and God's presence are constantly referred to. Also, the Real Space Debrief section (an epilog with real-life space facts) mentions scientists' attempts to find life on Jupiter, then refers readers to Isaiah 40:26 for the answer to how life started.

The book's breezy enough to tempt reluctant readers, yet factual enough to satisfy more advanced readers. Libraries may have trouble keeping it on their shelves.

Rosemarie DiCristo, Freelance Writer, The Bronx, New York

Daniel Colton under fire / Elaine Schulte. (Colton cousins adventure series; 2.) LCCN 2001002145. Greenville, S.C.: BJU Press, 1992, 2001. PAP, 1579245641, \$. Elementary. Rating: 5

F. Overland journeys to the Pacific--Fiction; Frontier and pioneer life--Fiction; Christian life--Fiction; Oregon National Historic Trail--Fiction. 137 p.

Soon-to-be-thirteen, Daniel Meriwether Colton accompanies his mother and father and extended family in May of 1848, leaving Independence, Missouri, in a wagon train headed for Oregon following the Lewis and Clark trail. Daniel accepts the responsibility for driving the wagon that contains his cousin, Suzannah Colton, and her sister, Pauline, and her infant. Pauline's husband, Charles Herrington, chooses gambling over taking care of his family. He runs off to squander his family's money, rushing back to the wagon train campsite only when he's in trouble with Indians. Aunt Pearl's new husband Uncle Karl and his son Garth are a dark addition to the wagon train. Both sport sour dispositions which tend to dampen the spirits of the women and children who suffer under their condemnation and ridicule.

Daniel, a city boy who has a growing relationship with God, adjusts to the long, grueling days on the frontier. He carries out his share, as well as Charles' share, of the work in spite of his uncle's and cousin's negative, scolding remarks. At a river crossing when Ned Taylor flounders in the rapid current and nearly drowns, Daniel jumps in to save him. Daniel gets a chance later to tell Ned about another way to be "saved" when he lays out the plan of salvation and Ned trusts Jesus as his own Savior.

Elaine Schulte succeeds in keeping the reader's interest and shows in clear picture-language how the wagon train encounters both peaceful and warring Indians and a herd of stampeding buffalo, in addition to dealing with storms, heat, cold, and dust. The reader can almost feel the hardships endured by the emigrants: hunger, thirst, and fatigue—hardships that most of them

could never have imagined when they left their comfortable homes. The importance of family staying together is emphasized, no matter what is woven throughout the story. The occasional sketches of Johanna Berg Ehnis lend interest to the story.

Helen Hunter, Freelance Writer/Editor, Cedar Rapids, Iowa

The Dreamer / written by Dian Layton; illustrations created by Al Berg. (Adventures in the Kingdom; 5.) Shippensburg, Pa.: MercyPlace Ministries, Destiny Image, 2001. PAP, 0970791941, \$. Elementary. Rating: 2

F. Fantasy. 58 p.

Fifth in the "Adventures in the Kingdom" series, *The Dreamer* features Moira, a pre-teen girl who longs to see the World Outside the Kingdom. Dazzled by images in slick magazines of new friends such as Luxury, Sophistication, and Glamour, Moira runs away to seek True Happiness. Her brother Seeker and her friends in the Adventure Club run to the King to ask him to make Moira come back to the Kingdom. The King tells them that when someone goes Outside, He cannot make her come back. He adds the one thing they can do for her is to talk to the King each day in the Secret Place. The King promises, however, that the moment she calls Him, He will answer. While Moira is Outside she experiences hardship and walks with Loneliness but still keeps her invitation from the King, which is instrumental in getting her home. At one point Outside, Moira is roughly ejected from a doorway, but nothing that would be disturbing to young readers happens to her.

Dian Layton's attempt to blend Christian allegory in the tradition of John Bunyan with the fantasy genre, which is so popular, almost succeeds. Elements of both are present, yet neither fantasy nor allegory develops completely or coherently. References to earlier adventures make the text choppy and reliance on dialogue to move the story along rather than description makes the dialogue stilted. The age range of nine to twelve is difficult as well. Younger children will enjoy the story, but might miss the allegory. Older children might understand the allegory but be put off by the childlike pencil illustrations and large print. However, with discussion between chapters, this could be a good class read-aloud for the age group eight to ten. The prayer and Bible verses at the end can aid in discussion.

Kelley Westenhoff, Parent-Librarian, Dominion Christian School, Oakton, Virginia

Five smooth stones : Hope's diary / by Kristiana Gregory. (My America.) LCCN 00044662. New York: Scholastic, 2001. HBB, 0439148278, \$8.95. Elementary. Rating: 3

F. Philadelphia (Pa.)--History--Revolution, 1775-1783--Fiction; United States--History--Revolution, 1775-1783--Fiction; Diaries--Fiction. 109 p.

Live the daily life of a young girl during the time of the Revolutionary War by reading *Five Smooth Stones*. In her diary, Hope chronicles a year in her life as tensions mount between the Tories and Patriots in 1776. Her father has gone—to which side she does not know. Next her brother Ethan proclaims he is a Tory and leaves home. To complicate matters, Hope's mother discovers she is pregnant soon after. It is a frightening and confusing time for a young girl, and readers will experience some of Hope's emotions as they are carried along in the entries of her journal.

Also included with this historical fiction selection are notes on actual life in 1776, complete with photos, several pages of information on the author, and a list of other books in the My America series. Written on a reading level of 3rd grade, elementary school students in the earlier grades will enjoy and easily comprehend *Five Smooth Stones*, as well as it being an excellent read aloud for a classroom.

Cecil Carey, Young Adult Librarian, Public Library, Plano, Illinois

Freedom's wings : Corey's diary / by Sharon Dennis Wyeth. (My America.)
LCCN 0059540. New York: Scholastic, 2001. HBB, 0439141001, \$8.95.
Elementary. Rating: 4

F. Underground railroad--Fiction; Fugitive slaves--Fiction; Slavery--Fiction; African-Americans--Fiction; Diaries--Fiction. 108 p.

In 1857, nine-year-old Corey watches as his friend's mother is sold to another slave owner, and her son remains with Masser Hart, the man who owns Corey and his family. Corey learns to read and write from his Daddy, but is told to tell no one. Slaves aren't allowed to read and write. Daddy also teaches Corey to sing different birds' songs. One day, Corey overhears Masser Hart offer to sell Daddy. Mama and Corey convince Daddy to run away. With the help of workers in the Underground Railroad, Corey and Mama escape. Masser Hart offers a lot of money for the return of Corey and his family, so greedy slave trackers try hard to find them. Mama is pregnant, and more tired and scared every day. While Corey continues to search for Daddy, Mama stays with people who hide her until her baby arrives. Corey nearly dies of hunger and exhaustion before he finds Daddy. Corey and Daddy go back for Mama and the new baby sister. They are a family, once again, as they travel north to Canada and freedom.

Freedom's Wings: Corey's Diary, by Sharon Dennis Wyeth, is a My America book. Written in the style of a young boy's diary, the theme of human cruelty via slavery unfolds. Through the innocent eyes of young Corey, each passage rings with clarity, as he absorbs both the hatred and kindness of the adults around him, in this confusing world, where the color of a person's skin determines whether or not he/she is free. My America series, the recent boys' counterpart to the Dear America series, continues to present

quality information in a quick, easy reading style. This is historical fiction that won't stay on the shelf. Highly recommended for all children's collections.

Kim Harris, Librarian, Newman Riga Library, Churchville, New York

Laura Secord : a story of courage / Janet Lunn; illustrated by Maxwell Newhouse.
LCCN 2001087261. Toronto: Tundra Books, 2001. HBB, 0887765386, \$16.95.
Elementary. Rating:

F. Secord, Laura Ingersoll, 1775-1868--Fiction; Canada--History--War of 1812--Fiction. unsp.

When the war between the British/Canadians and the Americans begins to rage along the border in 1812, Laura Secord has no idea of the courage she has inside herself. She is the gentle soft spoken mother of five and the loving wife of James, who quickly enlists to protect his country from American invaders. James is severely wounded in the shoulder and his kneecap is shattered during the Battle of Queenstown Heights. Laura finds him on the battlefield and gets him home. After having her home looted twice, she is unhappy to find Americans on her doorstep once again, demanding to be fed. While they dine, she hides under a window and hears their plan to surprise and capture Lieutenant Fitzgibbon. Since James is unable to go to give warning, Laura determines to get to his sister's house and ask the men there, but once she arrives she finds no one is available to go. She must do it herself. Twenty miles by foot, through a swamp, avoiding snakes and Yankees, she finally arrives and the eventual battle is a rousing success for the Canadians, permanently settling the border between Ontario and New York.

Laura Secord : A Story of Courage is an exciting and fast paced tale about a true heroine. Janet Lunn has breathed life into Laura and children of all ages will find her story intriguing. It is a short illustrated chapter book and so will probably need to be read to children until about second grade. The wonderful pictures by Maxwell Newhouse are done in a folk art style reminiscent of Grandma Moses and help set just the right tone to draw the reader into the story. There is also a short afterword explaining what happened to Laura and her family after the war. *Laura Secord* is a wonderful example of how one person can change history by acting courageously.

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

Math man / by Teri Daniels; illustrated by Timothy Bush. LCCN 00066585. New York: Orchard Books, Scholastic, 2001. HBB, 0439293081, \$16.95. Elementary. Rating: 5

F. Mathematics--Fiction; School field trips--Fiction; Supermarkets--Fiction. unsp.

Teri Daniels's *Math Man* is set in a grocery store (Mighty Mart) in the fall, where Marnie's elementary school class is on a field trip. Their plans to buy pumpkins for their Halloween celebration keep getting interrupted by the antics of Garth, the stock boy, (also known as Math Man), but in the process, they learn a lot about math. Timothy Bush's amusing illustrations make the field trip and the math look like fun and his marginal illustrations of mice have them explaining the action in mathematical equations.

One funny sequence has the mice running to get away from Garth's rushing feet and unplugging the electric cash register in the process, at which point none of the cashiers can check anyone out because none of them can add the prices up in their heads. Of course, Math Man can—Math Man to the rescue!

One caveat: the text mentions in passing that the field trip is for the purpose of buying pumpkins for Halloween and that the store is decorated with spiders, skeletons, scarecrows, and ghost balloons, but the only signs of Halloween that actually show up in the illustrations are bunches of orange and black balloons in one scene and a small bunch of orange and black balloons printed with bat silhouettes in another. Other than that, it looks like a typical grocery store in the fall. *Math Man* would be a terrific way to add zip to a math lesson and illustrate the way math is used in everyday life.

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

My life as invisible intestines... / Bill Myers. (The incredible worlds of Wally McDoogle; 20.) LCCN 2001042579. Nashville: Tommy Nelson, Thomas Nelson, 2001. PAP, 0849959918, \$5.99.
Elementary. Rating: 2

F. Cheating--Fiction; Christian life--Fiction; Humorous stories. 113 p.

One in a series of the misadventures of Wally McDoogle, *My Life as Invisible Intestines* with Intense Indigestion finds Wally accidentally turned invisible by the OOPS machine. His friend Wall Street, obsessed with money, tries to find a way to make some quick cash off of his dilemma, while another friend, overeater Opera wants him to help the football team. When the FBI gets involved, the whole mess really gets out of hand, and Wally learns the hard way that he shouldn't take shortcuts and give in to cheating.

The book is not highbrow literature by any means, but is definitely written to interest its target audience. It has just enough absurd humor, puns, and mildly gross elements (such as digesting chips showing through Wally) to keep the reader laughing and continuing to read, while the author subtly get across a good message. Wally's general troubles, magnified by the ridiculous situation though they are,

should nevertheless ring true for many readers and the lesson he learns is a worthy one.

The series, *The Incredible Worlds of Wally McDoogie* written by Bill Myers, of which this book is a part, should appeal to older elementary and middle schoolers. Parents need not be averse to buying this book for their children, and school or church libraries seeking alternates to some of the less likable series from secular publishers will want to invest in this novel and some of its mates. The tone and action are kid pleasing, while the lesson and overall work are adult satisfying. It's worth checking out.

Betsy Ruffin, Librarian/Teacher, Cleburne, Texas

Owen Foote, super spy / by Stephanie Greene; illustrated by Martha Weston. LCCN 0060341. New York: Clarion Books, Houghton Mifflin, 2001. HBB, 0618117520, \$14.00. Elementary. Rating: 3

F. Spies--Fiction; Honesty--Fiction; School principals--Fiction; Friendship--Fiction; Humorous stories. 90 p.

What on earth is Owen Foote doing now, wandering around with a pair of his Dad's boxer shorts painted green, brown, and black on his head? *Owen Foote, Super Spy* is Stephanie Greene's fifth adventure about Owen, and this time, becoming a super spy is the name of the game. Owen and his best buddy Joseph practice routine surveillance around the neighborhood, but all they see is boring everyday stuff. When Ben, who has walkie talkies, and Anthony, who has a professional camouflage suit, complete with boots, canteen, and binoculars, join them, they decide to go for the ultimate spy test: spying on ex-marine Mr. Mahoney, the school principal. After the worst happens and they are caught, the boys must each face the consequences in his own way and Owen learns a great deal about honesty and real friendship.

Stephanie Greene has a knack for capturing the true voice of typical nine-year-old boys and her format is perfect for the easy-chapter-book genre. She gets her message across in a light-handed but memorable manner, and boys especially will respond to the humor and identify with Green's likable, but very human hero. Martha Weston's black and white illustrations are scattered throughout the book and will further readers enjoyment of this very funny story. This will be enjoyed both by Owen Foote fans and newcomers to the series.

Lillian Heyvelt, Public Librarian, Denny Ashby Memorial Library, Pomeroy, Washington

The Prophet's kid / Jim Ware. (KidWitness tales; Heritage builders.) LCCN 2001001272. Minneapolis: Bethany House, 2001. PAP, 1561799653, \$5.99. Elementary. Rating: 5

F. Bible. O.T.--History of Biblical events--Fiction; Jews--History--To 586 B.C.--Fiction; Jerusalem--History--Fiction. 116 p.

The Prophet's Kid is an exciting story about the growing up years of the biblical characters Hezekiah, Ezra, and Shub, son of the famous prophet Isaiah. Their disobedience and defiance of rules because they "want to be their own person," causes the boys to ignore the warnings given by their fathers. They end up exploring the forbidden places where the rowdy pagan worshippers offer their abominable sacrifices and idol worship. Lying and deception seem to work for Ezra as he manages to get the three of them out of some pretty sticky situations, but when caught by the chief pagan priest, the boys find that the game is over—and the consequences are life-threatening. Yet, in God's gracious mercy and revelation of Who He is, they slowly come to realize the truth that there is only One God, the Lord God Jehovah.

This excellent read is careful in biblical detail from vintage attire, clay oil pots, goat cheese and raisin cakes, and mud plastered walls on their homes. Jim Ware writes with expertise that draws the reader into the lives of these young boys. This is an outstanding story, sure to stir up questions in young readers, and take them to the biblical accounts of these famous characters. There are young people's questions at the end of the book that enhance the validity of the storyline, and offer answers that may arise from the readership.

Mary McKinney, Editor, Writer, Conference Speaker, Educator, Port Orchard, Washington

A real American / Richard Easton. LCCN 2001053876. New York: Clarion Books, Houghton Mifflin, 2002. HBB, 0618133399, \$15.00. Elementary. Rating: 3

F. Farm life--Pennsylvania--Fiction; Immigrants--Fiction; Coal mines and mining--Fiction; Friendship--Fiction; Pennsylvania--Fiction. 156 p.

Right after his best friend moves away, eleven-year-old Nathan McClelland begins to learn about prejudice, all because of King Coal. Nathan hates what it does. Locals sell out and move away, while coal miners move in. "Italians, mostly," says Mr. Hoople, the rail depot agent in Manorville.

Before long, in spite of his prejudice against the newcomers, Nathan begins to get acquainted with Arturo, one of the boys who works in the coal mine. When Pa finds out, he glares and advises, "Just stay away from them. I've told you what roughnecks they are." Still, Nathan and Arturo develop a friendship. Nathan even offers to help Arturo learn to read so he can become a real American.

Unfortunate circumstances, however, spoil the friendship for a time, in spite of Nathan's attempt to keep it going. An accident at the mine and a threatened strike by the workers fire Nathan with courage that helps save Arturo and his family.

Richard Easton bases *A Real American* on stories his ancestors told, and from those events

he builds timely and believable chapters. Nathan's actions and reactions are appropriate for an eleven-year-old, and because children in many places encounter prejudice in their peers as well as in adults, Easton helps readers visualize the trauma it causes. It's a story that also helps parents understand the harm their prejudice brings as it spills over onto their children.

Easton includes plenty of action and a good range of emotions. He writes visually and in a manner that makes the reader want to turn the page. Readers also learn some about coal mining. Anyone interested in more information will find the bibliography helpful.

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

Roundup of the street rovers / by Dave & Neta Jackson; illustrated by Anne Gavitt. (Trailblazer books.) LCCN 2001002773. Minneapolis: Bethany House, 2001. PAP, 0764222694, \$5.99. Elementary. Rating: 5

F. Brace, Charles Loring, 1826-1890--Fiction; Children's Aid Society (New York, N.Y.)--Fiction; Orphans--Fiction; Orphan trains--Fiction; Christian life--Fiction. 150 p.

Sinking the Dayspring / by Dave & Neta Jackson; illustrated by Anne Gavitt. (Trailblazer books.) LCCN 2001002772. Minneapolis: Bethany House, 2001. PAP, 0764222686, \$5.99. Elementary. Rating: 5

F. Paton, John Gibson, 1824-1907--Fiction; Missionaries--Fiction; Minnions--Vanuatu--Fiction; Slave trade--Fiction; Islands of the Pacific--Fiction; Orphans--Fiction. 144 p.

In *Roundup of the Street Rovers*, orphaned Kip O'Reilly sells newspapers to earn a few pennies a day to buy his food. Reverend Charles Brace, who buys his papers from Kip, recognizes him as a leader because of the four younger boys he cares for. Brace encourages him to bring his friends to a meeting at the Children's Aid Society. They hear the Gospel there and are encouraged to eat and sleep for a small daily fee. While there, Kip learns how to make leather shoes.

Other orphans from the tenements of New York City live at the Children's Aid Society and become like family to Kip. Rev. Brace's desire, however, is to find families for the children, saving them from a life of street crime. After traveling to Michigan where he finds Christian families willing to adopt the orphans, he arranges transportation. From New York City to Albany on a paddle wheeler is an exciting adventure, but nothing compared to the train ride to Michigan. In a church meeting families choose each child—each one except Kip. While Kip waits in the train station to be sent back to New York City, a small child begs her mother to take him home. Kip's dream of having a family seems to come true, then doesn't. Kip's creative ingenuity, plus his knowledge of working shoe

leather, saves the day and helps the family decide to keep him.

The Jacksons successfully integrate strong fictional characters into captivating, historical stories of "real" Christian heroes in each of their Trailblazer titles. The books are written for, and the stories are told through the eyes of young boys and girls aged eight through thirteen. Readers might be inspired to search for more information about the Christian hero through biographies. Anne Gavitt's black and white sketches add interest to many pages.

In *Sinking the Dayspring*, Kevin Gilmore, orphaned after his mother's death, faces being sent to a "sheep station" in the wilderness of Australia. In spite of his fear of water, he joins the crew of the missionary ship *Dayspring*. The ports of call include New Caledonia and islands in the New Hebrides. At each stop Rev. John Paton shares the Gospel with cannibals and teaches them how to live for Christ. Kevin faces danger from the high seas, hurricanes, and from slave traders who ply the islands capturing natives and selling them in Sydney.

Taken captive along with the *Dayspring*, Kevin's only chance of escape is to leap into the waves during an island storm. The only chance to save the *Dayspring* from a life of slave trading is to cut her anchor and let her crash against the coral reefs.

The Jackson's have crafted a riveting high-seas adventure for eight to twelve-year-olds. The characters are believable and well developed. The art of Anne Gavitt helps children see important scenes in the story. These stories lend themselves to home-schooled children and could lead to a teaching section on a particular era.

Helen Hunter, Freelance Writer/Editor, Cedar Rapids, Iowa

***The runaway valentine* / by Tina Casey; illustrated by Theresa Smythe. LCCN 2001000802. Morton Grove, Ill.: Albert Whitman, 2001. HBB, 0807571784, \$14.95. Elementary. Rating: 4**

F. Valentines--Fiction; Valentine's Day--Fiction. unip.

Victor is a valentine who lives in the Big-O-Matic Card Shop and he is the most beautiful card of all with lots of lace, glitter, and sparkle. Valentine's Day is fast approaching, so he is sure to be purchased soon. But as he cuts to the front of the rack, he falls unnoticed to the floor and lies in a pile of dust. Not to worry, someone will be sure to see him and to pick him up soon. But alas, all that happens is that he is swept out with the trash. Eventually he is folded, written on, dipped in water and has his lace torn off. Ever optimistic, Victor is confident that someone will still see him and want him. A squirrel wants him, but only to chew off his edges for lining for her nest. Then a little girl approaches him where he lays on the sidewalk. But now he is a mess, is it possible that she will want him?

The Runaway Valentine is a sweetly whimsical tale that is reminiscent of the Prodigal's Son in its story of pride, humiliation, and loving restoration. It would be a great book to share on or near Valentine's Day with any grade school aged child because it is so easy to compare it to the true love story between the believer and Christ. The illustrations by Theresa Smythe are cut paper collages with tons of textures and patterns that fit the Valentine's card hero and add interest, humor, and color to an already terrific story.

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

***The starving time* / by Patricia Hermes. (My America.) New York: Scholastic, 2001. HBB, 0439199980, \$8.95. Elementary. Rating: 5**

F. Jamestown (Va.)--History--Fiction; Virginia--History--Colonial period, ca. 1600-1775--Fiction; Diaries--Fiction. 109 p.

October 9, 1609, author Patricia Hermes picks up Elizabeth's *Jamestown Diary* right where Elizabeth left her first diary of Jamestown in Book I of this My America series. Elizabeth's best friend, Jessie Bolton, has left aboard the ship bound for England and Elizabeth feels that life is just about as bleak as it can get. Her only solace is in the blank pages of the ship's log which the captain has sent ashore for her to replace her first diary which her friend, Captain Smith, is delivering to Elizabeth's brother Caleb in England. The family's high hope is that Caleb will return with the ship in the spring when it brings supplies from England. In the meantime, Elizabeth and her family must survive the winter with few rations.

Elizabeth's loneliness is soon filled by the friendship she develops with Mary Dobson, a girl she had previously disliked intensely. It is this friendship and her own stubborn determination which carries Elizabeth through the famine winter of 1609 in Jamestown, Virginia. One by one Elizabeth watches both the good and the bad of Jamestown slowly die of starvation and disease. When her own family is struck by both starvation and "the flux," Elizabeth embarks on a self-directed mission to try to get help from her Indian friend, Pocahontas. Elizabeth does get help, though not in any way she would have suspected. Is it enough, or is it too little, too late?

Patricia Hermes has creatively portrayed the story of this bleak "starving time" and all its devastation without losing sight of the hope which managed to carry the strongest of Jamestown through that terrible winter. She never leaves the young reader in dismal despair over the plight of the characters, and even manages to sprinkle the diary with the secret feelings of the young diarist written in code, a technique which is very appealing to the eight to twelve year olds for whom this book is written.

Judy A. Driscoll, Retired Teacher, Poulso, Washington

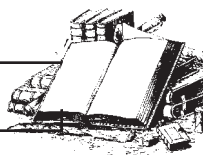
***Véro and Philippe* / Caroline Hatton; illustrated by Preston McDaniels. LCCN 00047651. Chicago: Cricket Books, Carus Publishing, 2001. HBB, 081262940X, \$14.95. Elementary. Rating: 4**

F. Family life--Fiction; Brothers and sisters--Fiction; Vietnamese--France--Fiction; Latchkey children--Fiction; Household employees--Fiction; Paris (France)--Fiction. 120 p.

Véro is a nine-year old French schoolgirl whose family has moved from Normandy to the big city of Paris so her brother Philippe, "Great Scholar," can attend an academy. Véro's parents are immigrants from Viet Nam, yet Véro is thoroughly French. Her homesick feelings quickly dissolve as she makes a new friend at school and adjusts to life in Paris, including adopting a snail for a pet. Francine, the family maid who is awaiting Prince Charming, is responsible for Véro when she isn't in school. But when Francine gets too involved with a boyfriend, Mama finds out, fires Francine and thrusts the responsibility for Véro upon Philippe. At first Véro is delighted, thinking Philippe will have to play with her. He, however, behaves like a typical older brother, alternately ignoring and tormenting Véro. Their close company brings misery though, so finally they join forces in a conspiracy as secret agents to get Francine back. Hilarity follows.

Véro and Philippe is a charming autobiographical novel. Every little sister will see herself in Véro's relationship with Philippe. Every child of immigrants will appreciate Véro's acceptance of her two worlds as normal. Caroline Hatton's depiction of Mama (no nonsense) and Papa (the dreamer) is engaging. Because both parents are working long hours at their pharmacy, Francine's absence causes stress for everyone, which gives them each opportunities to grow. As a family they work through the difficulties and emerge stronger and more appreciative of each other. The two different cultures in the story are backdrops to the essence of being a young girl full of mischief and dreams. The pen and ink drawings by Preston McDaniels capture each of the highlights of the story. Any nine to twelve year old girl will love this.

Kelley Westenhoff, Parent-Librarian, Dominion Christian School, Oakton, Virginia



The memory verse Bible storybook / by K. Christie Bowler; illustrated by Patricia Jaster. LCCN 00054066. Nashville: Holman Bible Publishers, Broadman & Holman, 2001. HBB, 0805494170, \$14.99. Elementary. Rating: 3

220'.076. Bible--Memorizing; Bible--Study and teaching (Early childhood). 159 p.

The Memory Verse Bible Storybook offers sixty passages covering key biblical concepts. Every one page entry has a brief commentary, a verse to memorize, a tip to aid memorization, and an illustration on the following page. There is a How to Use This Book section at the beginning, as well as a collection of memorization helps at the back of the book. Author K. Christine Bowler hopes that memorizing these scriptures will accomplish these purposes: children will "understand God's plan from Creation through the fall to Jesus' ministry, death, and resurrection, and on to heaven; have a basic understanding of how God loves and cares for them; understand the basic truths of the Christian faith; be familiar with Jesus' core teachings, and be introduced to the plan of salvation."

Different aspects of the book will appeal to different children. Both the story summaries and memorization helps are written in clear, straightforward language, appropriate for reading aloud to the early-childhood to middle elementary aged child. It is also suitable for beginning independent readers. Watercolor illustrations, by Patricia Jaster, are on the cute side, geared toward the preschool audience. Some verses are easy and others quite challenging, even for a third or fourth grader to learn. Touching on key events and following the sequential order of the Bible, it provides a good overview of God's plan of salvation. The verses are linked to stories and concepts important as Christian instruction. The verses are great for children to understand but some of the chosen scriptures are not the most essential for memorization.

For those teachers and parents looking for aids to help children memorize, this book offers rebuses, word games, songs, and other tricks. Scriptures quoted are from the Holman Christian Standard Bible.

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

The one year Bible for children / V. Gilbert Beers. LCCN 2001027215. Carol Stream, Ill.: Tyndale Kids, Tyndale House, 2001. HBB, 0842373551, \$14.99. Elementary. Rating: 5

220.9'505. Bible stories. 417 p.

For those looking for a children's devotional, *The One Year Bible for Children* by V. Gilbert Beers is definitely a consideration. The classic four-color Bible illustrations combined with the author's experienced writing makes this a presentation young readers will thoroughly enjoy, and one adults will appreciate. More than just a collection of Bible story highlights, each entry is a thoughtfully worded selection directed towards the comprehension of readers five years and up. The daily readings feature a discussion section that recaptures the essence of the reading, as well elicits further understanding; "Remember" helps to recall the information; "Discover" offers words of wisdom; and "Apply" is a personal application challenge. Children will learn from the stories even if they don't pursue the discussion questions, and adults can easily use this section as a springboard for further comprehension.

The book is divided into the Old Testament and New Testament, and provides a balance between the traditional story format and a devotional. Most entries are scarcely a page, yet are not so condensed that the content and meaning is lost. Language is understandable, without being oversimplified, and the format is appealing enough to keep readers interested as they mature.

This selection is decidedly one to consider for a gift, especially for special occasions or Sunday School promotions. *The One Year Bible for Children* is also adaptable for family devotions when there is a mix of ages, and teachers, both church and school, will find the format useful.

Pam Webb, School Library Technician II, Sandpoint, Idaho

Adventures from the Bible : creation to Moses / produced and directed by Rina Risitano; art direction, Carl Gover. Worcester, Pa.: Gateway Films, Vision Video, 2001. VID, 1563645556, \$14.99. Elementary. Rating: 3

221.9. Bible stories--O.T.; Finger play. 1 video, col., 26 min.

Young Jon is writing a report for school on the greatest love story when his mouse pulls him into his computer. He meets The Scribe who says the greatest love story is "Shema" (Jewish confession of faith). They are transported to the creation of the world where Adam and Eve are given freedom to choose, but listening to a dark voice, disobey. They have two sons Cain and Abel, only one of whom gives his best to God. This begins a downward spiral until the earth has to be cleansed. Jon and The Scribe now participate in the story of Noah, and The Scribe

explains the idea of "covenant." After the flood, the promise begins with Abraham and continues with Jacob and Joseph who keep the covenant with God. Years later, Moses is God's Chosen and leads the Israelite slaves to freedom after observing the first Passover. The Covenant is then embodied in the Ark of the Covenant as the Israelites continue into the Promised Land. Thus the greatest love story of all is the story of God and His people, but the story has just begun.

Adventures from the Bible, directed by Rina Risitano, is a clever way to present the first five books of the Bible to small children. Some of the stories are condensed for brevity and pace but may peak interest so that teachers or parents can share more with children. Also, there are some minor discrepancies with the Bible that may cause questions for children who know The Word. (Ex: Adam and Eve are tempted together and eat together, Moses gets the ten commandments when he sees the burning bush for a second time.) There are some nice symbolic touches such as the hands of God holding the ark and the tie between Joseph's coat and the rainbow. The animation may seem somewhat unsophisticated for older children but overall a very good introduction or overview of the Pentateuch. Would make a nice introduction to why Jesus completes the love story.

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

God is...for me! LCCN 2001004290. Minneapolis: Bethany Backyard, Bethany House, 2001. PAP, 0764225413, \$3.99. Elementary. Rating: 4

231. God; Rebuses. unsp.

Prayer is...for me! LCCN 2001004291. Minneapolis: Bethany Backyard, Bethany House, 2001. PAP, 0764225421, \$3.99. Elementary. Rating: 4

248.3'2. Prayer; Rebuses. unsp.

God Is...for Me! tells about all of the awesome and powerful ways God blesses a child's life—by His Creation, His care and His love for the individual. He has made each child uniquely and proves He loves every person through His Son. Any child can talk to Him whether they are good or bad and at anytime because He is for them.

Prayer Is...for Me! carries on this theme by proclaiming that children can pray anytime. They can thank a gracious and creative God for food or animals. They can make requests for themselves or for others. Their prayers can be

long or short and they can remember to be full of thanksgiving no matter what the answer is.

These two delightful books by Christine Tangvald will capture the attention of any small child. The enchanting cartoons by Tony Griego not only illustrate each point made, but he has also drawn clever rebus pictures to help children learn words. Preschoolers and Kindergartners will love participating in the reading experience by interpreting the rebus pictures.

Both books are told by a child in the first person and conclude with lovely sections full of praise and worship. The rhythm has an easy cadence and makes both books fun to read out loud. These are great books for beginning readers and for discussing the truths of God, His Love, and His Salvation. They have a joyous spirit that is contagious and will charm most young children.

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

Wild & wacky totally true Bible stories : all about Christmas. Nashville: Tommy Nelson, Thomas Nelson, 2001. CAS, 0849979137, \$3.99; CDR, 0849979129, \$5.99. Elementary. Rating: 2

232. Jesus Christ--Nativity; Bible--Stories; Christmas. 1 sound recording, 31 min.

Listen to *All About Christmas*, (part of the Wild and Wacky Totally True Bible Stories audio series), and you will hear the Christmas story delivered in a whole new way. Frank Peretti is Mr. Henry, "a substitute Sunday School teacher who goes wherever he can to tell his stories." Mr. Henry narrates four Bible stories: the lineage of Christ and its importance; Gabriel revealing God's plan for the virgin birth to Mary and Joseph; the couple traveling to Bethlehem where Christ is born in a stable; the shepherds and wise men visiting Jesus and worshipping Him.

Frank Peretti takes these traditional stories and adds action, music, and humorous details. He involves the listener in wild wackiness that is sometimes confusing and distracting. Mr. Henry is the narrator for a play. The "cast of characters" (all Peretti's voice) constantly make comments about their performances. The angel Gabriel forgets (and messes up) his lines and his declarations lead the listener into seeing the angel (not the "actor") as a dufus. Take this, the shepherds' Three Stooges routine, add goofy wise men, and one gets the impression of a lack of reverence.

Mr. Henry has a warmth that makes the listener feel he is a friend. This CD/cassette is most appropriate for children already familiar with the biblical account of Christ's birth, old enough to discern the real story from the silliness. It is funny and elementary/middle school kids will enjoy the laughs. Most likely it is the jokes that they will remember when the stereo is turned off, not the significant details of the virgin birth. To introduce the Christmas story to children,

stick with the Bible or pick other books and tapes with fewer embellishments.

Don't run away from the other CDs in this series. Other titles have similar humor and are truly wacky, but somehow keep the biblical details better intact, teaching valuable lessons to children (my favorite so far: *All About Miracles*).

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

Jesus, this is your life / edited by Jeff Kunkel. LCCN 2001018174. Minneapolis: Augsburg, 2001. HBB, 0806641657, \$12.99. Elementary. Rating: 5

232.9'01. Jesus Christ--Biography; Bible stories. N.T.; Children's writings. 48 p.

Take a room full of children, read them a Bible story, and set them to work creating their own retellings. What is the result? Take a look at *Jesus, This Is Your Life*, and you will find out. Jeff Kunkel has compiled this collection of stories and pictures, the life of Jesus, through the perceptive eyes of children.

The book features forty artists and illustrators, ages five through twelve. Simple language makes it easy for kids to read, and the book is appealing to all ages. Teachers can use the examples to motivate their own students to write and draw, and to help them further understand who Jesus was. Using this book will spark questions, leading to discussions about the Bible. It is a fun read, and insightful too, as we get a fresh perspective on the life of Jesus.

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

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From Akebu to Zapotec: a book of Bibleless peoples, by June Hathersmith; illustrations by Alice Roder. LCCN 2002001735. Orlando, Fla.: Wycliffe Bible Translators, 2002. PAP, 0938978284, \$7.95 (with audio CD \$9.95). Elementary. Rating: 5.

266. Missions; Bible--Translating; Ethnology--Religious aspects--Christianity; Alphabet. 31 p.

Enjoy the sights and sounds of exotic places, together with their feel, smells, and tastes, in this journey to visit twenty-six out of the more than three thousand people groups around the world without the Bible in their "heart language." In *From Akebu to Zapotec*, author June Hathersmith and illustrator Alice Roder have teamed up to present a second alphabet book of Bibleless peoples. Each letter page features a column of simple text describing elements of the way of life for the people group pictured in the accompanying full-color illustration, about eight by eight inches square. Alice Roder's paintings, based on photographs, are embellished by distinctive borders which often highlight something from the pictures or text. Beneath the name of each people group is a guide to its

correct pronunciation. A teacher and photographer, June Hathersmith displays her own artistic nature, appealing to all the senses as she writes about life as seen from a child's perspective. Each page ends with the refrain: "The ... people do not have the Bible in their own language." A world map at the beginning of the book shows the location, including the name of the country, for each of the people groups featured.

Most of the people groups in Wycliffe's earlier book by Karen Lewis, *From Arapesh to Zuni*, published in 1986, [CLJ 6(3):28] now have Bible portions in their own languages. In the introduction to the new book (dedicated to Karen's memory and vision), her friend June Hathersmith thanks the many children and grown-ups who prayed for those peoples in the earlier book, and challenges them to pray that these people groups, too, would receive the Bible in their languages. In view of the urgent need, this exceptional alphabet book is recommended for homes, churches, and Christian schools.

In the optional accompanying audio CD, author June Hathersmith reads the entire book in her delightful British accent. Occasional well-placed, but understated sound effects add realism and variety. At the end, the author shares, from her own experiences overseas, about the importance and value of the Bible translation effort.

Donna W. Bowling, Graduate Institute of Applied Linguistics Library, Dallas, Texas

Adoniram Judson : God's man in Burma / Sharon Hambrick. LCCN 2001002829. Greenville, S.C.: BJU Press, 2001. PAP, 1579246257, \$6.49. Elementary. Rating: 4

266'.61'092. Judson, Adoniram, 1788-1850; Missionaries--Burma--Biography. 144 p.

How did Adoniram Judson become God's man in Burma? Sharon Hambrick answers with this life history of a problem solving man. At three years of age Adoniram surprises his pastor father by solving the problem of reading. His talent for resolution grows throughout school years. Self-assured, in college Judson's faith falters; but after a hard lesson, he invites God into his life, solving this problem. God then sets Judson a big problem, to be the first American foreign missionary. Adoniram contends with doubting friends, family, and church, finding funds, being imprisoned by pirates. Finally, early in the 1800's, he and his wife Ann sail to the frightening land of Burma, where there are no native Christians. Here new problems assail him: a despotic king; debilitating climate; learning the language; the deaths of his dear wife and child. But Judson has learned to hand all his problems to God.

Six years without a convert, Judson's translation of scriptures and compassionate witnessing

finally bear fruit, the first converts come, the church begins to grow.

Written for capably reading third graders through sixth graders, Hambrick's biography, *Adoniram Judson : God's Man in Burma*, simply and interestingly presents the main details of this pioneer missionary's life. Judson's Christian courage and missionary adventures, while sometimes heartbreaking, are exciting and victorious. His upbeat way of handling childhood problems, as well as his fruitful long term reliance on God, encourages readers to emulation.

Hambrick closes with a brief chapter about today's Burmese Christians. Other books about Adoniram Judson have been published by Moody Press, a biography for middle school, and Trailblazer Books, a children's novel. However, Hambrick's distinctive biography is written specifically for third to sixth grade scholars. Recommended for school and church libraries, home schoolers, adults who are learning to read, and as an award book.

Donna J. Eggett, Freelance Writer, Radford, Virginia

Ben Franklin / Connie Roop and Peter Roop. (In their own words.) LCCN 0023183. New York: Scholastic, 2000. HBB, 0439158060, \$12.95. Elementary. Rating: 5

973.3'092. Franklin, Benjamin, 1706-1790; Statesmen; Printers; Scientists. 127 p.

Helen Keller / George Sullivan. (In their own words.) New York: Scholastic, 2000. HBB, 0439147514, \$12.95. Elementary. Rating: 5

362.4'092. Keller, Helen. 128 p.

Christopher Columbus / Peter and Connie Roop. (In their own words.) LCCN 99088546. New York: Scholastic, 2000. HBB, 0439158079, \$12.95. Elementary. Rating: 5

970.01'5'092. Columbus, Christopher; Explorers; America--Discovery and exploration--Spanish. 128 p.

All three of these books from the Scholastic In Their Own Words series begin with a brief overview of the life of the person written about in each book and an explanation (with examples) of primary and secondary sources, their differences, and the importance of using both to form a well-rounded picture of a person's life. Then they go on to paint a word picture of a well-known person's life, using information taken from many primary sources.

They do a fascinating job, too. Are you familiar with the story of how Columbus discovered the New World? I thought I was, too, until I read Peter and Connie Roop's book, *Christopher Columbus*. Its slim size belies its extensive contents, which (in 127 pages) managed to tell me more about the life, voyages, and death of Columbus than I've ever seen mentioned in many much longer school history texts.

It is filled with information gleaned from some of Columbus's actual writings, as well as records of the day, and includes actual quotes, illustrations that depict him, a bibliography of primary and secondary sources that were used by the Roops, and a page called For More Information which includes a web site, information about a museum devoted to him, and the location of a model of the Santa Maria. There is also a chronology and a nice index in the back.

It would make a great addition to a classroom or library collection for use on Columbus Day or with a unit on the exploration and founding of the New World. At a time when political correctness is often attempting to rewrite history, the Roops offer a nicely balanced view of the pros and cons of Columbus's accomplishments, including some of the ways in which Columbus's voyages changed life for the natives as well as the religious reasons he had for the voyages (in addition to his desire for fame and money).

Benjamin Franklin, also by Peter and Connie Roop, and *Helen Keller*, by George Sullivan, follow the same pattern: the story of a famous life using quotes and information taken from primary sources, including illustrations used throughout, and in the back a bibliography, a page of more information, and an index. Ben Franklin's story does not include any information about the illegitimate children he is rumored to have fathered, nor is that issue mentioned on the web site listed in the back.

Helen Keller's story is a powerful one and should be a part of every library that serves youth, since reading it will serve as strong medicine for adolescents whose lives are not going the way they'd like and who are consequently feeling sorry for themselves. Self-pity fades away in the face of all that Keller lived with and overcame! One question I had that was not answered: is George Sullivan, the author of *Helen Keller*, related to Keller's beloved Teacher, Annie Sullivan?

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

S is for show me : a Missouri alphabet / written by Judy Young; illustrated by Ross Young. LCCN 2001042893. Chelsea, Mich.: Sleeping Bear Press, 2001. HBB, 1585360260, \$17.95. Elementary. Rating: 5

977.8. Alphabet; Missouri. unip.

S is for star : a Christmas alphabet / written by Cynthia Furlong Reynolds and illustrated by Pam Carroll. LCCN 2001042891. Chelsea, Mich.: Sleeping Bear Press, 2001. HBB, 1585360643, \$18.95. Elementary. Rating: 5

394.2663. Christmas--Fiction; Alphabet. unip.

S is for sunshine : a Florida alphabet / written by Carol Crane; and illustrated by Michael Glenn Monroe. LCCN 00009984. Chelsea, Mich.: Sleeping Bear Press, 2000. HBB, 1585360120, \$16.95. Elementary. Rating: 5

917.59. Alphabet; Florida--Miscellanea. unip.

A is for America : an American alphabet / written by Devin Scillian; and illustrated by Pam Carroll. LCCN 00012262. Chelsea, Mich.: Sleeping Bear Press, 2001. HBB, 1585360155, \$22.95. Elementary. Rating: 5

973. Alphabet; United States--Miscellanea. unip.

B is for Buckeye : an Ohio alphabet / written by Marcia Schonberg and illustrated by Bruce Langton. LCCN 00010979. Chelsea, Mich.: Sleeping Bear Press, 2000. HBB, 158536004X, \$16.95. Elementary. Rating: 5

977.1. Alphabet; Ohio. unip.

H is for Hoosier : an Indiana alphabet / by Cynthia Furlong Reynolds. LCCN 2001042892. Chelsea, Mich.: Sleeping Bear Press, 2001. HBB, 1585360414, \$17.95. Elementary. Rating: 5

977.2. Alphabet; Indiana. unip.

L is for Lincoln : an Illinois alphabet / written by Kathy-jo Wargin and illustrated by Gijbert van Frankenhuysen. LCCN 2001267944. Chelsea, Mich.: Sleeping Bear Press, 2000. HBB, 1585360163, \$16.95. Elementary. Rating: 5

977.3. Alphabet; Stories in rhyme; Illinois. unip.

L is for lobster : a Maine alphabet / written by Cynthia Furlong Reynolds; illustrated by Jeannie Brett. LCCN 2001020870. Chelsea, Mich.: Sleeping Bear Press, 2001. HBB, 1585360244, \$16.95. Elementary. Rating: 5

974.1. Alphabet; Maine. unip.

L is for Lonestar : a Texas alphabet / written by Carol Crane; illustrated by Alan Stacy. LCCN 2001042895. Chelsea, Mich.: Sleeping Bear Press, 2001. HBB, 1585360198, \$17.95. Elementary. Rating: 5

976.4. Alphabet; Texas. unip.

M is for maple : a Canadian alphabet / written by Mike Ulmer and illustrated by Melanie Rose. LCCN 2001032071. Chelsea, Mich.: Sleeping Bear Press, 2001. HBB, 1585360511, \$19.95. Elementary. Rating: 5

971. Alphabet; Canada. unip.

M is for mitten : a Michigan alphabet / written by Annie Appleford, poems by Kathy-Jo Wargin; illustrated by Michael G. Monroe. LCCN 99033497. Chelsea, Mich.: Sleeping Bear Press, 1999. HBB, 1886947732, \$16.95. Elementary. Rating: 5

977.4. Alphabet; Michigan. unsp.

Sleeping Bear Press, a small publishing house in Chelsea, Michigan, took on a big job—publishing a series of alphabet books that can be used to teach children about the wonders of our country, state by state—and succeeded nicely. The books that have come out to date are both entertaining and informative, using eye-catching titles, clever rhymes, expository text, and beautifully detailed illustrations (some with hidden pictures) to tell about the symbols, history, landmarks, accomplishments, and people of each state, often using authors and illustrators from the state itself.

State information isn't all the folks at Sleeping Bear Press have used the alphabet for, though. Another alphabet book, *S Is for Star*, uses text, rhymes, illustrations, and Bible verses to explain the traditions of Christmas (and to give a biblical account of where Christmas actually started, in the process.) *M Is for Maple: a Canadian Alphabet* introduce readers to our northern neighbor, while *A Is for America* shares the history, people, places, and things from A to Z that make up the USA. All the Sleeping Press alphabet titles can be used from toddler age (when looking at the pictures and listening to the bouncy rhymes will hold their attention) to grade school (at which point children reading the books for themselves will find themselves learning new things in a fun, non-threatening format). They can even be enjoyed by grown-up readers, who may actually discover a fact or two about their own home state that they didn't know before.

An additional offering from Sleeping Bear Press, the companion *A Is for America* CD, introduces the musical talents of Devin Scillian, the author of *A Is for America*, who uses catchy tunes and amusing verses to make bits of American history come alive in such songs as "A Is for America" (sung four times in four different and distinctly American styles ranging from country to barbershop quartet), "You've Got Mail" (about the postal system from the Pony Express to e-mail), "Outhouse Blues" (introducing what came before indoor plumbing) and "Grandpa, Were You Scared?" (about the WW II days of a little boy's soldier grandpa). The third graders at our school loved this and so did I. It is rare to find a CD that can entertain and educate both grown-ups and children; *A Is for America* manages to pull it off.

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

Grimm's fairy tales / illustrated by Arthur Rackham. LCCN 2001034402. New York: Seastar, North-South Books, 2001. HBB, 1587170922, \$19.95. Elementary. Rating: 3

398.2'0943. Fairy tales--Germany; Fairy tales; Folklore--Germany. 160 p.

A cat with a face as long as a wet week, a braggadocios tailor who manages to kill seven at one blow, various beautiful princesses, several little, gnarly men, wise simpletons, foolish elder brothers, plus other old friends greet us in this imaginatively illustrated abridgement of the 1909 edition of *Grimm's Fairy Tales*, illustrated by Arthur Rackham. In fact, the illustrations are the important point here. These twenty two tales are illustrated with no less than forty nine of Rackham's lavish, fantastic, intriguing paintings and dynamic pen and ink drawings. Using the words of the 1909 edition, this book is slightly less expurgated than some fairy tales modern children read. We meet a slightly disobedient Red Riding Hood just before she is eaten by the wolf, as well as a Rapunzel pregnant with twins. And that frog did not metamorphose into a prince via a kiss, but through being smashed against a wall. An afterward gives brief histories of the Grimm Brothers, Arthur Rackham, and the pairing of their talents.

Other collections of these tales are available. Another book, *Rackham's Fairy Tale Illustrations in Full Color*, presents Rackham's work. What makes this book distinctive is the marrying of the two in a new edition. If your library does not have Grimm's tales illustrated by Rackham, this book is a worthwhile edition. The morals behind the stories are obvious for both children and adults. Magical enchantments and beings appear in some of the stories. Today's science fiction stories arose from these tales, making this book useful for young fantasy and science fiction writers and buffs. Families and classes will enjoy reading these stories together and acting them out. With its front cover beautifully displaying Rackham's painting of the original Cinderella, Ashenputtal, *Grimm's Fairy Tales* will intriguingly decorate any coffee table.

Donna J. Eggett, Freelance Writer, Radford, Virginia

Baa baa black sheep / as told and illustrated by Iza Trapani. LCCN 00043843. Watertown, Mass.: Whispering Coyote, Charlesbridge, 2001. HBB, 1580890709, \$16.95; PAP, 1580890717, \$6.95. Elementary. Rating: 4

398.8. Nursery rhymes; Children's poetry. unsp.

"Baa Baa Black Sheep, have you any wool?" Yes, she has wool for her master and her dame and even for the little boy who lives down the lane. But when three little kittens come to her door to ask for milk, the formerly agreeable sheep tells them that she does not have any. A starving hog asks for some slop, but she is out, and neither does she have hay for a horse. She

also responds negatively to a dog who wants a bone and to a cardinal who has lost his seed to the squirrels. Finally, after she turns down a mouse's request for cheese, all of the animals demand to know why she always tells them "no." What they don't know is that she has been knitting a surprise for each of them!

Iza Trapani has elaborated upon the old familiar rhyme with these charming verses about the black sheep's interactions with her animal friends. Trapani's illustrations are crammed with color and life and the sheep's reason for turning down her friends' requests fits in with the original purpose of the rhyme—that sheep provide wool. Young children will love the humorous and captivating pictures and will insist on singing along. The complete text is provided along with the music on the last page so that the poem may enjoyed as a song. This book could also be a good starter as a poetry writing exercise with older children who may want to expand on their own favorite rhymes.

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

Q is for quark : a science alphabet book / written by David M. Schwartz; illustrated by Kim Doner. LCCN 00010659. Berkeley: Tricycle Press, 2001. HBB, 1582460213, \$15.95. Small Children. Rating: 5

500. Science--Miscellanea; Alphabet. 64 p.

G is for googol : a math alphabet book / written by David M. Schwartz; illustrated by Marissa Moss. LCCN 98015162. Berkeley, Calif.: Tricycle Press, 1998. HBB, 1883672589, \$16.95. Elementary. Rating: 5

510. Mathematics; Alphabet. 57 p.

David M. Schwartz has an amazing ability to take difficult concepts and translate them into language that kids (and adults!) can easily understand. After dazzling readers with an explanation of huge numbers and high finance in his titles, *How Much Is a Million?* and *If You Made a Million*, he's now turned his mind to defining terms in the worlds of science and math. After talking with a long list of teachers, professors, science writers, and scientists, Schwartz distilled what he learned into words the average reader can better understand in his book, *Q is for Quark*. After choosing a scientific term for each letter of the alphabet and thoroughly explaining it (or, in the case of C is for Clone, explaining it twice, on two pages, exactly the same on both... cloned, as it were), he gives additional terms for each letter (which are then defined in the glossary in the back of the book, with a bit less detail and no illustrations); the location for each defined term can be found quickly in the index that is included in the back.

Schwartz's words are given added oomph by Kim Doner, whose colorful and amusing illustrations include many funny (and pun-ny)

gags and jokes in the margins. A few quick examples: on V is for Vortex, a completely plucked live chicken standing on a yellow brick road is staring at a castle in the distance and muttering to herself, Hmph. Tornadoes! I bet you can guess what I'll want from the wizard!" On R is for Rot (which contains a delightfully gross description of the process of decomposition), there's a talking fungus on the side of a fallen tree that says, "Maybe I can't sing, but I'm still a fun guy!" And then, there's my favorite, a drawing of an ear of corn, on the N is for Natural Selection page, that is labeled Ancient Corn (probably used to stalk other vegetables).

There are a few things to watch out for: a page-and-a-half description of the Big Bang theory, several brief mentions of evolution, and (on the page that discusses the Y chromosome) a brief but tasteful description of how an egg and a sperm come together to form a fertilized egg (omitting how they got there in the first place). Overall, though, it is an interesting and exciting work with enough information in it to keep scientifically-minded readers interested and learning for quite a while, no matter how old they may be!

Schwartz tackles the world of math in the same way and with the same style and panache in *G is for Googol*, backed up this time by Marissa Moss's artistic talents and with the assistance of a class of sixth grader field testers. Moss's illustrations do a fine job of adding understanding to Schwartz's words, although they aren't as humorous as Kim Doner's, and a few are intriguing (like the one that uses hand shadows to illustrate obtuse and acute angles), but the most interesting thing about the book is the text. Did you know that a nine-year-old boy came up with the name googol? Me, neither. Do you know what happens if you cut a Mobius strip in half or what you'll find if you count the number of spirals on a pine cone? (Did you even know they had spirals?) Me, neither... but Schwartz did and he made me want to know more—and if he can do that for a confirmed, dyed-in-the-wool math hater, just think what having his book in your collection will do for math-minded kids!

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

***Did you hear that?* / Caroline Arnold; illustrated by Cathy Trachok. LCCN 00038369. Watertown, Mass.: Charlesbridge, 2001. HBB, 1579014044, \$16.95. Elementary. Rating: 5**

591.59'4. Animal sounds; Sound. unsp.

There is a secret world where animals rely on sounds inaudible to the human ear. In *Did you Hear That?* Caroline Arnold brings us into that world. Insects, bats, rodents, and many night animals use sounds outside the range of human hearing, called ultrasounds. Birds, alligators, elephants, rhinoceroses, and sharks are among

those animals that can hear super low noises (infrasounds). Both ultrasounds and infrasounds help animals gather information from their surroundings, communicate with one another, find their way in the dark, and locate their own kind as they avoid predators.

This book is an overview of animals with unusual hearing abilities. Fourth through eighth graders will find it interesting as well as helpful for gathering information for animal projects and reports. Its picture book format is attractive for the younger reader as well, but the vocabulary is challenging. Detailed watercolor mixed media illustrations by Cathy Trachok are realistic, adding to the integrity of this book as a research tool.

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

***Strange animals, new to science* / Laurence Pringle. LCCN 2001028185. New York: Marshall Cavendish, 2001. HBB, 0761450831, \$16.95. Elementary. Rating: 4**

591.68. Rare animals; Animals. 112 p.

How exciting to find out there are animals yet unknown! Children swamped in their high tech world find it difficult to believe there are any 'new' animals awaiting discovery. *Strange Animals, New to Science* gives teachers and librarians a tool for convincing them nothing could be further from the truth! This book records the stories of sixteen non-insect animals located and documented in the last twenty years. Most of the animals are illustrated through gorgeous photographs although a few were still elusive. This book should raise the hopes of any young naturalist that there is still fun to be had. The animals range from the Jacotoco of Ecuador (a bird named for the call it makes) to the Dingiso of New Guinea (a black and white tree kangaroo). Seven of the eight continents are represented in this collection—even Antarctic exploration gets a mention.

Laurence Pringle's narrative of how each animal was discovered also documents the habitat destruction that threatens all of them. He explains what efforts local governments, naturalists, and scientists are making to help save these and many other species. Scientists and naturalists are mentioned by name, providing a good starting point for biographical research on who is working in particular areas of study. While clearly many of these animals and others in the world are threatened by encroachment of civilization, Pringle is not shrill or judgmental in his depiction of their plight. Rather, the last chapter provides addresses and web sites for groups that are working toward saving the biodiversity of our planet. This offers the reader the choice of whether to participate in the crusade. Finally, the two page index is thorough and useful including the animals, researchers, and locations.

Animal alphabet enthusiasts can rejoice – there are animals yet to name!

Kelley Westenhoff, Parent-Librarian, Dominion Christian School, Oakton, Virginia

***I'm tougher than diabetes!* / by Alden R. Carter; photographs by Carol Shadis Carter. LCCN 2001000891. Morton Grove, Ill.: Albert Whitman, 2001. HBB, 0807515728, \$14.95. Elementary. Rating: 4**

616.4'62. Diabetes; Diseases. unsp.

I'm Tougher than Diabetes is the story of a young girl named Natalie who has been diagnosed with diabetes. She takes us through her day, each page filled with photos of herself, family, school friends, and activities, explaining in clear language just what having diabetes means to her and how she copes with it. Difficult or new words are given definitions and procedures she must go through are explained in text and picture. The reader is given a view of a well-rounded girl who has diabetes yet is able to do most things other children do.

This would be an excellent choice for young readers. To those unaware of diabetes or what it entails, *I'm Tougher than Diabetes* gives an accurate look at the disease. For others afflicted with diabetes, readers see the healthy result when every family member has a positive role in helping to manage this condition.

The book is introduced with a note written by health psychologist, Lorraine C. Schafer, who was diagnosed with diabetes at the age of nine. It concludes with frequently asked questions about diabetes and a list of resources. *I'm Tougher than Diabetes* would be a worthwhile addition to any school or public library collection, particularly where there is a lack of information on juvenile diabetes.

Cecil Carey, Young Adult Librarian, Public Library, Plano, Illinois

***Never sell yourself short* / by Stephanie Riggs ; photographs by Stephanie Riggs and Bill Youmans. LCCN 2001000889. Morton Grove, Ill.: Albert Whitman, 2001. HBB, 0807555630, \$15.95. Elementary (All ages). Rating: 4**

618.92'71. Achondroplasia; Dwarfs; Physically handicapped. unsp.

Josh Maudlin is short statured, but he more than makes up for his size in spirit and determination. At fourteen he is almost four foot tall and knows he is probably fully grown. Josh has a disease called Achondroplasia, more commonly known as dwarfism. In his story, *Never Sell Yourself Short*, he lets us in on a world of obstacles he conquers everyday, obstacles most people take for granted. His arms and legs are shorter than his friends, a telling trait of this disease, and everything he wears has to be altered. He loves sports so the school basketball team made him their manager. His self-confidence is an encouragement to others. Josh said that being a 'little person' is the way God made him. "It's

only my height that makes me different. My heart and my brain are as big as anyone's."

He and his parents attend an annual convention of 'little people' where he meets and talks to others with the same impairment. He understands that others before him have made great achievements in life under the same handicap. Some people tend to avoid those who are different but not the author Stephanie Riggs. She won a Clarion award for her investigative reports on childcare in Colorado and her empathy for Josh Maudlin shows in this inspirational story. The book is dedicated to the late Billy Bardy, founder and former president of LPA, Inc. (Little People of America). His message, never sell yourself short, rings true in Josh Maudlin's life. At the end of the book is a page of facts and statistics about Achondroplasia. Bill Youman's photographs help relate Josh's height hindrance to the everyday world. This picture book will be enjoyed by adults as well as children.

Maxine Cambra, Freelance Writer, Anderson, California

The buffalo nickel / Taylor Morrison. LCCN 2001039537. Boston: Houghton Mifflin, 2002. HBB, 0618108556, \$16.00. Middle school (Elementary). Rating: 4

730'.92. Fraser, James Earle, 1876-1953; Sculptors; Coins; Money. 32 p.

James Earl Fraser pulled an image from his early childhood years in the Dakota Territory to design the famous buffalo nickel. Fraser's father, who was a mechanical engineer for the Chicago, Milwaukee & St. Paul railroad, moved his family to the vast, flat plains when Fraser was four. He had few playmates other than the occasional Indian tribe who made a temporary camp near the farmhouse. An occasional trapper would visit James' grandfather and tell stories of how the prairie used to be filled with great herds of buffalo that stretched for miles and how the Indians hunted them for food. As a child Fraser spent hours watching his father draw inventions. He was fascinated by the town whittler and soon picked up some chalkstone and began to carve animals and people. After art school his prestige as a sculptor gained him recognition in many ways. When he heard the government was replacing the liberty nickel he sent them drawings of the Americana he remembered from his childhood.

Morrison's paintings add depth to each page from the earthy impressions of Fraser's early years, through the complex detailed minting machines and the process which turned the sculptor's drawings into his famous buffalo nickel to the portraiture used to commemorate Fraser's later married years. This is not a typical coin book; it is a biography spotlighting James Earl Fraser and the minting of his buffalo nickel. Morrison includes a list of additional research sources and a glossary. The intricate minting details and pictures limit this book to the older reader.

Maxine Cambra, Freelance Writer, Anderson, California

Earth & all stars / hymn, Herbert F. Brokering; illustrated by Preston McDaniels. LCCN 2001051200. Harrisburg, Pa.: Morehouse, 2002. HBB, 0819218685, \$17.95. Elementary. Rating: 5

782.27'0268. Hymn, English--Texts; Children's songs--United States--Texts; Hymns; Songs. unsp.

A pajama-clad, top-hatted, small boy floating around the world with a purple umbrella romps through the verses of the popular hymn "Earth & All Stars" by Herbert F. Brokering in a beautifully illustrated children's book of the same title. Illustrator Preston McDaniels has caught the joyous aura of praise the words evoke and keeps his readers on tiptoe guessing where the young chap will land next...on top of a construction site with the "loud building workers" or supervising the "loud boiling test tubes" in a classroom. The great diversity in the characters and their situations makes this a delightful addition to the library of any ethnic group as all creation proclaims "God has done marvelous things. We will sing praises with a new song!" The music and words to the song are included at the end of the book.

Judy A. Driscoll, Retired Teacher, Poulsbo, Washington

I dreamed I was a ballerina : a girlhood story / by Anna Pavlova; illustrated with art by Edgar Degas. LCCN 2001030313. New York: Atheneum Books for Young Readers, Simon & Schuster, 2001. HBB, 0689846762, \$16.00. Elementary. Rating: 5

792.8'028'092. Pavlova, Anna, 1881-1931--Childhood and youth; Ballet dancers; Women--Biography. unsp.

Little Anna loses her father when she is two and lives with her loving and hardworking mother. Though there is very little money, Mama tries to provide special treats for her, and on Anna's birthday takes her to the theater for the first time. Anna asks many questions and is told that they are going to see *Sleeping Beauty*. Anna is entranced and delighted not only by the mysterious theater but by the beautiful ballet. She shouts right out loud! She predicts that she will one day be a ballerina but her mother thinks that it is only a child's wish and does not realize that it will someday be true. Anna cannot stop thinking about dancing to the lovely music and she dreams that very night that she is a ballerina.

This gorgeous book from the Metropolitan Museum of Art is taken from the actual memoirs of Anna Pavlova, one of the greatest ballerinas to ever perform. It is illustrated with some of Edgar Degas' stunning and exquisite portraits of those involved in the ballet. Following Anna's story, there are two brief biographies of Pavlova and Degas and a page of credits which describes the paintings and tells where they currently are displayed. This is a beautiful child's book that will thrill any child, young or old who loves art and dance. For those who don't, it may pique their interest. It is also a lovely volume for

adults who appreciate the art of Degas or who are interested in Anna Pavlova. Truly a book to treasure.

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

Father, we thank you / Ralph Waldo Emerson; illustrated by Mark Graham. LCCN . New York: SeaStar Books, North-South Books/Chronicle, 2001. HBB, 1587170728, \$15.95; LIB, 1587170736, \$15.88. Elementary. Rating: 3

811. American poetry. 32 p.

A beautifully illustrated book, *Father, We Thank You* brings the text of Ralph Waldo Emerson's poem to life for the present generations. A family is shown on a hiking/camping trip through woods and meadows, each page illustrating a part of the poem as the family travels. The piece itself is a tribute to God's loving and creative handiwork, a hymn of praise to the Creator.

The poem is a classic piece by a well-known American author. Though written more than a century ago, the language can still be easily understood by people today. It encourages the reader to appreciate nature. The illustrations, done in oil, are lovely, combining well with the text. The colors are soft and luscious, lending a peaceful feeling to the work.

All ages could appreciate this book, but it is best suited for preschool and elementary ages. It would make a good read-aloud book for any type of library, as the text is simple and the pictures large enough for a group to see well. Literature teachers could use it in a unit that includes Emerson. It would make a good gift book as well for any poetry or nature lover or for parents to purchase to encourage a child in these areas.

Betsy Ruffin, Librarian/Teacher, Cleburne, Texas

Leaf by leaf : autumn poems / selected by Barbara Rogasky; photographs by Marc Tauss. LCCN 00046997. New York: Scholastic, 2001. HBB, 0590253476, \$15.95. Elementary. Rating: 5

811.008'033. Autumn--Poetry; American poetry--Collections; English poetry--Collections. 38 p.

Leaf by Leaf, a book of twenty-five poems chosen by Barbara Ragas, takes the reader on a gentle journey from September's early fall days ("September," by Helen Hunt Jackson) to the start of winter (Shirley Hughes's "Wild Weather"). Along the way, readers can enjoy the words of many poets, including Robert Browning, Gerard Manley Hopkins, William Butler Yeats, Walt Whitman, and Edgar Allan Poe, as they write of the advent of fall. The poems (some named after fall months, others containing the month's name or its activities) fall into a natural pattern that leads the reader inexorably from the falling leaves and raking of September to the glittering frost and cold of approaching winter. Since the holidays of the

season are not mentioned in any of the poems and the people who appear in Marc Tauss's spectacular photographs are of both genders and various ages and races, the collection will appeal to many different people and would be a valuable addition to any poetry collection, even ones already well-stocked. In addition, since some of the poems included are not used in their entirety, it may lead interested readers on to other collections, to look for the complete poem.

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

Glory / written by Nancy White Carlstrom; illustrated by Debra Reid Jenkins. LCCN 97007882. Grand Rapids: Eerdman's Books for Young Readers, Wm. B. Eerdmans, 2001. HBB, 0802851436, \$17.00. Elementary. Rating: 4

811'.54. Creation--Poetry; American poetry. unsp.

With a whoosh of red paint and a myriad of glorious animals from dragonflies to tigers, illustrator Debra Reid Jenkins boldly portrays "Glory," penned by poet Nancy White Carlstrom. Also working throughout the book is a young dancer, creating fanciful costumes which turn her into some of the animals prancing through these delightful pages.

The extensive vocabulary of verbs, adjectives, and adverbs used by the author make this an exciting tool for encouraging a young writer's descriptive efforts, while the creative endeavors of the young dancer may inspire those who are actors at heart to create their own costumes, all with the purpose of singing

Glory Glory Glory

be to God for winging, swimming, singing
ones

of sky and sea and earth.

All creatures large,

all creatures small,

that dance and leap

and curl and crawl,

the wild, the tame—

All creatures by their being

praise their Creator's name.

Judy A. Driscoll, Retired Teacher, Poulsbo, Washington

A humble life : plain poems / written by Linda Oatman High; illustrated by Bill Farnsworth. LCCN 2001023036. Grand Rapids: Eerdman's Books for Young Readers, Wm. B. Eerdmans, 2001. HBB, 0802852076, \$17.00. Elementary. Rating: 4

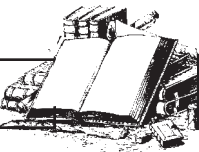
811'.54. Pennsylvania Dutch--Poetry; American poetry; Children's poetry, American. unsp.

Simple poetry about seasons, farm animals and new life, fishing, and quilting fill the pages of this intricately descriptive book of poems. In a

quaint, era-gone-by fashion, freestyle poetry portrays the hard working Amish and Mennonite people, who, without electricity, perform their daily tasks in an old fashioned, closeness of family and neighbors, community. Oil paintings add three dimensional life to each well-matched theme. Soft, starry, moon-frosted nights are tinged with lantern light. Fields are filled with flowers, softly bright against a background of multi-greens. People are painted slightly diffused, to allow reader insight, yet, keep a tiny bit of mysterious distance.

A Humble Life : Plain Poems is written by Linda Oatman High and illustrated by Bill Farnsworth. No surprises or unethical additions mar these pages. The book is well-described by its title, and would be a wonderful before naptime or time to calm down, one-on-one read. High, known for her children's and young adult books, as well as articles in *Highlights* and *Children's Digest*, seems to prefer calmer themes to the more turbulent paths of many of today's children's authors. Farnsworth's oil paintings have appeared in such diverse books as the Native American story *The Buffalo Jump* by Peter Roop (Northland Publishing) and *The Christmas Menorahs : How a Town Fought Hate* by Janice Cohn (Albert Whitman). Recommended for children, grades one through six.

Kim Harris, Librarian, Newman Riga Library, Churchville, New York



***Across the Steel River* / by Ted Stenhouse. LCCN C009328793. Toronto: Kids Can Press, 2001. HBB, 1550748912, \$16.95. Middle school (Elementary). Rating: 4**

F. Mystery and detective stories; Friendship--Fiction. 224 p.

Will and Arthur have been friends forever; but now, at the end of sixth grade, their friendship is becoming strained. Arthur is a Blackfoot, Will is white. When they discover a badly beaten man, their responses highlight their differences. The man is Yellowfly, a hero to the Indians, and a highly-decorated WWII veteran. Arthur, having been on the receiving end of denigration all his life, is skeptical about Will's chances for solving the mystery, and suspicious of Will's motivation for doing so. Will is no crusader but senses something is not right in Grayson. In his pursuit of kaxtomo (enemy), he develops the moral fiber essential to becoming a righteous man. He also begins to understand Arthur's people's pain.

Across the Steel River masterfully brings to life the tension of a mixed-race friendship in a 1950's town. Ted Stenhouse's writing allows us to look through Will's eyes as he sorts through the value systems he sees around him. True to the harsh environment in which this story is set, as it climaxes, some of the characters (not Will) use profanity in one chapter. Because excessive alcohol use and racist comments, common at the time, are sprinkled throughout, Will's baby steps towards a deeper faith show as his maturity grows. For example, Will uses church attendance as a cover to slip away to see Arthur, but prays, asking forgiveness for involving Jesus in his lie. And, while Will confronts the evil that all of the adults of the town have tolerated to some degree, his confrontation is not designed to make adults look stupid. Rather, his dogged pursuit of the truth assists them in developing moral clarity as well. Understandably, this book is a 2002 nominee for the Red Maple Award.

Kelley Westenhoff, Parent-Librarian, Dominion Christian School, Oakton, Virginia

***Best friend, worst enemy* / Beverly Lewis. (Holly's heart; 1.) LCCN 2001003809. Minneapolis: Bethany House, 2001. PAP, 0764225006, \$4.99. Middle school. Rating: 2**

F. Friendship--Fiction; Schools--Fiction; Christian life--Fiction. 158 p.

Holly Meredith, seventh-grader, and her best friend, Andie Martinez, become worst enemies. The reason? Jared Wilkins, a new student in their class. For years the two girls have shared everything, but when they both develop a crush

on Jared and each thinks she's his favorite, their friendship changes. Holly considers the Loyalty Papers the girls wrote for themselves years before. They included one requirement: that if they liked the same boy, one would back off to give the other a chance. She wishes they had not written that, and tears up the papers. She also returns Andie's teddy bear as a sign their friendship is over.

In the midst of her heart-turmoil, Holly realizes how much she misses Andie's friendship. For her thirteenth birthday party, Holly plans a surprise meant to heal their relationship. The unexpected happens, however, and the cloudiness between the girls grows even worse. Later, the situation changes again, this time for the good, during the church youth choir tour to California.

Best Friend, Worst Enemy is the first book in the Holly's Heart series. Beverly Lewis develops her story around the natural emotions of young teen girls and situations they face, although at times Holly's reasoning and dialogue sound advanced for a thirteen-year-old. While dwelling primarily on the love-hate friendship connected with boy-girl relationships, Lewis also deals with the heartaches that come with broken marriages, divided families, and a death in the family. She brings the story around to include important lessons Holly learns through uncertainties and deceitful actions.

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

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***The carved box* / by Gillian Chan. LCCN C009328629. Toronto: Kids Can Press, 2001. HBB, 1550748955, \$16.95. Middle school. Rating: 5**

F. Farm life--Fiction; Dogs--Fiction; Canada--Fiction. 232 p.

Upon his father's death, Callum Murdoch, born and raised to be a scholar, finds himself in Upper Canada, headed for his uncle's farm. Worse, he has somehow traded the only earthly treasure he owns for a dog that is bound to him by a carved box. With her uncanny ability to read his thoughts and respond appropriately, Dog helps Callum adjust to his new life and to accept the love his new family offers. Hard labor brings Callum confidence, yet pride in his work is tempered by anger at being denied the life that he craves. Only Dog keeps his rebellion in check. In a heart-stopping climax, the carved box is smashed and Dog has the opportunity to go free. If she does, all will be lost—the oxen the family depends on, the farm, and probably Callum's own life.

The Carved Box is a breath-catching tale of late 1700's Canada in which former high school English teacher Gillian Chan captures all that is emotionally wrenching about a boy turning into a man. A coming-of-age story combined with mystery and drama, this wonderfully written, carefully researched book will appeal to both girls and boys. The mystery comes from Chan's use of the old Highland tales of shape changers, boggarts, and wee folk, giving Dog's character more depth than simply that of a dog. In fact, she is an imprisoned girl. The Catholic-Protestant conflict of the 18th century weaves into the story, as does the conflict between the English and the Scots. One swear word is used once in historical context. This book will circulate.

Kelley Westenhoff, Parent-Librarian, Dominion Christian School, Oakton, Virginia

***The edge on the sword* / Rebecca Tingle. LCCN 0055353. New York: G.P. Putnam's Sons, Penguin Putnam, 2001. HBB, 0399235908, \$18.99. Middle school (High school, Adult). Rating: 3**

F. Ethelfled, d. 918--Fiction; Kings, queens, rulers, etc.--Fiction; Anglo-Saxons--Fiction; Vikings--Fiction; Great Britain--History--Alfred, 871-899--Fiction; Mercia (Kingdom)--Fiction. 277 p.

Set in the British Isles of the late 800s, *The Edge on the Sword* is a treat for history buffs. Rebecca Tingle gives us an imagined year in the life of Ethelfled, daughter of King Alfred of West Saxony. Several characters and basic events are real, providing a rich historical background for the story.

As the tale begins, Ethelfled is promised in marriage to Ethelred of Mercia. An envoy comes to protect her, as others would like to prevent this alliance between the kingdoms of southern England. Ethelfled, unhappy with her curtailed freedom and uncertain of the marriage to a man she hardly knows, tests the limits of her protector's control and patience. When one of her escapes has serious consequences, she learns to trust him, and he begins to teach her how to battle like a man so she can better protect herself. This knowledge becomes useful during the danger-filled trip to Mercia for her wedding.

Though the story is set in historical times, Ethelfled's uncertainty about her life's direction, her desire for freedom, and her impatience with school should sound familiar to today's teens. The story also has plenty of tension and action to keep the reader's interest. While not specifically Christian, the values portrayed are good, and the family unit is strong. The novel is filled with historical details which history lovers will relish, and the references to Beowulf and

the Anglo-Saxon Chronicles will interest those knowledgeable in English literature. *The Edge on the Sword* has the potential to appeal to a wide range of ages and could be very useful in a school setting as part of a unit on English history and literature.

This book will be a particularly good addition to school or public libraries as a curriculum-related resource, for the ethical lessons subtly taught, and for general appeal. Advanced middle schoolers through adults will be the likely readers, as these groups are most liable to have the background knowledge that can bring the story details to life. The quality of the book demonstrates the author's serious research.

Betsy Ruffin, Librarian/Teacher, Cleburne, Texas

***Fair weather : a novel* / by Richard Peck. LCCN 00055561. New York: Dial Books, Penguin Putnam, 2001. HBB, 0803725167, \$16.99. Middle school. Rating: 5**

F. World's Columbian Exposition (1893: Chicago, Ill.)--Fiction; Chicago (Ill.)--Fiction; Family life--Fiction; Buffalo Bill, 1846-1917--Fiction; Russell, Lillian, 1862-1922--Fiction; Humorous stories. 139 p.

Rosie Beckett's family receives an invitation to attend the 1893 World's Columbian Exposition. They will stay with their Aunt Euterpe in Chicago; she wants the children exposed to the latest culture and knowledge of the world instead of just the four walls of a country schoolhouse. Mother agrees. The Becketts sell all the freshest cream, the newly churned butter, and every fresh egg they can find to buy new clothes for their trip. Without the family's knowledge, their brusque and garish Granddad decides to accompany the children.

Rosie and her siblings had never seen a house as large and magnificent as Aunt Euterpe's. Innocently they drive off her hired help by trying to lend a hand, but think it is all right because their aunt seemed to be afraid of the cook. Then they coax Aunt Euterpe out of the mourning clothes she has worn for four years and into Chicago's polite society where she has always wanted to be.

Most of the story takes place in Chicago seeing the wonders of the ages through Rosie's witty observations. She discovers carbonated drinks, hamburgers, Juicy Fruit gum, and electric lights. Everyone seems intimidated by George Ferris' newly invented giant wheel that is so tall you could not see to the top. They all gawk at Buffalo Bill's Wild West show. It turns that Bill Cody is one of Granddad's old army buddies.

Peck includes other recognizable names of nineteenth century people also in attendance at this wondrous exposition. His memorable characters and their retelling of yesteryear make this a book that can be enjoyed by readers of all ages. Several pages are illustrated with authentic posters and photographs. More historical details are included in A Note From the Author at the end of the story.

Maxine Cambra, Freelance Writer/Editor Anderson, California

***Groover's heart* / Carole Crowe. LCCN 00103736. Honesdale, Pa.: Boyds Mills Press, 2001. HBB, 1563979535, \$15.95. Middle school. Rating: 4**

F. Family life--Fiction; Orphans--Fiction. 144 p.

Charlotte Dearborn's parents drown when she is two. For eleven years, her wealthy guardians, stoic Aunt Viola, and mousy, but kind, Uncle Ed, give her everything she needs, except their affection. Then Charlotte discovers a mysterious letter addressed to her aunt with 'return to sender' written on the envelope. She questions Uncle Ed who informs her that her mother and Aunt Viola have a brother, Charlie, whom she has never met.

When her guardians leave on their annual trek to Europe, Charlotte puts her own travel plans into action. She cancels her sitter, packs her bag, and boards the train in search of her new uncle. Arriving at her uncle's home, her stomach does flip-flops. His yard consists of weeds and car parts. His house is messy. He is not called Charlie, but Groover. And although Charlotte does not know this, he is a recovering alcoholic.

As unlikely as it may seem, Charlotte decides to stay with this troubled man. Crowe uses a gentle touch as she unravels Groover's internal struggles. The few weeks at Groover's gives Charlotte a first hand account of what happens at AA meetings and of the loyalty AA members have for one another.

Roberta, the lady across the street, is also a recovering alcoholic. She gives Charlotte advice that will benefit all children in the same situation. Such as, "If Groover drinks, it's because he's an alcoholic. It has nothing to do with you."

Crowe does an excellent job of tucking this complex subject into an upbeat story where everyone wins. The subject of alcoholism does not become depressing, but, instead, educational. This book definitely has a built in audience. School librarians as well as public librarians should have this book on their shelves for reference and enjoyment.

Maxine Cambra, Freelance Writer, Anderson, California

***Here's Lily!* / Nancy Rue. (Lily series; 1.) LCCN 2001276427. Grand Rapids: Zonderkidz, 2000. PAP, 0310232481, \$4.99. Middle school. Rating: 5**

F. Friendship--Fiction; Models and modeling--Fiction. 128 p.

***Lily Robbins, M.D. (medical dabbler)* / Nancy Rue. (Lily series; 2.) LCCN 200127649X. Grand Rapids: Zonderkidz, Zondervan, 2000. PAP, 031023249X, \$4.99. Middle school. Rating: 5**

F. Friendship--Fiction. 124 p.

***Lily and the creep* / Nancy Rue. (Lily series; 3.) LCCN 2001273918. Grand Rapids: Zonderkidz, Zondervan, 2001. PAP, 031023252X, \$4.99. Middle school. Rating: 5**

F. Friendship--Fiction; Schools--Fiction. 124 p.

***Lily's ultimate party* / Nancy Rue. (Lily series; 4.) LCCN 2001275283. Grand Rapids: Zonderkidz, Zondervan, 2001. PAP, 0310232538, \$4.99. Middle school. Rating: 5**

F. Friendship--Fiction; Parties--Fiction. 121 p.

***Ask Lily* / Nancy Rue. (Lily series; 5.) Zonderkidz, Zondervan, 2000. PAP, \$4.99. Middle school. Rating: 5**

F. Schools--Fiction; Friendship--Fiction.

***Lily the rebel* / Nancy Rue. (Lily series; 6.) LCCN 2001277797. Grand Rapids: Zonderkidz, Zondervan, 2001. PAP, 0310232554, \$4.99. Middle school. Rating: 5**

F. Friendship--Fiction; Schools--Fiction. 124 p.

Lily, an awkward sixth grader, is introduced to us in this first entertaining book, *Here's Lily*. In this introductory episode, Lily becomes enamored with the world of teen modeling. After investing her life's savings into this new phase, Lily learns a tough lesson in real beauty the night before the big fashion show. We meet Lily next in *Lily Robbins, MD*, as she helps several people on her way to becoming a "great healer." As always with Lily, she starts going overboard with the medical craze, and pushes her friends over the edge. Can their friendship be saved in time? In our next installment of the Lily series, *Lily and the Creep*, we find Lily being forced together with Shad on a school project, even after pulling a prank on him with her friends. Can this new working relationship build their friendship, or does this spell the end of anything friendly between them at all? Lily celebrates the passing of sixth grade in *Lily and the Ultimate Party*. Lily is planning the best party of all times, and her first ever boy-girl party. Lily meets up with Otto during these plans and everything changes. Should she expect people to change for her, and be what she wants them to be, or should she allow everyone to be exactly what God has intended him or her to be?

Lily pops up next in middle school in *Ask Lily*; she jumps right into the action and takes over as the advice columnist for the school newspaper. As the advice from "Ask Lily" turns from playful fun to serious, riding in the gray areas, Lily learns once again that when we let go of our worldly problems and give all to Him, everything falls into place. In the sixth installment, *Lily the Rebel*, Lily wanders down the rebellious road after an incident with her science teacher makes her Ms. Popularity with the students. True to form, she takes her new crusade too far and loses true friends in the meantime. Can she regain the trust of her true friend in time to help?

Nancy Rue has put together a rather interesting series of books in the Lily series. For each novel in this series, she has also created a non-fiction book that corresponds with each of the topics covered in the fictional life of "Lily." I would suggest looking into purchasing those corresponding non-fiction titles as sources of additional information on each subject covered. Ms. Rue presents a very believable Lily to us in each of the installments, making us very comfortable with her lead character so that we will want to come back for more. The books are written for the 8-12 year old market, an age group that will thoroughly enjoy getting to know Lily.

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

Ian's flute / by Mike Hamel. (Matterhorn the Brave; 1.) Colorado Springs: Matterhorn Press, 2001. HBB, \$16.95; order : <http://www.matterhornthebrave.com/order.htm>. Middle school. Rating: 4

F. Fantasy; Science fiction. 179 p.

Talis hunters / by Mike Hamel. (Matterhorn the Brave; 2.) Colorado Springs: Matterhorn Press, 2001. HBB, \$16.95; order : <http://www.matterhornthebrave.com/order.htm>. Middle school. Rating: 4

F. Fantasy; Science fiction. 182 p.

Mike Hamel's Matterhorn the Brave Series is a fantasy series that revolves around a kingdom only reached through space-time portals from earth. Young people drawn through a portal find themselves in the service of the Maker. The Maker equips them with their adult bodies, and gives them an empowered object that aids in whatever tasks they are called to do. Because of rebellion in First Realm, the Nine Talis have been hidden in out-of-the-way places. The Nine Talis are objects created by the Maker to help in government and to protect First Realm and the Hall of Portals.

In *Ian's Flute*, the first book of the series, Matthew Horn, a twelve-year-old on earth, finds himself drawn into service through a portal by the Sword of Truth. He becomes Matterhorn the Brave, and joins Aaron the Baron—normally a thirteen-year-old boy known for his gadget inventions—in a search for Ian's Flute. Ian's Flute is one of the Nine Talis and has power to call and hold the obedience of all the animals. During their quest they encounter leprechauns, pirates, and a unicorn. Ultimately they end up fighting hand-to-hand combat with the forces of evil. Throughout the book they learn how to rely on the Maker and on the inner strength, courage, and abilities that he gives them.

In *Talis Hunters*, the second book of the series, Matthew Horn finds himself summoned to the Pacific Northwest 13,000 years in the past! Joining his adventure are Aaron the Baron, and Princess Jewels, a Native American girl who has an empathetic ability to communicate with

animals. The quest? Find the Band of Justice hidden in this time zone before it falls into enemy hands. This book leaves the group's safety in question, and does not conclude the quest, but rather leads into the next book.

This series contains all the elements that preteen readers crave: adventure, action, suspense, and fantastic creatures. The young characters are believable and interact well together. The author has drawn his characters from different races and cultures, giving each one a strong sense of self-worth. The allegorical adventures concentrate on positive moral attributes and help students to see God/Maker as central to all life.

Paula Stewart Marks, School Principal, Bend, Oregon

Lady of Ch'iao Kuo : warrior of the south / by Laurence Yep. (The royal diaries.) LCCN 00051617. New York: Scholastic, 2001. HBB, 0439164834, \$10.95. Middle school. Rating: 4

F. Princesses--Fiction; Minorities--Fiction; Identity--Fiction; War--Fiction; Diaries--Fiction; China--History--Liang dynasty, 502-557--Fiction. 300 p.

Lawrence Yep, an award-winning children's author with Chinese ancestry, has written this entry in Scholastic's Royal Diaries series, *Lady of Ch'iao Kuo : Warrior of the South*, and it should be a hit with both girls and boys. The main character is a princess from southern China during the Liang dynasty (A.D. 531); her Chinese name is Princess Redbird. She comes from a fierce tribe, the Hsien, known for their ability in war, and has herself been trained in the use of weapons. But none of her skills prepare her for life in the Chinese colony when her father sends her there to study with Master Chen, a renowned Chinese scholar. Master Chen is kind to her, but his family is, at best, condescending, and at worst, rude and scornful, until she uses her Hsien training to help save the colony from the attack of a violent rival tribe. She earns the respect of all and grows up a great deal in the process.

Descriptions of battlefield injuries and deaths may be distressing for sensitive readers, but the cultural details are interesting (especially the reason behind the facial tattoos that Princess Redbird is so proud of, and the way "old magic" wins in the end through very down-to-earth means), while the battlefield strategies are exciting enough to hold the attention of even a reluctant reader.

The book's final pages include an epilogue, a historical note, "Life in China in A.D. 531," Princess Redbird's family tree, photos, prints, a map, and a glossary. Princess Redbird's story may be from long ago, but it has a very modern ring to it as she tries to make her elders realize she's old enough and smart enough for her thoughts and plans to have value, and as she struggles with the ways of a people who are of a different background and race and who do not respect or trust her. All in all, it's a fascinating look at a time and place that are seldom written about.

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

Marie Antoinette, princess of Versailles / by Kathryn Lasky. (The royal diaries.) LCCN 99016804. New York: Scholastic, 2000. HBB, 0439076668, \$10.95. Middle school. Rating: 4

F. Marie Antoinette, Queen, consort of Louis XVI, King of France, 1755-1793--Childhood and youth--Fiction; Diaries--Fiction. 236 p.

Most people know how Marie Antoinette's life ended, but what was she like as a child? Kathryn Lasky offers a fascinating and informative answer to this question in Scholastic's fourth entry in The Royal Diary series: *Marie Antoinette, Princess of Versailles*. She begins her "diary" at the age of thirteen, a year before she is to be married to the heir to the throne of France. Foremost in her mind is the pressure her mother, Maria Theresa of Hapsburg, Empress of the Holy Roman Empire, is placing upon her to prepare to become the future Queen of France. As one of sixteen children, she is not close to her mother, but she does have romantic hopes about her future husband and life at the court of Versailles. Lasky makes the voice of this diary believable. Unlike the selfish manner in which she is often portrayed, Marie comes across as a sympathetic figure, one who with more guidance might have made different choices as Queen. While the transition from her relatively sheltered life in Vienna to the decadent court at Versailles is a shock, it is the sight of her repulsive new husband that is the bitterest blow. Gradually however, she develops a friendship with him and they join forces against the powerful court figures who try to control them.

The one year that this diary covers is a revealing glimpse into what the rarified world that Marie Antoinette inhabited may have been like. Kathryn Lasky states that she has always loved history and this is evident in her work. "To me, Marie Antoinette personified all the best and the worst things about being a princess." An epilogue sums up the rest of Marie Antoinette's life, and a historical note places the events of this diary in perspective with other world events of the time. A family tree and a section of black and white paintings and drawings from historical sources further the reader's understanding of Marie Antoinette's life.

Lillian Heytvelt, Public Librarian, Denny Ashby Memorial Library, Pomeroy, Washington

Millie's unsettled season / based on the beloved books by Martha Finley. (A life of faith, Millie Keith; 1.) LCCN 2001117167. Franklin, Tenn.: Mission City Press, 2001. HBB, 1928749097, \$9.99. Middle school (High school). Rating: 4

F. Frontier and pioneer life--Fiction; Christian life--Fiction; Family life--Fiction. 249 p.

Millie's courageous days / based on the beloved books by Martha Finley. (A life of faith, Millie Keith; 2.) LCCN 2001118430. Franklin, Tenn.: Mission City Press, 2001. HBB, 1928749100, \$9.99. Middle school (High school). Rating: 4

F. Frontier and pioneer life--Fiction; Christian life--Fiction; Family life--Fiction. 221 p.

Millie Keith's an outspoken, adventurous girl, but she's horrified to learn her family is moving to the Indiana frontier. She'll have to leave all her friends and her dream of going to college, because Pleasant Plains is a small, muddy town with no modern conveniences. Even worse, Millie, her seven brothers and sisters, and her parents are forced to live in a converted warehouse. God clearly has plans for Millie in her new home—but what are they?

Readers familiar with Martha Finley's original Mildred Keith series may like the revised Millie Keith books ... or they may not. Published by Mission City Press, the revised series has many changes. The language and religious message have been modernized; slapstick humor has been added. New characters are introduced, and other characters' fates are changed. The most obvious difference? Millie and friends now hold all the correct views about women's rights, Indian rights, and slavery.

In the originals, Finley—as author—often recognized the worth of the poorer characters, even when Mildred and her peers did not. Here, the poor and the servants are nearly as intelligent, moral, and well-spoken as the Keiths, which is soothing to modern sensibilities, but may not be true to the times.

The books are shorter than the originals. *Millie's Unsettled Season* nicely describes the move to the frontier, and introduces the people and problems Millie will have to face in her new hometown. *Millie's Courageous Days* picks up after Millie's first dance, then follows her through her sister's illness, a friend's tragic accident, and the ague that sickens the town. Both books, though, make up one volume of the original books.

For some readers, Millie Keith may seem like Martha Finley "lite." But the books have lively, likeable characters, and offer an appealing look at life in upper class 1830's America. Millie is wonderfully drawn and her adventures are exciting. The descriptions of the era's lifestyles, fashions, and parties, the way Millie fights to get the rich and poor girls to accept each other, and even the beautifully photographed covers of the hardback books should delight preteen and teen girls.

Rosemarie DiCristo, Freelance Writer, The Bronx, New York

My canary yellow star / Eva Wiseman. LCCN 2001086828. Toronto: Tundra Books, 2002. PAP, 0887765335, \$6.95. Middle school (Upper elementary). Rating: 4

F. Jews--Hungary--Budapest--Fiction; Holocaust, Jewish (1939-1945)--Hungary--Budapest--Fiction; World War, 1939-1945--Jews--Hungary--Budapest--Fiction. 232 p.

My Canary Yellow Star barely begins when Marta's father is ordered to dig ditches in Yugoslavia during World War II. The hatred toward the Jewish people spreading throughout Europe thrives also in Budapest where Marta's Jewish family lives. Countless restrictions are placed on Marta's community. The general public either encourages or ignores the cruelties. When the Gentile community does help Jews, the Gentiles are shunned or visited by the Gestapo. Marta's home life constantly shifts to meet the hardships of the time. After Marta's Jewish all-girls school is closed, she works to support her family but is soon fired because of prejudice. Hungary's upheaval forces Marta to be clever, make difficult ethical decisions, and behave bravely amid impending danger. Marta is a heroine, both shrewd and tenderhearted through her trials. With Peter's assistance, a Christian boy who becomes romantically involved with her, Marta obtains help from Raoul Wallenberg (an actual Swedish diplomat who saved many lives from the anti-Semites in Budapest). Marta and the reader experience disturbing circumstances that include many deaths, but finally, Marta, Marta's brother Erwin, and Marta's mother survive with the prize of existence and strong character to rebuild from.

Eva Wiseman engulfs the reader with vivid description, intense action, and realistic dialogue. Marta's trials quickly draw readers into this historical fiction surrounding the Holocaust. While the writing style is comfortable for its intended audience, some portions of the book contain episodes of cruelty that will be difficult to cope with for a reader not familiar with the Holocaust, such as a scene in which a mother is tied to her children and shot; she falls off a bridge, her bodyweight pulling the children to their deaths. Onlookers clap. A few dramatic scenes include a swear word.

Paula Carrigan, Freelance Writer, Brea, California

Secret summer dreams / Beverly M. Lewis. (Holly's heart; 2.) LCCN 2001003810. Minneapolis: Bethany House, 2001. PAP, 0764225014, \$4.99. Middle school. Rating: 2

F. Fathers--Fiction; Divorce--Fiction; Vacations--Fiction; Christian life--Fiction. 138 p.

Sealed with a kiss / Beverly Lewis. (Holly's heart; 3.) LCCN 2001005679. Minneapolis: Bethany House, 2002. PAP, 0764225022, \$4.99. Middle school. Rating: 2

F. Pen pals--Fiction; Honesty--Fiction; Christian life--Fiction. 158 p.

Trouble with weddings / Beverly Lewis. (Holly's heart; 4.) LCCN 2001005680. Minneapolis: Bethany House, 2002. PAP, 0764225030, \$4.99. Middle school. Rating: 2

F. Weddings--Fiction. 149 p.

These books in the Holly's Heart series are quick reading for girls of elementary school age. Each one represents a period of time in the life of Holly, a thirteen-year-old girl with a great amount of creativity, imagination, and daring. Readers will enjoy Holly's exploits with her best friend, Andie, her match-making and match-breaking attempts for her mother, and her own romances amid the ups and downs of middle school life.

Some of the circumstances will strike adult readers as improbable. For example, Holly's mother becomes engaged to a man from her church who has a young son, sick with leukemia. Holly attempts to drive a wedge between them, and when a new suitor appears on the horizon, that romance—and the close, motherly relationship Susan, Holly's mother, has with the child, Zach—is barely ever mentioned again. Later, Holly's mother allows Holly to choose, order, and charge the dresses Holly and her sister and cousin will wear to her wedding without any adults overseeing this transaction. This leads to a color-clashing wedding ceremony, but no one really seems to mind, least of all the bride. These and other situations seem highly unlikely, making the books unrealistic in many ways.

Nevertheless, young girls will be attracted to Holly's peppy, enthusiastic personality, and will enjoy reading the series. Appropriate for both church and school libraries, each of these books by Beverly Lewis contains a smattering of Christianity, some more than others. This series will circulate, but it is certainly not a necessary purchase for any collection.

Ceil Carey, Young Adult Librarian, Public Library, Plano, Illinois

Shadow of fear / Mary McKinney. (Searching heart; 1) Baltimore: America House, 2001. PAP, 1591291070, \$19.95. Middle school (High school). Rating: 4

F. 135 p.

"Marsi Anders -- Most Congenial and Most Caring; Most Curious and Most Caught --" reads the plaque from Marsi's best friend, and a more apt description would be hard to find. In *Shadow of Fear*, Marsi romps through a mystery that keeps her inventor father, harried mother, and teenaged brother James in an uproar. Marsi's father has invented a new solar energy system that threatens to change home construction worldwide and cut energy costs dramatically, an outcome that would seem a God-send to most, but a threat to the profits of some major energy producers.

When Mr. Anders moves his family to Seattle, Marsi is faced with leaving her best friend behind and facing a school full of what she

deems to be unfriendly classmates in the middle of their freshman school year. As if that problem isn't large enough, Marsi soon becomes suspicious of some of her father's employees, who seem bent on stealing his technology. She quickly finds herself the victim of a near kidnapping, and entangled in the depths of a mystery.

That author Mary McKinney, the mother of teenagers herself, knows how to talk to teens is evident in the conversational style with which she writes. Her characters are believable and entertaining, if not always perfect. Her Christian faith shines through in a natural way, without being preachy. When Marsi's new friend Jeff finds himself also entangled in the mystery and fearing for his own life, he is struck by the hate he sees in his captors, and comes to the sudden realization that "His hate has only made him a coward. He's even afraid of his own shadow!...Fear...shadows...that's it! Fear is only a shadow! It can't hurt you unless you give in to it!" And with that, the theme and title of the book are born. *Shadow of Fear* is the first in a planned Searching Heart Series.

Judy Driscoll, Retired Teacher, Poulsbo, Washington

Sparks fly upward / Carol Matas. Boston: Clarion Books, Houghton Mifflin, 2002. HBB, 0618159649, \$15.00. Middle school. Rating: 3

F. Jews--Canada--Fiction; Moving, Household--Fiction; Friendship--Fiction; Family life--Canada--Fiction; Prejudices--Fiction; Schools--Fiction.

Twelve-year-old Rebecca Bernstein discovers that sparks of more than one kind can cause heartache and agonizing change. Sparks burn the home where her large family lives in Oxbow, Saskatchewan; later, in Winnipeg, sparks ignite the isolation hospital where she and her friend Sophie go to recuperate from scarlet fever. Sparks between students at school create just as much turmoil.

Because of financial hardship in Winnipeg, Rebecca must go to live with a Ukrainian family, the Kostaniuks, until Papa begins to earn money. Will they like her? she wonders, knowing that Jews and Ukrainians were enemies in years past.

Right away Rebecca and Sophie Kostaniuk become best friends. But when Rebecca attends school with Sophie, sparks fly between Jewish and Ukrainian children. A bossy girl named Rachel, who causes Rebecca to make painful decisions, adds to the chaos.

She faces the loneliness of family separation, ethnic prejudices, confusion about God, and uncertain friendships. Through her struggles, however, she figures out how to be strong and to stand up for the right. When Papa finds a job in his beloved theater, she at last goes home again to bask in the love of God and family.

Carol Matas, an established writer of children's fiction, engages reader interest from the first page until the last in *Sparks Fly Upward*. She

creates out of her own family history this enthralling story, which Rebecca narrates. Readers will easily identify with her. For the most part, Matas shows Rebecca, Sophia, and other children as well, acting in ways normal for their ages, although occasionally the dialogue sounds like adults speaking, rather than children.

Matas gives a good picture of early twentieth-century Jewish life, as well as life in general in Canada at that time. She includes Jewish terms, but always makes them clear in the context.

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

Tracks in the sand / Mark Littleton. (Ally O'Connor adventures; 1.) LCCN 2001037775. Grand Rapids: Baker, 2001. PAP, 0801044901, \$5.99. Middle school. Rating: 1

F. Adventure and adventurers--Fiction; Mustang--Fiction; Horses--Fiction; Endangered animals--Fiction; Criminals--Fiction; Outer Banks (N.C.)--Fiction. 127 p.

Sarah's secret / Mark Littleton. (Ally O'Connor adventures; 2.) LCCN 2001037774. Grand Rapids: Baker, 2001. PAP, 0801044898, \$5.99. Middle school. Rating: 1

F. Child abuse--Fiction; Korean Americans--Fiction; Christian life--Fiction. 112 p.

The Ally O'Connor Adventures, by Mark Littleton, are simply written, making them appealing for reluctant readers, but they're series books, and exhibit some problems of the format. The mysteries aren't mysterious; they're not whodunits. We (and Ally) know exactly whodunit. Plot twists are too convenient, as when Molly, Ally's only means of rescue, sprains her ankle when going for help. And the kids solve things more through luck than brainpower.

Tracks in the Sand describes Ally's and her friends' efforts to stop two men from killing the wild horses of the Outer Banks, North Carolina. In Book #2, *Sarah's Secret*, another friend is being abused by her father. Both books seem to be written for eight-to-ten-year-olds. Ally and Nick are fourteen, but act much younger, and the younger kids (Molly, 11, John, 12, and Karen, 10) share every adventure. Would real teens want their kid siblings tagging along? Having each child take part—and having the viewpoints alternate between them—actually weakens the impact; the reader never gets close to anyone, not even Ally.

One caution if young children do read these: the books are violent. The boys are beaten and bloodied before being duct-taped and handcuffed to a bed. A Doberman threatens Karen. Ally crashes the villains' RV into an oncoming car. Guns are brandished, although not used. Ally and her friends often behave inexplicably, doing things that would surely get them killed. And Book #2's brutal abuse scenes could frighten small children.

Another concern: the editing is spotty. When Ally escapes in the RV, we're told eight times in four pages how erratically it's moving. Ally says the villains can't outrun the RV (it's going 20 mph), but then they do. Molly sprains her ankle and can barely walk, but when captured, plans to "make a run for it." Lug enters the RV to search for Ally, then the phone rings and he forgets.

Kids love mysteries and probably won't notice any of this. But only libraries with large budgets, or those with voracious readers, should consider this series.

Rosemarie DiCristo, Freelance Writer, The Bronx, New York

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Time out / David Hill. LCCN 2001028870. Chicago: Cricket Books, Carus Publishing, 2001. HBB, 0812628993, \$15.95. Middle school. Rating: 5

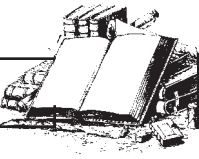
F. Coma--Fiction; Running--Fiction; Schools--Fiction; Science fiction. 128 p.

Most teens yearn for a parallel universe where life is sweet, a place where all of their problems are solved. They would have perfect parents, understanding teachers and supportive classmates. For Kit, the parallel universe becomes real.

Kit is a typical teenager who suffers unpopularity and the emotional pain of his parents' divorce. Learning about black holes in science class provides Kit with a way to speculate on how to reach that perfect parallel universe. One day Kit runs right into a black hole which deposits him in a different reality. His two major problems—parents and unpopularity—are resolved in this world. There are characters who remind him of his world, but who aren't quite what they would be at home. He is involved in a cross-country race, but there is an urgent need for his team to win that he never felt in his own world. Further, one character that isn't familiar, Alrika, is somehow linked to his way back.

New Zealand author David Hill has drawn on his extensive experience as a high school teacher to craft a tale about hope. His description of a world where life is different, but not necessarily better, keeps the reader turning the pages, wondering what the resolution will be. *Time Out* is a story about a boy finding the strength to survive pain, rejection, and even near-death. Much of that strength, he discovers, is rooted in the knowledge of the depth of his parents' love. That sustains Kit and draws him back, giving him a chance to make a new start with a new attitude.

Kelley Westenhoff, Parent-Librarian, Dominion Christian School, Oakton, Virginia



See Jesus / Kevin Johnson. (Early teen discipleship.) LCCN 2001002490. Minneapolis: Bethany House, 2001. HBB, 0764224336, \$7.99. Middle school. Rating: 4

232.9'01. Jesus Christ--Biography. 122 p.

Stick tight / Kevin Johnson. (Early teen discipleship.) LCCN 2001002498. Minneapolis: Bethany House, 2001. HBB, 0764224347, \$7.99. Middle school. Rating: 4

241'.6752. Friendship; Christian life; Bible--Study and teaching. 124 p.

Two in a series designed for early teen discipleship groups, *See Jesus* and *Stick Tight* speak to the issues teens face while providing a biblical foundation. Each section begins with a present day story to introduce the main topic. A bit called Flashback then gives background information for the Bible Chunk—scripture portion—that follows. Each lesson also includes a Deep Thot, a summary thought, and Sticky Stuff, Bible verses to memorize. Tear out cards at the end of the book help with this. Other kinds of help are given where needed and questions in the lessons are designed to encourage the reader to apply what has been studied. A Think About It section at the end of each theme unit gives more questions, these particularly good for group discussions.

See Jesus examines the life and teachings of Jesus Christ from birth to resurrection. *Stick Tight* delves into friendships, Christian and non-Christian. Both concentrate on the concepts that teens are concerned with and are written in language designed to connect with that age group.

Kevin Johnson has authored many books for youth and is a former youth pastor. As such, he ought to know this age group and their needs. He seems to hit it well in these two books. The ideas presented are appropriate for early teens and the format of the books makes them ideal for group or individual study. The author brings solid biblical knowledge and teaching into the books. He also uses humor and teen slang to appeal to the youthful readers and encourage them to keep learning and applying these truths.

As discipleship books, these are most appropriate for Christian schools or youth ministries to use in group studies. They are designed primarily for the early teen or middle school age, and are good for the lessons they teach and the potential appeal for the reader.

Betsy Ruffin, Librarian/Teacher, Cleburne, Texas

Window on the world / Daphne Spraggett with Jill Johnstone. Minneapolis: Bethany House, 2001. HBB, 1850783586, \$19.99. Middle school. Rating: 4

266. Missions; Prayer. 221 p.

How do you interest middle schoolers in history and different cultures and, at the same time, help them to view it all through a biblical lens? In *Window on the World*, the authors have succeeded in doing just that. Engaging the reader through brief, but touching true stories about the challenges of children from other lands, they put a human face to the problems that may seem abstract to youth when they hear about them through media reports. The authors go on to capsulize important historical developments and religious beliefs affecting people and events, then describe how Christian missionaries are helping. Most importantly, they suggest items for prayer, and point to answered prayers for which to thank God. Armed with a better understanding, the reader can pray with insight.

Windows on the World offers sections on more than ninety countries, regions, and people groups. Most sections include "Fact Files" and "Do You Know?" features and maps. The information is colorfully presented, with eye-catching layout and photographs. Also included is a discussion of the world's major religions, a helpful glossary, ideas for involvement in missionary work, and the addresses of various missionary agencies.

One of the book's strengths is how it explains cultural and religious beliefs that are totally at odds with Scripture, and how those beliefs have kept generations of people in bondage. The importance of prayer is shown through examples of how it has already changed individuals and situations. In fact, the young reader will come to an understanding that many times, despite man's exhaustive efforts, prayer is the only hope. It is a powerful realization, one that can increase reliance upon God.

This book can spark an interest in world events and missions in youth and adults alike and, most importantly, inspire them to pray. It is an important resource for parents, teachers, and librarians to offer.

Sharon Berg, Freelance Writer, Bellevue, Nebraska

Case closed : the real scoop on detective work / Milton Meltzer. LCCN 2001016293. New York: Orchard Books, Scholastic, 2001. HBB, 0439293154, \$18.95. Middle school. Rating: 3

363.25. Detectives; Police; Criminal investigation. 88 p.

Books, movies, and television romanticize the exciting life of the detective, but are they close to reality? Milton Meltzer's fine expose on the subject, *Case Closed: the Real Scoop on Detective Work*, gives an overview that is interesting and fascinating as well. While the book is more a survey than a definitive work, it is quite complete and gives the reader a solid foundational understanding of the field.

Part One, What It's Like to Be a Detective, includes nine chapters covering such topics as observation, crime scene, and the narcotics squad. The work is cutting-edge enough that it speaks to the issues of electronic witnesses and swindlers in cyberspace. Part Two, Behind the Scenes in the Lab, covers fingerprints, DNA, handwriting analysis, eyewitnesses, and identification. Children will be intrigued by chapters entitled, Secrets in Old Bones: When Mummies Speak, and Hitler's Secret Diaries. The last section, Detective Work—Not on the Police Force, views private investigation and offers absorbing information beginning with the Pinkertons and encompassing investigative reporters and court room drama.

Meltzer's book is highlighted with compelling cases and interesting inserts that pull the reader into the exhilaration of the occupation. But he is careful to present both sides—the excitement as well as the genuine danger inherent to the career. The text is flavored with black and white illustrations that include modern day photos and reproductions of antique engravings. A comprehensive index is included in addition to a broad bibliography.

Adults will enjoy getting the real scoop about detective work along with their children and the book could be used as a tool for aspiring mystery writers. Milton Meltzer's work is as easy to read as it is appealing to the reader. For true insight into the life of a gumshoe, enjoy this highly recommended book.

Cathy M. Elliott, Freelance Writer, Anderson, California

Florence Nightingale : curriculum guide / Julia Pferdehirt; with Dave & Neta Jackson. (A trailblazer curriculum guide.) Minneapolis: Bethany House, 2001. PAP, 0764225391, \$4.99. Middle school. Rating: 4

372.64. Literature--Study guide. 24 p.

George Muller : curriculum guide / Julia Pferdehirt; with Dave & Neta Jackson. (A trailblazer curriculum guide.) Minneapolis: Bethany House, 2001. PAP, 0764225375, \$4.99. Middle school. Rating: 4

372.64. Literature--Study guide. 24 p.

Harriet Tubman : curriculum guide / Julia Pferdehirt; with Dave & Neta Jackson. (A trailblazer curriculum guide.) Minneapolis: Bethany House, 2001. PAP, 0764225367, \$4.99. Middle school. Rating: 4

372.64. Literature--Study guide. 24 p.

Nate Saint : curriculum guide / Julia Pferdehirt; with Dave & Neta Jackson. (A trailblazer curriculum guide.) Minneapolis: Bethany House, 2001. PAP, 0764225383, \$4.99. Middle school. Rating: 4

372.64. Literature--Study guide. 24 p.

This set of curriculum guides by Julia Pferdehirt is designed to go along with the Trailblazer books by Dave and Neta Jackson. Each guide contains seven complete lessons—enough for a two week unit. The activities for each lesson are grouped by subject matter: Geography, History (not every guide), Literature and Language Arts, Social Studies and Folkways, Science (not in every guide), and Church Today. The different types of activities include writing, research, speech, reading, hands-on projects, and video. The exercises are designated as appropriate for younger students (grades 3-5) or older students (grades 6-8). Each lesson also contains a prayer and praise introduction, vocabulary, historical background, and discussion questions.

George Muller is designed to supplement the book, *The Bandit of Ashley Downs*, which tells the story of Curley, a young boy who steals money to buy food in Victorian England. Soon he is under the care of George Muller who trusts God to provide him with what he needs. The geography section emphasizes Great Britain. The History section has tie-ins with Dickens, the Orphan Trains, etc. which emphasize child labor conditions in 19th century England. Learn about tea, cathedrals, and a Dicken's type Christmas in the Folkways portion. The literature section contains several different writing prompts and the Church Today portion emphasizes ways children can put their faith into practice by giving to those less fortunate or investigating on the Internet.

Florence Nightingale complements *The Drummer Boy's Battle*. This is the story of Robbie the drummer boy, who is injured during

the Crimean War and witnesses Nightingale's fearlessness and determination to do what God has called her to do. While the Geography section is about the Black Sea area, the Science section concerns itself with the diseases (cholera, etc.) prevalent there, and with how germs spread. Folkways expounds on nursing, afternoon teatime, lentil stew, and Ukrainian Easter eggs. The literature section primarily has tie-ins with "The Charge of the Light Brigade," and the Church Today section has activities concerning short-term missions such as YWAM.

The Fate of the Yellow Woodbee is the book that goes along with the guide *Nate Saint*. Niwa is a young Auca native who learns not only to know Christ but the value of self sacrifice through the deaths of five brave missionaries and the devotion of their families. The geography, folkways, and history sections are about South America and rainforests but most specifically Ecuador. The science section has activities on airplane physics and volcanoes. The literature section has some writing prompts with metaphors and other reading activities, and the Church Today section has activities on praying for or adopting a people group and on translating or paraphrasing.

Harriet Tubman is the guide for *Listen for the Whippoorwill*. Rosebud is a young slave girl who learns about bravery, freedom, and trust in God in every circumstance. Children can map escape routes and build their own Underground Railroad in the geography section. There are fourteen history and ten folkways activities focused on the slaves' experiences, and in the literature section there are great writing prompts from comparisons to Corrie ten Boom to writing a slave narrative. The Church Today section focuses on Quakers, contemporary slavery, and civil disobedience.

Each entry also contains a historical summary, maps, and a fairly extensive list of resources, including many online. These are truly a must-have for teachers/homeschoolers who would like to utilize these books in class. They are well thought out and the activities offer variety and can be adapted to contract or expand the unit.

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

In the days of the vaqueros / by Russell Freedman. LCCN 2001017357. New York: Clarion Books, Houghton Mifflin, 2001. HBB, 0395967880, \$18.00. Middle school. Rating: 5

636.2'13'09236872073. Cowboys; Frontier and pioneer life--Mexico; Frontier and pioneer life--Southwest, New; Mexico--Social life and customs; Southwest, New--Social life and customs. 70 p.

Cowboys have captured the imaginations of generations of youngsters dreaming about life in the wild west. It will come as a surprise to many to learn that the first cowboys were not the Stetson wearing, pistol packing bronco busters made so familiar through old movies and TV shows. Russell Freedman sets the story straight,

explaining that America's first true cowboys were Native Americans in Spanish Mexico who became expert ropers and riders as they invented the cowboy trade we know today. They called themselves vaqueros (from vaca, the Spanish word for cow), and for generations practiced their trade with tools and skills handed down from father to son. Although they were the ones who taught the inexperienced settlers of the American West how to round up cattle and rope a steer, the vaqueros never became the cultural heroes that their U.S. counterparts, the American cowboys did.

Freedman's beautiful book brings the world of the vaquero to life with illustrations—prints, paintings, and period photos—on almost every page, including many by Jos, Cisneros, and Frederic Remington. In this thoroughly researched and engrossing account Freedman smoothly incorporates and defines Spanish words as he describes the origins of the cowboy trade, the role of the rodeo, tools and clothing, contests and games, and the reasons behind the eventual disappearance of the vaqueros. This is an excellent resource on a topic difficult to present at a child's level. It is less developed, but more accessible and visually appealing, than Martin Sandler's *Vaqueros* (Henry Holt & Co., 2001). Freedman concludes with an annotated bibliography of his sources, a glossary of Spanish terms, picture credits, and an index.

Lillian Heytvelt, Public Librarian, Denny Ashby Memorial Library, Pomeroy, Washington

Plus One : backstage exclusive / by Mark Smeby. LCCN 2002265327. Nashville: Tommy Nelson, Thomas Nelson, 2001. PAP, 0849977177, \$8.99. Middle school. Rating: 4

782.25. Contemporary Christian musicians--United States--Interviews; Contemporary Christian musicians--Biography. 48 p.

Rachael Lampa : backstage exclusive / by Mark Smeby. Nashville: Tommy Nelson, Thomas Nelson, 2001. PAP, 0849977185, \$8.99. Middle school. Rating: 4

782.25. Contemporary Christian musicians--United States--Interviews; Contemporary Christian musicians--Biography. 48 p.

ZOEgirl : backstage exclusive / by Mark Smeby. Nashville: Tommy Nelson, Thomas Nelson, 2001. PAP, 0849977207, \$8.99. Middle school. Rating: 4

782.25. Contemporary Christian musicians--United States--Interviews; Contemporary Christian musicians--Biography. 48 p.

Plus One is the hot young Christian alternative to the popular trend (especially among young girls) towards boy bands. Jason Perry, Jeremy Mihre, Nathan Walters, Nate Cole, and Gabe Combs are more than just tremendous singers. They are on fire young men who love to sing for the glory of Jesus Christ. Included is a section on how the guys got together and then their recent trip to the Philippines. Find out the scoop on their music videos and the biggest

misconceptions about them. The overviews of each young man's life and likes/dislikes are fun to read and have some surprises. Each member shares about his relationship with God and his hopes for the future. The book concludes with a message to the fans.

Rachael Lampa is an extremely talented and gifted teenager. She made her first album, "Live for You" two years ago when she was just fifteen. It went on to win a 2001 Dove award. Her mother and her brother Ryan give the inside scoop on her. Rachael shares her favorite memories, such as appearing on Jay Leno, and answers questions on almost everything (she likes the window seat in a plane). Rachael shares what it takes to be a friend, how she likes to dress and her personal thoughts on guys and dating. But she's not just about average teen passions. She also shares her testimony and the importance of her personal relationship with Jesus Christ now and her hopes for the future.

"Zoe" means "life" and the Zoes, Chrissy Conway, Alisa Girard and Kristin Swinford, are certainly full of that. All in their 20's, they have been constantly on tour since they came together in 1999. Not only will the reader go backstage on their tours but will also find out what they like (one listens to Judy Garland, while the other two love Sting). They share about growing up, what they expect from guys, how to write a song, and how to make a record, but most of all, they are about ministry. Meet these godly young women who emphasize a relationship with Christ and who want their songs to inspire and lead others to worship the Lord.

The "Backstage Exclusive" series by Mark Smeby is colorfully laid out, chock full of pictures and is mostly written in a fast paced, question and answer interview style. This series is entertaining, easy to read, and sure to keep the attention of children nine or ten years old and up. These books will grab the most reluctant of readers and is a good series to show children and adolescents that there are successful young people who are "cool" but who are also about making a difference and not ashamed to be bold about their faith.

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

Captain James Cook / by Milton Meltzer. (Great explorations.) LCCN 00051899. Tarrytown, N.Y.: Benchmark Books, Marshall Cavendish, 2001. LIB, 0761412409, \$19.95. Middle school. Rating: 5

910'.92. Cook, James, 1728-1779; Explorers; Voyages around the world. 80 p.

Ferdinand Magellan : first to sail around the world / by Milton Meltzer. (Great explorations.) LCCN 00064374. Tarrytown, N.Y.: Benchmark Books, Marshall Cavendish, 2001. LIB, 0761412387, \$19.95. Middle school. Rating: 5

910'.92. Magellan, Ferdinand, d. 1521; Explorers; Voyages around the world. 80 p.

La Salle : down the Mississippi / by Harold Faber. (Great explorations.) LCCN 00051901. Tarrytown, N.Y.: Benchmark Books, Marshall Cavendish, 2001. LIB, 0761412395, \$19.95. Middle school. Rating: 5

977'.01'092. La Salle, Robert Cavalier, sieur de, 1643-1687; Explorers; Canada--Discovery and exploration--French; Mississippi River--Discovery and exploration. 80 p.

Lewis and Clark / by Harold Faber. (Great explorations.) LCCN 00051898. Tarrytown, N.Y.: Benchmark Books, Marshall Cavendish, 2001. LIB, 0761412417, \$19.95. Middle school. Rating: 5

917.804'2. Lewis and Clark Expedition (1804-1806; West (U.S.)--Discovery and exploration. 80 p.

Robert E. Peary / by Patricia Calvert. (Great explorations.) LCCN 00051900. Tarrytown, N.Y.: Benchmark Books, Marshall Cavendish, 2001. LIB, 0761412425, \$19.95. Middle school. Rating: 5

919.804'092. Peary, Robert E. (Robert Edwin), 1856-1920; Explorers; North Pole--Discovery and Exploration. 80 p.

Daniel Boone / by Patricia Calvert. (Great explorations.) LCCN 00051902. Tarrytown, N.Y.: Benchmark Books, Marshall Cavendish, 2001. LIB, 0761412433, \$19.95. Middle school. Rating: 5

976.9'02'092. Boone, Daniel, 1734-1820; Pioneers; Pioneers--Kentucky--Biography; Explorers--Kentucky--Biography; Frontier and pioneer life--Kentucky. 79 p.

The Great Explorations series is another gem in the crown of Benchmark Books/Marshall Cavendish Publishers. At eighty pages each, these books present a lively but even-handed and respectful account of the lives of these men, a careful overview of the general and important specific events of their journeys, and a discussion of the consequences of their discoveries. Each volume is copiously illustrated with portraits, paintings, and maps of the period or photographs or contemporary paintings of the historical events. Sidebars provide interesting facts, people, and events that intersected with the lives and adventures of these explorers, giving the narrative a well-rounded feel. Every book ends with a timeline of the explorer's life and era, a book and website list for further research, a bibliography, and an index. Some volumes also provide a Source Note page. This series will serve very well as an introduction to the great explorers, a source for reports, or as supplemental materials for history courses in the 5th through 9th grades. The narratives and illustrations are interesting enough for reading aloud in small group settings as well. Highly recommended.

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

Scotland / Patricia Levy. Rev. ed., (Cultures of the world.) LCCN 0039831. Tarrytown, N.Y.: Marshall Cavendish, 2001. LIB, 0761411593, \$24.95. Middle school. Rating: 4

941.1. Scotland. 128 p.

Wales / Anna Hestler. Rev. ed., (Cultures of the world.) LCCN 0047426. Tarrytown, N.Y.: Marshall Cavendish, 2001. LIB, 076141195X, \$24.95. Middle school. Rating: 4

942.9. Wales. 128 p.

Croatia / Robert Cooper. Rev. ed., (Cultures of the world.) LCCN 0029510. Tarrytown, N.Y.: Marshall Cavendish, 2001. LIB, 0761411569, \$24.95. Middle school. Rating: 4

949.72. Croatia. 128 p.

Bahrain / Robert Cooper. Rev. ed., (Cultures of the world.) LCCN 0043116. Tarrytown, N.Y.: Marshall Cavendish, 2001. LIB, 0761411615, \$24.95. Middle school. Rating: 4

953.65. Bahrain. 128 p.

Maldives / Roseline NgCheong-Lum. Rev. ed., (Cultures of the world.) LCCN 0037923. Tarrytown, N.Y.: Marshall Cavendish, 2001. LIB, 0761411577, \$24.95. Middle school. Rating: 4

954.97. Maldives. 128 p.

Bhutan / Robert Cooper. Rev. ed., (Cultures of the world.) LCCN 0047435. Tarrytown, N.Y.: Marshall Cavendish, 2001. LIB, 0761411917, \$24.95. Middle school. Rating: 4

954.98. Bhutan. 128 p.

Kazakhstan / Guek-Cheng Pang. Rev. ed., (Cultures of the world.) LCCN 0047458. Tarrytown, N.Y.: Marshall Cavendish, 2001. LIB, 0761411933, \$24.95. Middle school. Rating: 4

958.45. Kazakhstan. 128 p.

Eritrea / Roseline NgCheong-Lum. Rev. ed., (Cultures of the world.) LCCN 0050834. Tarrytown, N.Y.: Marshall Cavendish, 2001. LIB, 0761411925, \$24.95. Middle school. Rating: 4

963.5. Eritrea. 128 p.

Cameroon / Sean Sheehan. Rev. ed., (Cultures of the world.) LCCN 0029511. Tarrytown, N.Y.: Marshall Cavendish, 2001. LIB, 0761411585, \$24.95. Middle school. Rating: 4

967.11. Cameroon. 128 p.

Belize / Leslie Jermyn. Rev. ed., (Cultures of the world.) LCCN 0065699. Tarrytown, N.Y.: Marshall Cavendish, 2001. LIB, 0761411909, \$24.95. Middle school. Rating: 4

972.82. Belize. 128 p.

Grenada / Guek-Cheng Pang, Rev. ed., (Cultures of the world.) LCCN 0047583. Tarrytown, N.Y.: Marshall Cavendish, 2001. LIB, 0761411607, \$24.95. Middle school. Rating: 4

972.9845. Grenada. 128 p.

Trinidad & Tobago / Sean Sheehan, Rev. ed., (Cultures of the world.) LCCN 0047457. Tarrytown, N.Y.: Marshall Cavendish, 2001. LIB, 0761411941, \$24.95. Middle school. Rating: 4

972.983. Trinidad & Tobago. 128 p.

This excellent series presents different countries in a concise yet replete fashion. From the very first page that has a picture typical of the country and its culture as well as the overview to the index, the book invites the reader to travel to the country and enjoy the trip. The binding and print are quality, as are the pages. This series will be long lasting and durable. The public and private schools will benefit from this series, as it is more detailed than Culturegrams and user friendly. The pictures and typeface are legible and well chosen. The maps, quick notes, glossary, and bibliography are all quality as well. Overall, the series is a welcome edition to the young adult section.

Each book in the series begins with an introduction unique to the country. The outline of the book is logical and able to be used as a stand alone. This means that if a teacher or student needed to access only one section or part of the book, they would be able to do so and have an understanding of the country. Beginning with a section on geography, which includes physical and man made, the book moves into history. One may be afraid that the book would get bogged down here, but the history part is told even handedly and quickly without losing the student. I especially enjoyed timely references, such as in the book discussing Scotland, the reference to the movie "Braveheart" so the student could comprehend better. This could also be a negative if the publishers had not been so selective in using current topics so as not to lose their timeliness. The history is repeated in summary fashion in other parts of the text so the student can be re-exposed to the material in a thematic manner.

The next segments, government and economy, are longer or shorter depending on the country. Again, the publisher is both accurate and ever aware of the attention span of its readers. These sections are one of the most exciting parts of the books, in that the publisher uses these places to address the real political and economic situations in the country. There is no glossing over of issues nor is there any exaggeration of the material. These sections alone make the books worth something to the history/geography teacher in me.

The rest of the book contains the same topics for each book in the series but the actual information differs per country. This is where the reader/student actually meets the people of

whatever country they are reading about. The chapters are: Scots (or whatever the book is about), Lifestyle; Religion; Language; Arts; Leisure; Festivals; and Food. In each of these chapters the researchers introduce the reader to information that is overarching and miniscule without being tedious. An example of this is the discussion of religion in the different countries. The publisher will tell the reader that while some people go to this or that church (including what percentage and what that means), they will also let the reader know that the people themselves report that religion is not that important to them and they just go out of habit. Or in the lifestyle section, the discussion of marriage where many people get married in one of the countries reviewed but the issue of homosexuality and infidelity in marriage in and out of marriage is acknowledged in the country but is treated as a "don't ask, don't tell" cultural rule. These are examples of what is covered in the text as well as a true awareness of what the country and its people believe. One thing I as a geography teacher like about this series is that it provides one recipe that is representative of each country. This is helpful for students to get to know the country, as well as providing an activity.

The only word of caution I would offer is that the subject matter is frank and honest. I recommend this book heartily for middle and high school students without reservation, but I want to acknowledge that there are topics that slide in that may need to be considered or prepared for by some librarians/teachers or parents.

Bianca Elliott, Teacher, Linwood, Kansas

Japan / by Rex Shelley, Teo Chuu Yong, and Russell Mok. (Cultures of the World.) LCCN 2001028609. New York: Benchmark Books, Marshall Cavendish, 2001. HBB, 0761413561, \$24.95. Middle school. Rating: 4

952. Japan. 144 p.

India / by Tadhika Srinivasan and Leslie Jermyn. (Cultures of the World.) LCCN 2001028608. New York: Benchmark Books, Marshall Cavendish, 2001. HBB, 0761413545, \$24.95. Middle school. Rating: 4

954. India. 144 p.

Myanmar / Saw Myat Yin. (Cultures of the world.) LCCN 2001025412. New York: Benchmark Books, Marshall Cavendish, 2001. HBB, 0761413537, \$24.95. Middle school. Rating: 4

959.1. Burma; Myanmar. 144 p.

Malaysia / by Heidi Munan and Foo Yuk Yee. (Cultures of the world.) LCCN 2001025302. New York: Benchmark Books, Marshall Cavendish, 2001. HBB, 0761413510, \$24.95. Middle school. Rating: 4

959.5. Malaysia. 144 p.

Singapore / by Lesley Layton and Pang Guek Cheng. (Cultures of the world.) LCCN 2001025413. New York: Benchmark Books, Marshall Cavendish, 2001. HBB, 0761413529, \$24.95. Middle school. Rating: 4

959.57. Singapore. 144 p.

Indonesia / by Gouri Mirpuri and Robert Cooper. (Cultures of the World.) LCCN 2001028607. New York: Benchmark Books, Marshall Cavendish, 2001. HBB, 0761413553, \$24.95. Middle school. Rating: 4

959.8. Indonesia. 144 p.

Classes and teachers needing a contemporary probing the life and people within particular countries will find much that is appealing in the Cultures of the World Series. Each volume opens with an enticing introduction that highlights the remarkable and unique features of the country. Other sections focus on geography, the history of the nation, its government, economy, environment, and specifics about the people in each area of the country.

The lifestyle section helps students appreciate the uniqueness of the people's way of life. Other parts highlight religion, language, arts, leisure, festivals and food. A map of the country enables students to see it close-up but also an index points out major cities & towns, regions, and rivers. An insert relates the country to the rest of the world.

Equivalent to an appendix, the reader finds an economic map of the country, as well as another map featuring the cultural aspects of the nation. A timeline places the country in its own development, and a godsend for teacher, another parallel one noting what was happening elsewhere in the world. The glossary and 'further information' offer additional books, websites, and cd-rom/music resources that can be consulted.

Geared to ages 9 to 12, teachers will enjoy using these titles either for class review or for individual study. Recommended for middle school collections on history and culture. The titles deserve a home in school libraries that seek to offer resources that relate facts, statistics, and commentary in a way that relates both to student lives and to a deepened appreciation of what others experience. Homeschoolers will find the titles easy to use and pictures a wonderful resource for highlighting the basics.

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

Japan in the days of the samurai / Virginia Schomp. (Cultures of the past.) LCCN 98012228. Tarrytown, N.Y.: Benchmark Books, Marshall Cavendish, 2001. LIB, 0761403043, \$19.95. Middle school (High school). Rating: 5

952. Japan--Civilization--To 1868. 80 p.

Medieval England / by Kathryn Hinds. (Cultures of the past.) LCCN 00046769. Tarrytown, N.Y.: Benchmark Books, Marshall Cavendish, 2001. LIB, 0761403086, \$19.95. Middle school (High school). Rating: 5

942.03. Great Britain--History--Medieval period, 1066-1485; England--Civilization--1066-1485. 80 p.

The Phoenicians / by Elsa Marston. (Cultures of the past.) LCCN 00041452. Tarrytown, N.Y.: Benchmark Books, Marshall Cavendish, 2001. LIB, 0761403094, \$19.95. Middle school (High school). Rating: 5

930'.04926. Phoenicians. 80 p.

Venice and its merchant empire / by Kathryn Hinds. (Cultures of the past.) LCCN 97050353. Tarrytown, N.Y.: Benchmark Books, Marshall Cavendish, 2001. LIB, 0761403051, \$19.95. Middle school (High school). Rating: 5

945'.31. Venice (Italy)--History. 80 p.

At different times and for different reasons, history appears to swirl around a particular culture that rises above its neighbors to heights of great power and influence. These four new volumes of the Cultures of the Past series join the previous eighteen in a brief but fascinating look at samurai-era Japan, medieval England, the ancient Phoenicians, and the merchant empire of Venice. Each volume is attractively laid out in five well illustrated chapters examining the society's "History," "Cultural History," the "Belief System" of the people, the connection between "Beliefs and Society," and that people's "Legacy" to the world.

Cultures of the Past does an admirable job of acquainting middle and high school students with the unique history and social system of each of the peoples it examines. The volumes are wonderfully illustrated with contemporary artwork of great artists and/or photographs of artifacts and art objects. The explanations of the belief systems are brief, but detailed enough to see the connections between them and the society in which they were practiced. The explanation of Christianity in medieval England and Venice are the same, giving the Roman Catholic understanding of the faith which was practiced in those places at that time. Each volume ends with a timeline of the history of the culture, a glossary, suggestions for further reading and research in the form of a booklist and list of websites, a bibliography, and an index of topics and illustrations.

This series is a treasure trove of both factual and artistic information, giving the student a real feel for the time, place, and people of these cultures. Excellent as a stand-alone source or the jumping-off point for more research, these, as other Benchmark Books, are highly recommended. The only draw-back is in the publisher's insistence on the substituting of B.C.E. (Before the Common Era) for B.C. and C.E. (Common Era) for A.D. Explained as

being adopted out of "respect for the diversity of the world's peoples," it only succeeds in being cumbersome, confusing, and insulting to Christians and Western cultures.

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

The Revolutionary War / by Susan Beller. (Letters from the homefront.) LCCN 00036019. New York: Benchmark Books, Marshall Cavendish, 2001. LIB, 0761410945, \$19.95. Middle school (High school). Rating: 5

973.3'0922. United States--History--Revolution, 1775-1783; United States--History--Revolution, 1775-1783--Personal narratives; Personal narratives. 96 p.

The Civil War / by Virginia Schomp. (Letters from the homefront.) LCCN 00041451. New York: Benchmark Books, Marshall Cavendish, 2001. LIB, 0761410953, \$19.95. Middle school (High school). Rating: 5

973.7. United States--History--Civil War, 1861-1865; United States--History--Civil War, 1861-1865--Personal narratives; Personal narratives. 96 p.

World War I / by Linda S. George. (Letters from the homefront.) LCCN 00036027. New York: Benchmark Books, Marshall Cavendish, 2001. LIB, 0761410961, \$19.95. Middle school (High school). Rating: 5

940.4'8173. World War, 1914-1918--United States; World War, 1914-1918--Personal narrative, American; Personal narratives. 96 p.

World War II / by Virginia Schomp. (Letters from the homefront.) LCCN 00036038. New York: Benchmark Books, Marshall Cavendish, 2001. LIB, 0761410988, \$19.95. Middle school (High school). Rating: 5

940.54'8173. World War, 1939-1945--United States; World War, 1939-1945--Personal narrative, American; Personal narratives. 96 p.

The Vietnam War / by Virginia Schomp. (Letters from the homefront.) LCCN 00046770. New York: Benchmark Books, Marshall Cavendish, 2001. LIB, 0761410996, \$19.95. Middle school (High school). Rating: 5

959.704'3373. Vietnamese Conflict, 1961-1975; Letters; United States--Social conditions--1960-1980. 96 p.

America's wars, whether fought abroad or on home soil, have all had a common front that is seldom explored in books written for young people; and that is the Homefront. Letters From the Homefront looks at America's major conflicts in terms of how it affected the people left behind as thousands of men, boys, and sometimes women, joined the military or the relief organizations that cared for its fallen members. In particular, the war's effect on women, children, and minority populations (both racial and political) is examined, as well as the changes that effect produced, influencing the

future development of American society, politics, economics, and culture.

Letters From the Homefront, published in five volumes, takes a clear-eyed look at what life was like for Americans during the course of each of its major wars. Although the background and reasons for each war are briefly recounted in the first chapter, the volumes immediately plunge into the topic at hand, with the remaining four chapters examining how women, children, minorities, and those opposed to the war were effected by the demands it placed upon them. Each volume is extensively illustrated with contemporary paintings or photographs depicting the people, places, and events of the time, as well as photocopies of actual letters accompanied by more readable versions of them. As with all Benchmark Books, each volume ends with extensive documentation and suggestions for further research. These include a time line of the war, a glossary of terms, a list of suggested books, internet sites, and videos for more information, an extensive bibliography, endnotes documenting quotations appearing in the book, and an index of topics and illustrations. Letters From the Homefront is recommended for middle to high school students for general background reading on America's wars, but they are particularly useful for research papers and as a starting point for further study on the impact of war on American society and culture.

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

Stories from where we live / edited by Sara St. Antoine. (Stories from where we live.) LCCN 00067886. Minneapolis: Milkweed Editions, 2001. HBB, 1571316302, \$19.95. Middle school. Rating: 5

978. Great Plains--Literary collections; Natural history--Great Plains; Prairies--United States--Miscellanea. 262 p.

Stories from Where We Live, a series edited by Sara St. Antoine, provides collections of writings from North American geographic regions. The collections include poetry, fiction, memoirs, and essays under the headings of Adventures, Great Places, Reapers & Sowers, and Wild Lives. Each volume includes a non-fiction section in the appendix covering information about the ecosystem, habitats, animals, and plants of the region. Illustrations include maps by Paul Mirocha and a variety of pen & ink drawings by Trudy Nicholson.

Currently available volumes are the California Coast, the Great North American Prairie, and the North Atlantic Coast. Future volumes will cover the Appalachian Highlands, the Arctic, Boreal Forest, Great Lakes, Gulf Coast, Hawaiian Islands, Northeast Woodlands, Northwest Pacific Coast, Rocky Mountains, South Atlantic Coast and Piedmont, Southern Hill Country, and Western Deserts and Plateaus.

This series is excellent. Appropriate as read alouds, as well as readers, these books will be of

interest to a wide range of ages. In addition to the entertainment provided, these books have great potential for educational use. The variety of literature can provide the opportunity to compare writing styles, or combine literature with history and science. Recommended for home schoolers, school libraries and personal enjoyment.

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

The Inuit / Raymond Bial. (Lifeways.) LCCN 00052892. Tarrytown, N.Y.: Benchmark Books, Marshall Cavendish, 2001. HBB, 0761412123, \$22.95. Middle school. Rating: 3

979.8004/971. Inuit; Eskimos. 128 p.

The Nez Perce / Raymond Bial. (Lifeways.) LCCN 00059627. Tarrytown, N.Y.: Benchmark Books, Marshall Cavendish, 2002. HBB, 0761412107, \$22.95. Middle school. Rating: 3

979.5004/9741. Nes Percé Indians; Indians of North America--Northwest, Pacific. 128 p.

The Powhatan / Raymond Bial. (Lifeways.) LCCN 00031631. Tarrytown, N.Y.: Benchmark Books, Marshall Cavendish, 2001. HBB, 0761412093, \$22.95. Middle school. Rating: 3

974.4003/973. Powhatan Indians; Indians of North America--Virginia. 128 p.

The Shoshone / Raymond Bial. (Lifeways.) LCCN 2001018496. Tarrytown, N.Y.: Benchmark Books, Marshall Cavendish, 2001. HBB, 0761412115, \$22.95. Middle school. Rating: 3

978.0049745. Shoshoni Indians; Indians of North America. 128 p.

Highly informative, abundantly and beautifully illustrated, the Lifeways series is written by Raymond Bial, photographer, ethnic researcher, early American history buff, college library director, and parent. Each volume introduces one American Indian Tribe. All volumes have a similar format: Origins, including traditional creation myths, early history, environment; Towns, introducing socialization and government; Lifeways, presenting handicrafts, hunting, a recipe, warfare, etc.; Beliefs, both ancient and modern; Changing World, containing history from then to now, plus a simple dictionary; New Ways, illustrating today's life; More About..., with a time line, some notable people, and a glossary. Each volume ends with useful bibliographies and an index.

The Inuit: These courteous people, among the last Indians to be contacted by Europeans, helped Robert Perry win his fame. As in all his volumes, Bial introduces interesting members of the tribe. The artist Kenojuk, who threw stones at her would-be husband, is particularly interesting. An innate courtesy graces many of the myths and histories.

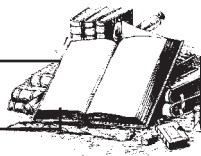
The Nez Perce: The original breeders of the beautiful Appaloosa horse, these Indians were great horsemen. They are also talented handcrafters. Several photos of handicrafts will lend themselves to modern day handcraft projects. Intriguing Coyote myths are scattered throughout the book.

The Powhatan: Pocohantas, Virginia Dare, Jamestown, this volume is a meeting of European and Indian history. A short biography of the singer Wayne Newton appears in the More About the Powhatan chapter.

The Shoshone: In this volume we meet Sacajawea's people, learn to build a Tipi, and begin to understand the ritual Sun Dance. The closing pages speak of this tribe's growing success in modern living.

Carefully researched with the help of the individual tribes, each volume in the Lifeways series presents an overview of the subject tribe, giving ample information for school and home research, projects, handicrafts, plays. While written for grades 5-9, adults will also be engrossed by the empathetic, frank information. Attractively presented, they make excellent gift and award books. So far there are 16 volumes in this encyclopedic series. At over \$20 per volume, a set of these books may not be as cost effective for the school library as one volume encyclopedias such as Scholastic's *Encyclopedia of the North American Indian*.

Donna J. Eggett, Freelance Writer, Radford, Virginia



***The Ishbane Conspiracy* / Angela, Karina, & Randy Alcorn. LCCN 2001001854. Sisters, Ore.: Multnomah, 2001. PAP, 1576738175, \$14.99. High school. Rating: 4**

F. Friendship--Fiction; Spiritual warfare--Fiction. 297 p.

Four young people, representing anyone, anywhere, are caught in the age-old battle for the soul. The issues that must be faced within the pages of the *Ishbane Conspiracy* cover the many-faceted problems and traps that those living in 21st century America must confront. Jillian and Rob are trying to live for the Lord, while their good friends, Ian and Brittany, are determined not to accept the truth about Jesus; they all find themselves having to make choices that will be life-changing. Not all of their choices are right, and consequences of sin become apparent as young lives are snuffed out, plans for the future are changed, and honest searching for truth is rewarded.

Randy Alcorn and his two daughters, Angela and Karina, have worked on this novel together, making sure that issues, music, movies, and peer pressures are accurate and current. The storyline itself should keep the reader interested and able to relate to all that these four young people must face.

Between each scenario the reader will find letters written from the Enemy that outline Satan's strategies to deceive and snare the very souls of individuals. The value of understanding the enemy "agenda" is critical to life, and brings insight to the reader just as Frank Peretti's *This Present Darkness* reveals the spiritual impact each prayer and decision brings.

Although the information given from the enemy viewpoint is enlightening, the letters sometimes intrude and interrupt the storyline, being a bit lengthy and leaning toward the "preachy" side. However, the journey of these four lives remains intriguing, being both heart-wrenching and heart-warming. The ending is not the typical "and they lived happily ever after," yet offers hope and truth that can touch hearts for eternity.

Mary McKinney, Editor, Writer, Conference Speaker, Educator, Port Orchard, Washington

***It's my life : diary of a teenage girl* / Melody Carlson. LCCN 00011386. Sisters, Ore.: Multnomah, 2001. PAP, 1576737721, \$12.99. High school. Rating: 4**

F. Diaries--Fiction; Friendship--Fiction; Christian life--Fiction; Conduct of life--Fiction; Missionaries--Fiction. 245 p.

Caitlin O'Connor began writing in her diary at the not-so-sweet age of sixteen; at least, she

doesn't see sixteen as being that sweet. Her sixteenth year thoughts, dreams, and dilemmas were caught up in *Diary of a Teenage Girl*. Now that Caitie is all of seventeen, she writes of her present and future hopes in part two--*It's My Life*. At sixteen Caitlin had a fairly astounding year, including some life-changing decisions, such as not dating until a much later date, accepting Christ into her life, forgiving her father his marital indiscretions, and coping with her best friend's pregnancy. Now at seventeen, Caitie begins moving towards her post-high-school life, and realizes that she is responsible for her own life.

Making one's own decisions, despite family and peer pressures, is the theme throughout this sequel. Yet Caitlin comes to realize that her decisions have impact not only on her life but on other people's lives as well. She also learns that leaning on God's wisdom and not on her own understanding proves to be the wisest and most peaceful approach to life.

Melody Carlson presents a realistic portrait of a teen girl. The expressions, reactions, and voice genuinely reflect a contemporary outlook that is neither condescending nor too coy. The author provides a platform for the discussion of some heavy moral and social issues without becoming overly heavy-handed. Controversial issues such as dating, sexual purity, anorexia, co-dependency, judging peers, and dedicating oneself to the Lord's service are all covered with a thoughtful perspective. Teens looking for answers to the complex questions of today might find solace in Caitlin's outpourings and reflections. Adults will also appreciate an inside look at some of the teen concerns presented. General enough for public school and community libraries, *It's My Life* is a definite purchase choice for Christian school or church libraries, especially if the first book was bought.

Pam Webb, School Library Technician II, Sandpoint, Idaho

***Lilac blossom time* / Carrie Bender. (Dora's diary; 2.) LCCN 2001024335. Scottsdale, Pa.: Herald Press, 2001. PAP, 0836191374, \$8.99. High school (Adult, Middle school). Rating: 3**

F. Amish women--Fiction; Women teachers--Fiction; Young women--Fiction; Pennsylvania--Fiction; Minnesota--Fiction; Diaries--Fiction. 174 p.

Lilac Blossom Time is a sweet story of a young Amish woman during the year prior to her marriage and shortly thereafter. This second in the series of Dora's Diary chronicles Dora's life as she serves as a maid, a companion, and a mother's helper. Pennsylvania Dutch words are liberally laced through the text, always defined

yet often needing no definition as they are so understandable within the story. Little tidbits of Christian wisdom or poetry are included in many passages. Always present is Dora's sweet and simple personality, her love for her Lord and her family. Many Amish ways are explained by way of being part of her diary, adding to the charm of this book—and many others—by author Carrie Bender.

Those who would like to enjoy an easy read, yet want some Christian substance in their reading, will love this delightful book. It entertains and inspires with its depiction of the heartwarming Christianity of the heroine, and will be sure to be a hit on the fiction shelves of church and public libraries alike.

Cecil Carey, Young Adult Librarian, Public Library, Plano, Illinois

***Mars diaries. Mission 6, Moon racer* / Sigmund Brouwer. LCCN 2001277633. Wheaton, Ill.: Tyndale House, 2001. PAP, 0842343091, \$4.99. High school. Rating: 5**

F. Sanders, Tyce (Fictitious character)--Fiction; Science fiction; Christian life--Fiction; Mars (Planet)--Colonists--Fiction. 129 p.

***Mars diaries. Mission 7, Countdown* / Sigmund Brouwer. LCCN 2001277632. Wheaton, Ill.: Tyndale House, 2001. PAP, 0842343105, \$4.99. High school. Rating: 5**

F. Sanders, Tyce (Fictitious character)--Fiction; Science fiction; Christian life--Fiction; Mars (Planet)--Colonists--Fiction. 121 p.

***Mars diaries. Mission 8, Robot war* / Sigmund Brouwer. LCCN 2001277420. Wheaton, Ill.: Tyndale House, 2001. PAP, 0842343113, \$4.99. High school. Rating: 5**

F. Sanders, Tyce (Fictitious character)--Fiction; Science fiction; Christian life--Fiction; Mars (Planet)--Colonists--Fiction. 127 p.

Set in the not-too-distant future of 2040, the *Mars Diaries* centers on the small group of scientists and technicians who live under an experimental dome on Mars. With the earth about to erupt into global war due to overpopulation and diminishing resources, there is great hope that this colony living on the red planet will be the answer to many issues at hand. The series focuses on fourteen-year-old Tyce Sanders, the only child born on Mars. His mother is a scientist and his father is a shuttle pilot. Tyce's distinction of being the only teenager on Mars is enhanced by his expertise at manipulating virtual reality, and the fact that he is wheelchair-bound (a result of an operation gone wrong at birth).

As the series continues, Tyce, his father, and Ashley, another virtual-reality-abled teen, travel from Mars to Earth. This will be Tyce's first time visiting the planet of his parents' birth. Yet Tyce has little time to take in the sights as he and Ashley are accused of treachery and are on the run from the government. They must not only keep at least two steps ahead of their pursuers, but they must also unravel a horrendous plot.

Mission 6: Moon Racer. Too late, Ashley and Tyce discover a saboteur on their flight from Mars to Earth, a mastermind who is determined to destroy the ship and all the other passengers. Can Tyce and Ashley discover who it is before they all self-destruct into the sun?

Mission 7: Countdown. Instead of receiving a hero's welcome, Tyce and his father, along with Ashley, are thrown into prison once they arrive on earth. In a sudden turn of events they are allowed their freedom, but only have six days to reveal the whereabouts of a secret institute, otherwise Tyce's father's life will be in jeopardy. Will they find the institute in time?

Mission 8: Robot War. Once again Ashley and Tyce are deemed traitors, instead of heroes. They have uncovered the institute, and the horrible plot to turn children into robot soldiers. But there is so little time left, and they need the cooperation of the captive children. How can they earn their trust?

Sigmund Brouwer is without a doubt one of the best middle reader/young adult science fiction writers going. His snappy writing style, filled with quick plot twists, keeps pages turning. And his detailed technical research and Christian emphasis make for a winning combination. Brouwer fans will certainly want to pick up on his latest series. Those who enjoy Bill Myers will find another favorite author in Brouwer, with his humorous, yet intense style.

Pam Webb, Freelance Writer, Sandpoint, Idaho

The new amplified Pilgrim's progress / adapted from John Bunyan's original text by James Pappas, Jr. LCCN 2001273596. Shippensburg, Pa.: Destiny Image, 2001. HBB, 0768420512, \$19.99. High school. Rating: 3

F. Christian pilgrims and pilgrimages--Fiction; Puritan movements--Fiction; Christian life--Fiction. 348 p.

Most of us are familiar with the time-honored classic, *The Pilgrim's Progress*. John Bunyan, while spending time in prison for his religious beliefs, wrote of a dream he had about a character known as Pilgrim, often referred to as "Christian."

Christian becomes aware of the fact that the village he lives in is soon to be destroyed. Upon trying to warn his family and community, he is scorned and treated as crazy. With the help of characters like Evangelist, Goodwill, and Faithful, Christian narrowly escapes the fiery darts of the enemy, places like Doubting Castle and the town of Vanity Fair, and death at the

hands of the giant, Despair. He is also able to reject advice from characters like Mr. Worldly-wise, who tries to cause him to stray from the straight and narrow path that leads to Heaven and everlasting life.

The New Amplified Pilgrim's Progress: From This World to That Which Is to Come, adapted from Bunyan's original text by James Pappas, Jr., is yet another version of the same tale. Pappas' changes mix modern language with "thee's" and "thou's." Black and white mythical-style sketches provide a Victorian flare. The work is unabridged and retains the power of the original text. Biblical quotations are taken from the King James Version, prior to amplification.

Language level and length are more appropriate for high school students than those in middle school. Recommended for religious library collections, both academic and public, classroom studies, and group discussions.

Kim Harris, Librarian, Newman Riga Library, Churchville, New York

Stuck in the sky / written by Lissa Halls Johnson. (Brio girls; 1.) LCCN 2001002560. Minneapolis: Bethany House, 2001. PAP, 1561799513, \$5.99. High school. Rating: 5

F. Christian life--Fiction; Friendship--Fiction; Schools--Fiction. 181 p.

Fast forward to normal / written by Jane Vogel; created by Lissa Halls Johnson. (Brio girls; 2.) LCCN 2001002628. Minneapolis: Bethany House, 2001. PAP, 1561799521, \$5.99. High school. Rating: 5

F. Adoption--Fiction; Schools--Fiction; Christian life--Fiction. 181 p.

Opportunity knocks twice / created and written by Lissa Halls Johnson. (Brio girls; 3.) LCCN 2001006280. Minneapolis: Bethany House, 2002. PAP, 156179953X, \$5.99. High school. Rating: 5

F. Interpersonal relations--Fiction; Dating (Social customs)--Fiction; Christian life--Fiction. 181 p.

Double exposure / created by Lissa Halls Johnson; written by Kathy Wierenga. (Brio girls; 4.) LCCN 2001006281. Minneapolis: Bethany House, 2002. PAP, 1561799548, \$5.99. High school. Rating: 5

F. Courtship--Fiction; Dating (Social customs)--Fiction; Christian life--Fiction; High schools--Fiction; Schools--Fiction. 185 p.

The Brio Girls series, created by Lissa Halls Johnson, explores the relationships of four childhood friends currently in high school. Of the four, three are believers; however, they don't ostracize the nonbeliever but rather try to love her to Christ by continuing to be her friend.

Stuck in the Sky, the first in the series, explores the world of Jacie Noland, aspiring artist, who desperately wants to further her art career. Her

Brio friends support her in her quest and encourage her to enter a local art contest to earn prize money to go to an art conference. A newcomer to their group, Hannah, who has been homeschooled her entire life, grapples for acceptance while trying to foist her beliefs on the nonbeliever friend. Throw in romance with a nonbeliever and Jacie soon finds her world spinning out of control.

In *Fast Forward to Normal*, author Jane Vogel continues the tone set by Johnson, this time exploring the life, feelings, and thoughts of another Brio girl. Again the author confronts prevalent issues of confusion and self-esteem when Becca feels threatened by the adoption of a young Guatemalan boy, and the volunteer work of new girl Hannah. Becca seeks God in order to find a solution to her problems.

Opportunity Knocks Twice, by creator Lissa Halls Johnson, has as its main character Tyler, the only boy in the group of friends. A unique look at the boy's mindset concerning dating and the type of girl guys really want to go out with set this book apart from the others. Johnson shows the confusion and struggle Tyler goes through when his old girlfriend, who has a reputation for being rather "easy," comes back to town. His new feelings for Hannah, who believes in courtship only, war with his reemerging feelings for his old girlfriend. This book is a valuable tool for all teen girls, if only to give them a glimpse into the thought process of guys.

The fourth book in the series, *Double Exposure*, by Kathy Wierenga, delves into the life of Hannah Connor, who faces cultural challenges to her beliefs. Her strong convictions about living for Christ, and about courtship, alienate some who don't understand her. When given the opportunity to become staff photographer for the school paper, Hannah finds herself falling for the editor. Her belief system challenged, Hannah compromises her values in the area of courtship.

Hannah's character, although stiff and legalistic, serves the purpose of teaching readers to let compassion and love guide them, rather than judgment and condemnation. Hannah changes the most in this last book, becoming softer as a person as she realizes there is more to being a Christian than living by the rules.

All of the authors create convincing characters that readers will readily relate to, who face problems common to every teen; the books offer ideas that readers can apply to their own lives.

Eileen Zygarrlicke, Freelance Writer & Editor, Grand Forks, North Dakota

Tia's story : a novel / Judy Baer. LCCN 2001003162. Wheaton, Ill.: Tyndale House, 2001. PAP, 0842319247, \$9.99. High school (Adult). Rating: 3

F. Businesswomen--Fiction; Abused women--Services for--Fiction; Volunteer workers in a social service--Fiction. 245 p.

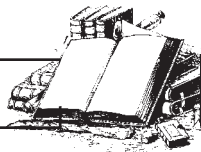
Tia Warden's passion is her business. At Tia's Attic she caters to the affluent who enjoy surrounding themselves with expensive elegance. She controls every aspect of the business and dreams of the day she will have enough money to open a second and third store. Overworked and single, her home life revolves around her friends Jenny Adams and Libby Morrison and their families. Then she meets Brandon Ainsley at a gift show.

Baer slows her readers by plunking them into the middle of unknown situations, then catches them up if they stay interested and continue to turn the pages. For example, the second chapter opens with Libby and Jenny taking Tia out for a congratulatory dinner after the opening of her second store. The readers know nothing about the new store yet, so they have to learn from the girl's conversation that Tia has made a drastic change to her dreams. She is not the sole owner of her second store, Ribbons and Rainbows; Brandon put up the money and he is a partner.

Doubts start surfacing in Tia's mind as to the partnership and she asks God to help her see where Brandon fits into her life. Baer's treatment of the change in Tia's prayer life, from sporadic to where she is asking God to take control of her life, is a redeeming feature of *Tia's Story*.

Brandon confiscates large amounts of money from Ribbons and Rainbows, forcing Tia to sell her original store and pay her partner's debt. But Tia's entrepreneurial skills resurface and she creates another niche for herself in the business world by teaching others how to provide loving treatment to abused women.

Maxine Cambra, Freelance Writer, Anderson, California



***Out of the black shadows* / Stephen Lungu with Anne Coomes. Grand Rapids: Kregel, Kregel, 2001. PAP, 0825460255, \$12.99. High school (Middle school, adult). Rating: 5**

269. Evangelists--Africa; Lungu, Stephen. 253 p.

Out of the Black Shadows is the biography of Stephen Lungu, whose family, like most blacks in Salisbury, Rhodesia, lives in desperate poverty. His parents battle constantly during the week, but on Sundays the family dons their white-shirt, pious attitude and attends church where Mr. Lungu preaches.

Stephen is seven when his angry father deserts the family. Then his mother, unable to cope by herself, leaves Stephen and the younger children to care for themselves. Police push the children onto resentful relatives whose own families are already without food and warm clothes.

At eleven, angry and rebellious, Stephen takes to the streets. He forms a gang, the Black Shadows—his family and his protectors. On hearing the nationalist Youth League's hate speeches to destroy whites, Christians and capitalism, they join the group. One night, sent to bomb the Dorothea Missions tent revival, the gang goes inside to detonate their bombs. But while sitting there, Stephen hears a young girl's testimony that changes his life forever.

Impassioned Stephen rides the bus all day, talking about Jesus. Asked to attend a Bible school, he learns to read and write. After graduation, the Dorothea Missions team welcomes him as a vital addition to their efforts. Standing before his first audience, nervous and in awe, the zealous Stephen has no conception that one day he will become the world-renowned evangelist he is today.

Anne Coomes' brilliant writing lets the reader cry and cheer at Stephen's growth from deepest poverty to a man used by God in a fantastic way. Included are photographs of Stephen, his family, and the dedicated men who educated him. The targeted high school audience, adults, and junior highers will all enjoy this motivational book.

Maxine Cambra, Freelance Writer, Anderson, California

***Becoming a man : a celebration of sexuality, responsibility, and the Christian young man*, 2nd ed. / Donald M. Joy. LCCN 00112094. Nappanee, Ind.: Evangel Publishing House, 2001. PAP, 1928915183, \$12.95. High school. Rating: 4**

305.23'5. Teenage boys; Teenage boys--Conduct of life; Teenage boys--Sexual behavior; Adolescent psychology. 125 p.

Donald Joy writes as a grandfather to share some "trade secrets" of growing up as a healthy male. Joy says he's putting these tips into words because there are too many of them for a speech, and to give the opportunity to reread and weigh them, and decide what to do.

Teen males, and those working with young men, will find much here to digest. The advice and truths shared are biblically sound and put Christian sexuality in a context that many young people can relate to, or at least pause to consider. A sure strength of *Becoming a Man* is honesty and not glossing over moral truths with clichés or sermonizing, e.g. he advises teens that if "you have premarital sex of any kind," your bonding will be vulnerable to three kinds of risks. One of these risks is that if sexual bonding occurs without taking full responsibility through legal marriage, a pleasure appetite is developed that is disconnected from the real world of work and responsibility. He also notes that if teens abstain from sexual contact until marriage there are also risks, e.g. be careful not to ignore your need for intimacy, for it's easy to make harsh judgment against those who have sex, or one might be vulnerable to struggles with masturbation or pornography. The direct, open discussion is likely to encourage teens to keep reading.

As author of more than fifteen books, and professor of Human Development and Family Studies at Asbury Theological Seminary, he makes the Bible relevant and ageless wisdom seem contemporary. Highly recommended in all public library collections for teens, in school secondary libraries, and on church reading shelves for parents and teens.

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

***The gift of hope : The Tony Melendez Story*. Worcester, Pa.: Gateway Films, Vision Video, 2001. VID, 1563645238, \$19.99. High school (Middle school, Adult). Rating: 3**

787.87'092. Melendez, Tony; Musicians with disabilities--United States--Biography; Thalidomide--Side effects. 1 video, col., 42 min.

Because of the affects of the prescription drug, Thalidomide, taken by his mother for morning sickness during her pregnancy, Tony Melendez is born with a badly damaged foot and no arms. Through the encouragement of his family, Tony grows up believing in his ability to accomplish many tasks other children, without disabilities, perform normally. He does well in school, is involved in the church choir, and learns to play the guitar with his feet. Tony has a positive attitude until he graduates from high school and

realizes that there aren't many jobs available for people with no arms. His struggle with discouragement is only a temporary set-back, as Tony begins to sing and play his guitar for anyone who will listen. After a special performance for an audience that includes Pope John Paul II, the Pope rises, gives Tony a kiss on the cheek, and tells him that he will bring hope to many. Since that incredible day, Tony has gotten married, and he and his wife Lynn have adopted two children. Tony has sung and spoken on "The Today Show," "The 700 Club," "Good Morning, America," and at churches across the country.

The Gift of Hope: The Tony Melendez Story is a forty-two minute video produced by The Dove Foundation. This inspirational autobiography/biography is part narration, part personal story, and part input from friends and family. Tony's life struggles and victories are expressed in both English and Spanish. Credit for his life is given to God, rather than to a specific church organization. Recommended for church video collections and family movie nights for ages eleven and up.

Kim Harris, Librarian, Newman Riga Library, Churchville, New York

***I kissed dating goodbye* / Joshua Harris. LCCN 96051843. Sisters, Ore.: Multnomah, 1997. PAP, 1576730360, \$10.99. High school/Adult. Rating: 5**

306.73. Dating (Social customs); Dating (Social customs)--Religious aspects--Christianity; Man-woman relationships. 1 book, 227 p.; 1 CD-Rom.

In *I Kissed Dating Goodbye*, Joshua Harris proposes that young people refrain from romantic entanglements until they are in a position to marry. Though a seemingly bizarre counter-cultural premise, the book goes on to explain why to avoid romance in the teens and early twenties and to give practical suggestions of how to get to know persons of the opposite sex outside of a dating relationship.

Dating often pressures couples into ever-escalating physical contact to recreate the intense rush of the initial attraction. Current popular culture does not inform kids that sex is reserved for marriage. Dating can isolate the couple from other vital relationships with friends, family, mentors, etc. Dating distracts young adults from their primary responsibility—preparing for the future: pursuing education, acquiring skills, saving up a nest egg. Dating makes singleness seem undesirable, instead of the blessing God intended. At what other time can a person so freely take advantage of opportunities for growth, learning, and service?

Harris suggests young people interact with members of the other gender by building a true friendship. "The premise of dating is, 'I'm attracted to you; therefore, let's get to know each other.' The premise of friendship is, 'We're interested in the same things; let's enjoy these common interests together.'" Be inclusive, not exclusive. Do things with groups of people. Seek opportunities to serve, not to be entertained.

Harris includes a chapter called "What Matters at Fifty" which explains how to discern character by observing how a person relates to his parents, authority figures, cashiers, waitresses, and little children; how she handles money; how he cares for his body; whether she works hard at school, job, and home; whether he has an attitude of contentment and optimism.

This is an incredibly important book, one that could have an enormous impact on individual lives and society as a whole. However, like many books published by Christian publishers, it's full of Christianese and the assumption that the reader desires to serve Christ first and foremost. That slant, while certainly a worthwhile worldview, eliminates a huge portion of the people who could otherwise benefit from its central theme. It also guarantees that 90% of Christian families will never even see the book. (Did you know that only 10% of Christians shop at Christian bookstores?)

Andrea R. Huelsenbeck, Freelance Writer and Drama Minister,
Tempe, Arizona

Boy meets girl : say hello to courtship / Joshua Harris. LCCN 00011254. Sisters, Ore.: Multnomah, 2000. PAP, 1576737098, \$14.99. High school (Adult). Rating: 5

306.73. Single people--Religious life; Courtship--Religious aspects--Christianity; Courtship; Dating (Social customs)--Religious aspects--Christianity. 1 book, 227 p.; 1 CD-Rom.

Author Joshua Harris offers an alternative to dating pressures in his book *Boy Meets Girl*, which examines the lifestyle of courtship. Picking up where his first book, *I Kissed Dating Goodbye*, leaves off, Harris urges readers to consider a courtship-type dating relationship. He explores what courtship is not and identifies pitfalls relationships can get hung up in. Using his own experience of courtship with his wife, Harris explains in simple terms what some of the quagmires can be and encourages those considering a courtship relationship to allow themselves to be held accountable by others, offering a set of accountability guidelines.

With the sexual stimulation that surrounds us, *Boy Meets Girl* is a refreshing and hopeful book that debunks the theory that a young person must date many to find one that "truly fits" them. Harris challenges young people to allow God to make the match. By putting a spiritual emphasis on the relationship and only entering into a relationship that has the potential to end in marriage, the pressures to overstep the boundaries physically and to be hurt through many failed dating ventures lessens.

The book is easy to read, and Harris addresses the issues of what to do when you realize the person you're courting is not for you, how to allow God to be center in your relationship, and gives questions to ask yourself about the relationship before committing to engagement.

Included in the book is a CD with a powerful video clip depicting grace and forgiveness as well as a clip on purity. Rebecca St. James does an interview on sexual purity and includes her single, "Wait for Me," as well.

The book/CD combination is a practical guide to courtship/dating and is a good book for parents to read with their young adults to discuss an alternative to regular dating.

Eileen Zygarlicke, Freelance Writer & Editor, Grand Forks, North Dakota

Josh McDowell's youth devotions / [compiled] by Bob Hostetler. LCCN 97017458. Wheaton, Ill.: Tyndale House, 1997. PAP, 0842343016, \$12.99. High school (Middle school). Rating: 4

242'.63. Devotional calendars; Prayer books and devotions. 366 p.

This is a powerful book that will appeal to all kids but I think especially the boys because of how it is written and the activities in it. Josh McDowell and Bob Hostetler have teamed up again to write devotions to coincide with daily readings from the Bible. There are twelve different themes that have a cyclical pattern to them which helps to reinforce their teachings. Twelve different themes for the year: January—ten commandments; February—justice, love, mercy; March—self-control, purity, and fruit of the spirit; April—faithfulness and unity; May—honesty, generosity, and the value of human life; June—humility and respect; July—justice and kindness; August—love and purity; September—work, faithfulness, and compassion; October—perseverance and humility; November—self-control and respect; December—honesty and generosity. Every day has a Bible reading, an anecdote/story relevant to teens, and an activity causing the child to reflect and pray, or reflect, act, and pray.

I like this because it forces the child to take the "head knowledge" and apply it in their lives. There are many similarities to this material and what one would find in a Life Application Bible in concept form. This book is written for Christians so there are not many opportunities to lead someone to Christ but there are a few in the book. It is geared more for the road to a more mature Christian, which is sorely lacking in young Christian literature today.

Bianca Elliott, Public School Teacher, Linwood, Kansas

The Kregel pictorial guide to Christian heritage in England / Daniel A. Scalberg. Grand Rapids: Kregel, 2002. PAP, 082543663X, \$10.99. High school. Rating: 3

96 p.

Written by Daniel A. Scalberg who leads tours to these sites, *The Kregel Pictorial Guide to Christian Heritage in England* gives the reader a guided tour by proxy to religious sites around England. An introduction gives a quick overview of Christianity in the British Isles. The following two sections then take us to various sites in the country, discussing the religious connections each has, and introduces us to some important names in British religious history. Appendices give a timeline of English history and travel tips and reading suggestions should a real trip be planned.

The book is written as a travel guide, not a scholarly tome, and the writing reflects this. It is flavorful rather than objective. It is full of colorful tales of the characters that make up England's history and helped shape its religious views. There are many pictures, most in color, of the sites being discussed. The historical overview at the beginning seems a little uneven and some of the picture referrals in the text might have been better placed, but overall it's an interesting book and well fulfills its purpose of preparing the traveler for a trip to these sites.

As a travel guide, the book is best suited to a library travel section or a purchase by individuals planning such a tour, but history buffs can enjoy the tales of intrigue and seeing the places where they happened. Schools can make curriculum use of it as long as they are aware it is not meant to be a scholarly work on the subject. College age and adults are the likely audience, as these are the most likely to need it for its intended purpose. It's an interesting book that gives fascinating insights into this realm of English church history.

Betsy Ruffin, Librarian/Teacher, Cleburne, Texas

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Out of war / Sara Cameron; in conjunction with UNICEF. LCCN 0069605. New York: Scholastic, 2001. HBB, 0439297214, \$15.95. High school (Middle school). Rating: 5

305.23'09861. Violence--Colombia; Colombia--History; Children and violence--Colombia; Children and war--Colombia. 186 p.

Is there a cure for the terrible wounds that forty plus years of war have inflicted on Colombia's children? *Out of War* gives a resounding yes to this question. Facing horror only beginning to be understood by the average American, Colombian youth from all strata of society are individually choosing to join the Children's Movement for Peace. Fostered by both secular and church based groups, these youth eschew gang and military violence and reach out to help others find active peace. Sarah Cameron uses the original narratives of nine courageous teens who have chosen to set aside vindictive anger in order to wage peace. This extraordinary chronicle is trifold: the introduction describes the devastating environment surrounding these youth; next are the nine almost understated, grimly victorious narratives; the ending consists of a brief history of the movement in Colombia,

a few recent developments in the lives of these nine youth, and the author's own experiences in writing *Out of War*. A pertinent list of resources for further study closes the book.

This unique, valuable story presents the chilling reality behind our daily news. It impacts the reader with sorrow and horror, yet simply and powerfully presents victorious solutions for coping successfully through that horror. Impacted by recent national and world events, America's youth, (as well as adults), agonize about problems akin to those portrayed in this book. *Out of War's* triumphs, defeats, mature wisdom, and heroism arising from choosing peace instead of sinking into the quagmire of replicated violence speaks strongly to such worries.

Useful for all public and private libraries, this book is recommended especially to middle school and high school libraries. With a wise guide, younger readers will also find this book worthwhile. The format lends itself to discussion groups of all ages, secular or church based. Parents can use this book to help their children voice their fears and find solutions. Soldiers of Peace, CNN's video concerning the Children's Movement for Peace, makes a good companion to *Out of War*. The web site for viewing this video is listed in the resources.

Donna J. Eggett, Freelance Writer, Radford, Virginia

The prayer of Jabez for teens / Bruce Wilkinson with David Kopp. Sisters, Ore.: Multnomah, 2001. HBB, 1576738159, \$9.99. High school (Middle school). Rating: 3

222'.6309505. Jabez (Biblical figure); Christian life. 116 p.

A small book, *The Prayer of Jabez* has caused a sensation in Christian circles. *The Prayer of Jabez for Teens* takes the same theme and scripture presented in the original book but adapts it for teenagers. Written by same author, Bruce Wilkinson, this book explains the prayer found in I Chronicles 4:10. The four parts to the prayer are 1) bless me indeed 2) enlarge my territory 3) put your hand on me 4) keep me from evil. Wilkinson expounds upon each part and encourages young people to pray it for themselves and live it out in their lives.

In writing style, tone, and even graphic design, this book is meant to appeal to teens. The author uses stories and examples that will be familiar to this age group and attempts to show them what can be done when they truly seek God and believe in His power. An appendix lists main ideas and questions for each chapter to encourage further thought whether in personal or group study. A website address is also given for accessing more information and helps.

The book is written for the high school age group, but should work as well with middle school and young college students also. Christian school libraries, church libraries, and even public libraries will want to consider this addition to their collections, with the prominence of the Jabez prayer phenomenon.

Families and individuals will be interested as well. The book has reader appeal both by style and by trend. Not the get-rich gospel some have feared, the lessons of the book instead are centered on trusting God more and seeking to be more fruitful in the Christian life. It's a book worth a look.

Betsy Ruffin, Librarian/Teacher, Cleburne, Texas

Roger Williams : freedom's forgotten hero / participating scholars: Edwin S. Gaustad, Derek H. Davis, Keith Francis, J. Stanley Lemons. Worcester, Pa.: Gateway Films, Vision Video, 2001. VID, 156364536X, \$19.99. High school. Rating: 3

286.1092. Williams, Roger, 1604?-1683. 1 video, col., 45 min.

An excellent resource for many aspects of American history studies, *Roger Williams : Freedom's Forgotten Hero*, tells the story of Roger Williams, founder of Rhode Island and the man who established the Baptist movement in America. An overview of his life is given with the concentration being on his time in the colonies and his disagreements with the Puritan leaders in Massachusetts. Special emphases are given to his advocacy of religious freedom and the principle of separation of church and state. A round table of scholars discusses these aspects of his life in particular.

The work is well done. The panel is nicely chosen, each very knowledgeable in his field. The discussion sections are kept short enough to hold interest in the aspect being discussed and are interspersed with re-creations of events in Williams' life as well as views of places, etc. being talked about. The work is scholarly without being dull and provides some "food for thought."

This video would make a good adjunct to classes in American history, church history, or even government studies. As such, the ideal audience is students, high school and above. A school or academic library would do well to purchase this as an addition to its collection for these curriculum areas. It's a good video at a good price.

Betsy Ruffin, Librarian/Teacher, Cleburne, Texas

Macbeth : the book, CD-Rom, and website that work together / William Shakespeare.(Interfact Shakespeare.) Princeton, N.J.: Two-Can Publishing, 2001. PAP, CDR, 1587283824, \$19.95. High school. Rating: 4

822.33. Shakespeare, William, 1564-1616--Criticism and interpretation. 1 book, 112 p.; 1 CD-Rom.

Romeo and Juliet : the book, CD-Rom, and website that work together / William Shakespeare. (Interfact Shakespeare.) Princeton, N.J.: Two-Can Publishing, 2001. PAP, CDR, 1587283832, \$19.95. High school. Rating: 4

822.33. Shakespeare, William, 1564-1616--Criticism and interpretation. 1 book, 143 p.; 1 CD-Rom.

What a way to experience Shakespeare! Two-Can Publishing has created an innovative product that allows readers age twelve and up to bridge the gap between the modern and Shakespearian worlds. Each volume in the Interfact Shakespeare series contains a retelling of the story in modern English, along with the original text of the play. Readers are encouraged to read both versions in order to successfully play the games on the CD-Rom. A complete character list is provided as well as the historical background behind each work. The CD-Rom, which works on both PC's (Pentium 166Mhz or faster, Windows 95+) and Mac's (PowerMacs and above—at least 200Mhz processor) gives readers the opportunity to further explore the play as well as to check their own understanding of the text.

The five games on each CD-Rom encourage readers to interact with the play and are a lot of fun. The graphics are eye-catching (characters from the play are portrayed as hip modern cartoon characters) and features such as the bookmarks that appear giving page references are especially helpful when one answers incorrectly. The games range from the "Glossary Game" which challenges players to match difficult words found in Shakespeare's language with modern equivalents to "Give Her a Kiss" in the case of Romeo and Juliet, or "Off With His Head" in that of Macbeth, which offer readers the opportunity to test their knowledge of the play through true and false questions. The Interfact Shakespeare web link found on the CD-Rom is currently under construction, but promises to offer links to sites on Shakespeare, the Globe Theater, and sites that students and teachers will find useful. These wonderful resources are sure to be highly used and enjoyed by young students of Shakespeare.

Lillian Heytvelt, Public Librarian, Denny Ashby Memorial Library, Pomeroy, Washington

The Viking discovery of America : the excavation of a Norse settlement in L'Anse aux Meadows, Newfoundland / Helge Ingstad & Anne Stine Ingstad. LCCN 2001033051. New York: Checkmark Books, Facts on File, 2001. HBB, 0816047162, \$35.00. High school. Rating: 4

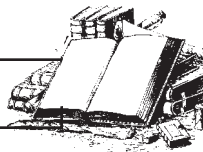
970.01'3. Vikings--Newfoundland--L'Anse aux Meadows--Antiquities; Vikings--Folklore; Sagas; Vikings--Newfoundland--L'Anse aux Meadows--History; Excavations (Archaeology)--Newfoundland--L'Anse aux Meadows; America--Discovery and exploration--Norse. 194 p.

Why are the Vikings so restless that they leave their homeland in Norway? Overpopulation may have played a role in motivating these fierce sea-farers to leave home for the unknown. Vikings need grazing land for raising their horses, pigs, sheep, goats, and cattle. Once discovered, legends of a land named Vinland, the ultimate paradise filled with grape vines and fresh meadows, seems to call scores of Vikings to find and prove its existence. At the beginning of the expedition to separate truth from legend, discoveries of trade with Eskimos, leaving

traces of Norse paraphernalia, and Viking maps, carrying similar features to maps drawn in the seventeen and eighteen hundreds, peak the exploration party's interests. So many questions concerning the validity of Viking tales, why healthy men only had a lifespan of about fifty years, how Christianity mixed with earlier superstitions, etc. beg answers. Viking settlement is discovered as far south as Newfoundland, which is thought to be near the mysterious Vinland. The question arises as to why, if the Vikings traveled as far as Newfoundland, they decided not to continue down the whole coastline of North America. Possibly, the answer has to do with battles among their own tribes, rough seas, unforgiving lands, encounters with fantastic creatures, and wars waged with North American natives, that take their toll on the supposed, voluntary crew.

The Viking Discovery of America by Helge Ingstad and Anne Stine Ingstad documents movements of Norsemen into Iceland, Greenland, and North America. A wealth of black and white, as well as color, photos are dispersed throughout the book. User-friendly text includes extensive bibliography and useful index. Recommended for public and school libraries and Viking research collections.

Kim Harris, Librarian, Newman Riga Library, Churchville, New York



After Anne / Roxanne Henke. (Coming home to Brewster; 1.) LCCN 2001051574. Eugene, Ore.: Harvest House, 2002. PAP, 0736909672, \$10.99. Adult. Rating: 5

F. Female friendship--Fiction.

When writer Olivia Marsden meets perky Anne Abbot, she never expects a friendship to blossom. She isn't good at relationships and communicates best on paper, in her weekly column for the Brewster Banner. Anne, on the other hand, knows that Olivia (Libby) is someone she could like. They form a close bond, sharing everything and enjoying the happy news of Anne's pregnancy.

The unexpected diagnosis of Anne's breast cancer puts pressure on the relationship. But Libby's commitment to her friend is genuine and she walks through the fire with Anne, accompanying her to chemotherapy treatments and helping her choose a wig. In the midst of the trauma, Libby sees her old orderly life slipping away and steps away from Anne to tend to her own family.

Left to manage without her beloved Libby, Anne struggles on. Her generous heart longs for Libby to have what makes it possible to continue, a relationship with Christ, and she prays fervently for her friend. What happens next is an unexpected plot twist that will touch even the harshest heart.

After Anne is Roxanne Henke's amazing first novel, and the flagship of the Coming Home to Brewster series. Though completely a work of fiction, it is based on the author's real-life experience of losing her dearest friend to breast cancer. Written with humor, courage, and authenticity, one can only imagine what it took to revisit those tender times in order to give the reader the details and insights that blanket the story in reality.

Every woman will connect with this heartbreaking tale and every male reader will gain insight into the complexities of female friendships. *After Anne* is a compelling, gripping story celebrating the power of friendship with tons of take-away. Discussion questions are included for reading groups. Highly recommended reading.

Cathy M. Elliott, Freelance Writer, Anderson, California

Bamboo & lace / Lori Wick. LCCN 2001024261. Eugene, Ore.: Harvest House, 2001. PAP, 0736903283, \$11.99. Adult. Rating: 4

F. Hawaii--Fiction. 440 p.

Lily, daughter of American missionaries, has been raised in an old world Asian village, in the

traditions of the people who support male dominance and female subservience. When her father allows her to visit her brother, Jeff, in Hawaii, she is introduced to a whole new world of modern conveniences, viewpoints that often clash with her upbringing, and the strangeness of male-female equality. Soon after Lily arrives, Jeff is called away on business, and she must stay with his best friend, Gabe, and his family. Due to a crushing bout with cancer, Gabe is unable to produce an heir, so has never taken the time to get intimately involved with a woman. Lily's humble spirit and kind ways irresistibly draw Gabe to her, and they soon fall in love. Honor bound to return to her village, Lily must leave Gabe for a short time, but the couple is finally reunited and married. Gabe's family is a constant source of support and encouragement for a godly lifestyle, and with the help of Lily's father, she and Gabe are able to adopt children from the village to bring about the family of their dreams.

Bamboo & Lace by Lori Wick is a slow moving, cozy story. Without being immodest or overly intimate, the characters seem to invite the reader to walk with them through their daily joys and struggles. Wick, a versatile writer of both historical and contemporary fiction, has proven her popularity among Christian readers time and again. Her style of writing, though not fast-paced, is sprinkled with jewels of wisdom for the enduring reader. There is a timeless quality to her shared moral insights. Recommended for adult Christian libraries, both personal and public.

Kim Harris, Librarian, Newman Riga Library, Churchville, New York

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The birthright / Janette Oke & T. Davis Bunn. (Song of Acadia; 3.) LCCN 00011950. Minneapolis: Bethany House, 2001. HBB, 0764222309, \$15.99; PAP, 0753111195, \$11.99; Lg print, 0764222325, \$15.99; Cass, 0764222317, \$15.99. Adult (High school). Rating: 5

F. Inheritance and succession--Fiction; Canadians--England--Fiction; Acadians--Fiction; Sisters--Fiction; Great Britain--History--George III, 1760-1820--Fiction; Canada--History--1763-1791--Fiction. 287 p.

Nicole and Anne, sisters through adoption, are raised in different places, Nicole in a small town Louisiana bayou, and Anne in Nova Scotia. Reunited as young women, they are linked by a friendship deeper than mere sisterhood. When Nicole is discovered to be a blood relation to her wealthy Uncle Charles, she agrees to go to England and live with him in order to learn how

to become the proper heir to his vast estates. The longer she stays, the more unhappy Nicole becomes. Although she performs her duties out of love and loyalty to Uncle Charles, Nicole soon realizes that she is not suited to the wealthy, society life. Meanwhile, back in Nova Scotia, Anne, who is married to Cyril, a doctor with whom she is deeply in love, is struggling through a difficult pregnancy. Soon after their son, John, is born, Cyril dies of an illness contracted through caring for his patients. Nicole receives news of her sister's tragedy and encourages her to bring John to England. Anne's arrival changes everything. Not only is her heart finally beginning to heal, but Anne appears better suited to aristocracy. Upon discovering that John, Anne's son, is a distant relation, Uncle Charles happily releases Nicole from her position and welcomes Anne and John with open arms as heirs to his estate.

The Birthright by Janette Oke and T. Davis Bunn is the third installment in the Song of Acadia series. The reader may find the story slow at first, if s/he has not read the first two installments, but solid movement is not far off and continues to the end of the story. Oke and Bunn, both prolific and successful writers on their own, team up once again for this outstanding historical fiction, set against the backdrop of the Revolutionary War, with high morals and a few gentle romances. Highly recommended for all collections.

Kim Harris, Librarian, Newman Riga Library, Churchville, New York

A child of the king / by Bill Bright, and M. R. Wells. Orlando, Fla. : NewLife, 2001. PAP, 1563991500, \$13.99. Adult (Middle and High school). Rating: 3

F. Allegories.

In the manner of *Pilgrim's Progress* and *Hinds Feet on High Places*, authors Bill Bright and M. R. Wells have written *A Child of the King*, a spiritual allegory. The story is intended to be a companion to Bright's book, *Living Supernaturally in Christ*, which discusses the allegorical truths more fully.

Jotham—an orphan, whose greatest desire is for a father—lives in the dark-loving kingdom ruled by Prince Abbadon, who squelches the People of the Book and their tales of a wonderful kingdom beyond the fiercely guarded border. In this kingdom, it is said, rules a King who is willing to adopt any who call for Him and accept the gift He gives them. Driven by his thirst for a father, Jotham makes the perilous journey to the border, despite his friends' attempts to stop him from committing what they

A Note from the Editor: by Mary McKinney



A Study on Studies

One of the most rewarding, yet sometimes frustrating search you can make is to try to find an appropriate Bible study. Of course, any time you are choosing to study the scriptures it is a good thing, but considering there is such a large variety of approaches and styles, some just may suit you better than others. Let me do a quick overview of what can be found so that you can be directed to the ones that will best encourage you and/or your group in growth and understanding of the Word.

Kay Arthur is a well-known and liked teacher of the Word of God. She has many books out, as well as the well-received Bible study series, "Precepts" .. This in-depth study guide requires a strong commitment on the part of those interested, and trains the leadership so they can then direct and oversee the individuals participating. It will definitely bring growth and a deeper understanding of the Bible.

Another well-organized and growth-inducing study is by Henry T. Blackaby and Claude V. King. The series, called *Experiencing God*, has a similar approach of in-depth study of the word, and leader-directed activities and

discussions. It has been well received by many church groups and has the satisfying outcome of better-equipped and well-versed Christians. He also has a study out entitled, *Created to be God's Friend* that includes video, audio tapes and student work books.

For a more informal approach for individuals and small groups, there is a myriad of books and lessons that cover everything from studies on books of the Bible, to a closer look at favorite Bible characters, or delving into specific life themes. You can often find a favorite speaker who has written a study, such as Chuck Colson, Warren Wiersbe, or Max Lucado. All of these studies give personal views mixed with questions and thoughts for discussion and personal reflection. Of course, all of these will encourage growth and increased-understanding of the Word of God.

An important note: when studying in a small group from three to ten, look for studies that don't require lengthy reading, but allow the study group to discover the points to be made using the scriptures as their main base, as well as giving precise guidance for the point to be made. These usher the group effortlessly along as the biblical points emerge and delight the heart.

There are studies for new believers, and studies for character development. Intersity Press has a large selection for women specifying rest, creativity, family, grace, and blessings. Life Application studies target similar needs. Publishers such as Zondervan present studies for men and women alike, and

Fisherman Studies by WaterBrook Press has a study entitled *Women Like Us* that is worth looking into. Most studies are from eight to ten lessons each, which allows the group to get to know each other well as they enjoy the study of the Word.

After leading Bible study groups for over twenty years, I have found that some of the most interesting, in-depth, and exciting studies have come from Aglow. Unfortunately they don't seem to have published studies these past couple of years, but I highly recommend ordering their older series, "Knowing God", and "The Character of God" .. The length of these studies, usually nine to twelve lessons, can take a group through the fall, or the spring, in an exciting, fulfilling group setting that enhances the Christian experience.

A word of caution: I recommend that any leader take the time to go through the study fairly carefully before recommending it for a group. I have found that not all studies keep a strong focus on the Word, or may lack depth and richness in their questions. But with a little time invested, you can assure your group that they will find the study of the word satisfying and truly enlightening. Have fun and gain important life lessons by challenging yourself to study the Word of God. You won't be sorry!

perceive to be treason. His life is transformed by his adoption, and Jotham then returns to convince his two well-meaning but deceived friends to come to adoption also.

Although somewhat simplistic, *A Child of the King* will be best appreciated by those already familiar with the Christian faith, who have eyes to see and understand its myriad symbols. However, the story is easily enjoyed in its own right, and might be a good book for a new believer, as it illustrates spiritual truths in a way that are easily understood and visualized. The book's only fault is the unsatisfying ending. Much is made of the mystery of Jotham's earthly father, yet there is no real resolution of this issue—nor is there a clear resolution to what happens to one of his best friends, Gwyneth. Beyond the basic conversion experience, the book deals somewhat superficially with the realities of living the Christian life in a world of sin.

Sherri Beeler, Teacher, Cascade Christian High School, Medford, Oregon

***Day of reckoning* / by Kathy Herman. (The Baxter series; 2.) LCCN 2001007593. Sisters, Ore.: Multnomah, 2002. PAP, 1576738965, \$11.99. Adult. Rating: 5**

F. Textile industry--Fiction; Fathers--Death--Fiction; Layoff systems--Fiction; Revenge--Fiction. 320 p.

The Logan Textile Mill played a large economic role in the town of Baxter, employing almost 300 of its residents. When G. R. Logan took control of the company from his father, he knew he could save money by closing the mill and sending the work to the company's new mill in Costa Rica. This decision to shut the mill went against the wishes of the local government and townspeople, as many were close to retirement and had counted on their pensions to carry them through their final days. One family, in particular, was negatively effected by this closure, setting into motion a stunning chain of events.

Taylor Logan, G. R. Logan's only daughter, and her best friend Sherry Kensington are kidnapped on their way to a science fair in a nearby city. The kidnapper begins playing a game of cat and mouse by leaving rhyming clues to the families, the media, and even the FBI involved in the situation. As the authorities begin tightening the rope around the town as they search for the kidnapper, the kidnapper has to speed up his plans for revenge against G.R. Logan.

Are they able to find the girls in time, or does the kidnapper achieve his goal of the ultimate revenge?

Day of Reckoning by Kathy Herman is the second book in the Baxter Series. As with any good series, characters from Ms. Herman's first book in this series, *Tested by Fire*, are revisited in her new novel. This continuation of characters provide the reader the chance to get to

know these characters as they develop on the pages.

In this story built around revenge, Ms. Herman introduces us all to a main character that we'll call "Hate". She shows us the power that "hate" can have over us if we allow it to. She uses a perfect example of "David & Goliath," and how if we stand up to hate and spite and all these negative emotions that we sometimes allow to fester inside us, that we will be able to defeat anything. A great statement used in the book, which I believe sums up the "story behind the story" is, "Mr. Logan may have scattered around the seed of hate, but each individual made the choice to embrace that seed and to allow it to grow."

Yes, this book may be a work of fiction, but it caused me to spend a lot of extra time on my knees when I finished it as I prayed to uproot that seed of hate and ask Him to plant a new seed of forgiveness to take its place.

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

***Deirdre* / by Linda Windsor. (The pipes of Gleanmara; 3.) LCCN . Sisters, Ore.: Multnomah, 2002. PAP, 1576738914, \$11.99. Adult. Rating: 3**

F. Ireland--Fiction.

Deirdre, princess of Gleanmara, finds herself a captive when her ship is taken over by Saxon pirate Alric of Galstead. Alric is the illegitimate son of King Lambert whose kingdom will pass on to his queen's son, Ricbert. However, on her deathbed Alric's mother has a vision of his future, describing a woman like Deirdre whom Alric will marry, and through whom he will find an earthly kingdom. Deirdre is uncomfortable marrying a heathen pirate, but she feels the Lord leading her into this arrangement—especially when she is miraculously enabled to speak the Saxon language. Eventually Alric himself is won to the Lord, and Deirdre's marriage is more than she dreamed possible. Together they face unspeakable treachery and hardship, but the Lord is faithful, returning Deirdre to her beloved Gleanmara, and giving Alric the princely position of his mother's vision.

Linda Windsor is a general romance novelist who has crossed over into Christian fiction, and her former influences are evident in *Deirdre*, book three in the Pipes of Gleanmara series. The book features a stereo-typically gorgeous Irish princess with scholarly training and a fiery-hot temper to match her flaming red hair; she is incredibly physically attracted to a well-muscled, wolfish pirate whose rakish demeanor and worldly experience at once draws and repels her, the innocent Christian virgin.

They engage in myriad heated arguments which occasionally turn physical. In one scene Alric throws Deirdre over his shoulder and actually paddles her behind; in another he pins her full length to the floor and then attempts to carry on a conversation. Sparks fly and passions rise

whenever they are together, and there are a number of scenes of mild sensuality. Incestuous lust is also suggested between Ricbert and his mother. Despite this, the book is an engaging read and the scene describing Alric's wedding day and public conversion is moving. Once past this point the book becomes more substantive, as do the characters' relationships and their depth of Christian faith.

Sherri Beeler, Teacher, Cascade Christian High School, Medford, Oregon

***A dream to follow* / by Lauraine Snelling. (Return to Red River; 1.) LCCN 2001003784. Minneapolis: Bethany House, 2001. PAP, 0764223178, \$11.95; Lg print, 0764226118, \$15.99. Adult (High School). Rating: 4**

F. Frontier and pioneer life--Fiction; Norwegian Americans--Fiction; Red River of the North--Fiction; Dakota Territory--Fiction. 316 p.

In 1893, America is as much of a harsh place, where life is hard and death claims its victims without preamble, as she is a budding, growing land, where fields of promise stretch for miles and industry and invention beckon endlessly. From this background, emerges Thorliff Bjorklund of Blessing, North Dakota, a close-knit farming community. And from this background, emerges Elizabeth Rogers of Northfield, Minnesota, a bustling city of exciting possibilities and imprisoning social obligations. While Elizabeth struggles to become a doctor, during a time when acceptable placement of women is limited, Thorliff struggles to escape the dreams of his father, that he follow in his footsteps as a farmer, and realize his dream of becoming a journalist. As Elizabeth and Thorliff draw closer to the culmination of their dreams, their lives begin to be woven together in surprising ways.

A Dream to Follow by Lauraine Snelling is the first book in the Return to Red River series. Snelling concentrates much of her material on building a foundation for several interesting characters surrounding Thorliff and Elizabeth, at times diffusing the main focal points. Although this style of writing can be distracting, it is reminiscent of the artistic style of the beloved Christian author, Janette Oke, who creates characters that have the capacity to become more real with each new issue in the series. Recommended for Christian literary series fans, church and public libraries, and homeschoolers of older teens. Quality historical fiction with moral and ethical perks.

Kim Harris, Librarian, Newman Riga Library, Churchville, New York

***The golden angel* / by Gilbert Morris. (The house of Winslow; 26.) LCCN 2001002516. Minneapolis: Bethany House, 2001. PAP, 0764221183, \$10.99. Adult (High school). Rating: 4**

F. Winslow family (Fictitious characters)—Fiction;
Women stunt performers—Fiction; Women air pilots—
Fiction; Stunt flying—Fiction. 316 p.

Although Erin is too young to pay much attention to World War I, her life as the daughter of missionaries in Africa has dangers and deep hurts of its own. She fails nearly every subject at school, even though she is smart, and is deemed 'stupid' by her classmates. The only time her self-esteem rises is when she is with her friend Nbuta, a Masai warrior, who loves her like a daughter and teaches her the ways of the Masai. As she matures, Erin becomes a beauty, but is not interested in dating, until she rescues a mysterious English pilot who has crashed in the nearby jungle. Their relationship flourishes, and Erin falls deeply in love with the man. When she finds out that he is already married, Erin escapes to family in America. While there, she runs a restaurant, meets Quaid, a troubled WWI veteran, and becomes partners with him in Hollywood aerial acrobatics. Erin and Quaid begin to form a close relationship, but find that nothing in life works out, unless God comes first.

The Golden Angel by Gilbert Morris is book #26 in *The House of Winslow* series. Morris' writing style is slow, but steady, with hidden treasures along the way for the enduring reader. Africa is lovingly painted in panoramic cinematography that has a National Geographic flair. Morris has become established as a balanced writer of singles, series, and a wide variety of genres (mystery, young adult, historical fiction, etc.). His stories continue to ring true to form, as quality, non-denominational, non-pushy, Christian reading. Recommended for all libraries where older teens and adults venture.

Kim Harris, Librarian, Newman Riga Library, Churchville, New York

Another look at the same title:

Growing up in untamed Africa, Erin Winslow longs for more excitement than the typical adventures that she encounters. Unexpectedly, she persuades a pilot to teach her to fly, never planning on falling in love with him, but ending up doing it anyway. Upon discovery of his hidden past, Erin flees, deeply hurt, to America where she hopes to nurse her broken heart and find a job in the states as a pilot. The Roaring Twenties in America are not easy for women to find jobs as pilots, so Erin takes a waitressing job in a cafe. During her days in the cafe, Erin meets up with Quaid Merritt, stunt flyer, who reignites her dreams to fly.

Soon they are traveling across America, thrilling crowds with their aerial expertise, and the Hollywood producers not far behind. Decisions need to be made about Quaid and her own future.

Book 26 in *The House of Winslow* series is the next installment by Gilbert Morris chronicling the generational lives and struggles of the Winslow heritage. This book could stand alone, being completely about Erin Winslow, but the

reader should read the entire series to have the complete appreciation for the struggles of this family.

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

***Halfway to forever* / by Karen Kingsbury. LCCN 2001007865. Sisters, Ore.: Multnomah, 2002. PAP, 157673899X, \$11.99. Adult. Rating: 4**

F. Adoption—Fiction; Pregnant women—Fiction; Brain—Cancer—Patients—Fiction. 350 p.

Halfway to Forever brings back two of Karen Kingsbury's favorite couples—*Waiting for Morning's* Matt and Hannah, and Jade and Tanner from *A Moment of Weakness*—who once again face traumatic issues. Matt and Hannah risk losing another daughter as they invest their emotions in a risky adoption, while she still holds onto the fact that her other child will always be waiting for her in Heaven. She's not the only one who grieves. Her friend, Jade Eastman, has learned she's finally pregnant, but a cancerous brain tumor forces her to make a decision about carrying her pregnancy to term. Their husbands run the nation's most prominent religious freedom law firm and take on a groundbreaking case. Troubles for the two couples snowball right through the final pages. Can the two couples again face such heartbreaking agony and still pile all their faith in God, or has the devil once again applied the pressures of Job and won?

Kingsbury's latest heart-wringing novel tells of two familiar, beloved couples learning to depend on God daily, regardless of trials and troubles that mark the path halfway to forever. The richness and complexity of the characters make each tale work, almost independently enough for each to have served as its own novel. The struggles that the characters are faced with mirror everyday struggles that make the storylines believable to its audience. Readers observe Hannah's struggle with her faith even as she tries to move on with her life while the Eastmans have their own crippling difficulty that makes them question a God that can allow malevolent things to occur. Fans of powerful insightful human dramas will gain insight from *Halfway to Forever*, and hope for more inspiring tales from Karen Kingsbury who makes believers out of all of us.

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

***The healer* / Dee Henderson. (Uncommon heroes; 5.) LCCN 2002001097. Sisters, Ore.: Multnomah, 2002. PAP, 0156739252, \$11.99. Adult (High school). Rating: 4**

F. Post-traumatic stress disorder in children—Fiction; Student counselors—Fiction; School shootings—Fiction; O'Malley family (Fictitious characters : Henderson)—Fiction. .322 p

Dee Henderson once again combines romance and suspense in *The Healer*, the latest

installment of the O'Malley series. Henderson describes the growing relationship between counselor Rachel O'Malley, and fire chief Cole Parker. Used to comforting and helping other people through all kinds of natural or man-made disasters, Rachel learns to allow Cole to comfort her as she deals with the trauma of witnessing a school shooting, and as she grieves the death of her cancer-ridden sister, Jennifer.

The Healer is a good read (keep a few tissues handy for the end), and is written with Henderson's usual insights and great character development. However, for those who have read the rest of the series, by book five there tends to be a sameness to the stories and characters; perhaps this is because all the O'Malleys are involved in some kind of "crisis" related job: firefighter, U.S. marshal, forensic specialist, hostage negotiator, and so on. The men are always rock solid, protective and dependable, yet gentle and intuitive. The women are always strong and capable individuals, yet willing to rely on the strength of the men they love. The relationships all seem to develop similarly, and sometimes seem a little too good to be true.

These are minor complaints, however. The book, and the series, is well worth reading. Jennifer's unfailing trust in God, even in the face of her inevitable death, is amazing and inspiring. Stephen, the last O'Malley who is not yet a believer, makes an abrupt departure from his family and his job to travel and to search out the truth for himself, which promises to deliver a great story grappling with substantive spiritual issues in book six.

Sherri Beeler, Teacher, Cascade Christian High School, Medford, Oregon

***Journey to Bliss : a novel* / Ruth Glover. (The Saskatchewan saga; 3.) LCCN 2001041634. Grand Rapids: Fleming H. Revell, Baker Books, 2001. PAP, 0800757580, \$10.99. Adult. Rating: 3**

F. Frontier and pioneer life--Fiction; Women immigrants--Fiction; Scots--Canada--Fiction; Saskatchewan--Fiction. 253 p.

Tierney Caulder's world falls apart when the man she loves announces he must leave Scotland for a new life in Canada. Heartbroken, Tierney turns to her friend Anne Fraser for comfort. However, Anne has troubles of her own trying to fend off the landowner's son. Upon the death of her father, Tierney realizes she has no life left in Scotland and decides with Anne to journey with the British Women's Emigration Society to Canada. During their trip, they befriend Pearly Chapel, who lives her faith in a way that Tierney and Anne have never known. Upon arrival in Canada, the three all take domestic positions in Saskatchewan.

Pearly is welcomed into the home of an older German couple and falls in love with their grandson. Tierney travels to the prairie to work, finding a true home. When the lady of the home dies, Tierney remains to help out. Anne,

meeting again with the loutish landowner, flees to Tierney to escape his advances. There she falls in love with Tierney's employer, deciding to marry him. Tierney then moves onto another home in the "bush" of Canada. It is there that she meets up with her one true love from Scotland who is now homesteading in Canada.

Author Ruth Glover's tale, *Journey to Bliss*, shows historical research and she creates dimension in her characters. However, the lives of the character's tie up too neatly, with some unbelievable twists. The landowner follows Anne out to Tierney's home, but the question remains as to how he finds her, since the author is careful to say Anne tells no one of her destination. Tierney happening upon her true love seems a bit contrived as well.

The message of faith and reliance on God is present but the triteness of the plot diminishes that message somewhat.

Eileen Zygarrlicke, Freelance Writer & Editor, Grand Forks, North Dakota

***Moongate* / by William Proctor and David J. Weldon. LCCN 2001056226. Nashville: Thomas Nelson, 2002. PAP, 0785266852, \$13.99. Adult. Rating: 1**

F. Science fiction; Political fiction. 315 p.

U. S. Senator Scott Andrews flies into space to oversee an international team of scientists who intend to establish a nuclear fusion energy plant on the moon. He appears to be a target of the Russian mafia, however, and strange incidents force him into some near-death experiences. Scott is also concerned about a secret wormhole project that two Russian scientists are working on. When the experiment succeeds, they send through the wormhole a disk containing music, information about human culture, the human genome, and so on. In return they receive ten disks containing detailed instructions on how to cure every human disease imaginable, and even information on how to develop human intelligence and telekinetic powers. But Scott finds that the disks contain something even more dangerous: a comprehensive genetic engineering program that seems to include some form of artificial insemination with an alien force. Scott decides to return to earth and make the information available to the world's population so the material can't become the property of an elite few and thus be misused.

Unless there is a sequel to *Moongate*, authors William Proctor and David J. Weldon, M.D. have written a rather disappointing science fiction novel—and even then it lacks a lot. The basic premise of solving the world's energy problems and keeping earth environmentally clean by generating power on the moon is intriguing. Likewise, the questions raised about what to do with the disks containing information that appears to enable human beings to live indefinitely are thought-provoking. However, the book falls far short of giving good, or even

believable, answers. None of the big issues are seriously grappled with.

While the scientific explanations are given in such a way that the average reader can grasp them, too many loose ends are left untied at the end of the story, which comes to a abrupt, perfunctory end. No true sense of danger or suspense is created or sustained throughout the novel; and while the characters are distinct and unique people, their reactions in various situations are generally shallow or unrealistic. The book does raise some interesting questions about the nature of the Nephilim, but other than a Christian Russian scientist who is believed to belong to some "strange religious cult," *Moongate* has no overt Christian focus.

Sherri Beeler, Teacher, Cascade Christian High School, Medford, Oregon

***North of tomorrow* / Cindy McCormick Martinusen. LCCN 2001006999. Wheaton, Ill.: Tyndale, 2002. PAP, 0842352376, \$10.99. Adult. Rating: 4**

F. Concentration camp commandments--Fiction; Holocaust, Jewish (1939-1945)--Fiction; Fathers and daughters--Fiction; Grandfathers--Fiction. 395 p.

The final installment in a loosely connected trilogy, *North of Tomorrow* solves a mystery that unfolded in book one and tantalized the reader in book two. Cindy McCormick Martinusen's newest novel is filled with engaging characters and sparkling settings. Elements of suspense, drama, romance, and faith flavor the protagonist's quest for the Empress Brooch, for healing truth, and the one person who can liberate her from an awful legacy.

Amanda Rivens, researcher for the History Network, believes she is close to finding the priceless Brooch that is tied to her past. During a visit to the Czech Republic, she hopes to find information about her grandparents as well. When she finds that they were not Holocaust survivors but Nazi Party members instead, she is consumed with shame. Amanda seeks help and healing from an unlikely source, a resident of a Florida nursing home who carries her own secrets.

Martinusen's understanding of the WWII period in history and its effect on those who directly encountered Nazism is extensive. She admits that authoring three books with this theme have been challenging. "The writing of these novels has been a difficult and interesting journey as I have tried to see what influences would help a child grow into a Nazi follower as a young adult. What journey takes people to such places? Are any of us exempt from the potential for great love or great evil?" The result of her queries give the reader insight into the pressures that persuaded average folks to accept a deranged man as leader and his philosophy as their own.

Beginning with an intriguing prologue set in the Austrian woods in 1945, *North of Tomorrow* takes the reader beyond just countries on a map.

Rather, one takes a journey of the heart and travels to a better place.

Cathy M. Elliott, Freelance Writer, Anderson, California

***Obsession : a novel* / Kathi Mills-Macias. LCCN 0060822. Nashville: Broadman & Holman, 2001. PAP, 0805421491, \$12.99. Adult. Rating: 5**

F. Young women--Fiction; Fathers--Death--Fiction; Accident victims--Fiction; Police--Fiction. 295 p.

Obsession, by Kathi Mills-Macias, chronicles a daughter's fixation with finding out the truth of how her father died and whether a connection between his death and a missing teen exists. Toni Matthews, engaged and content to teach, finds herself surrounded with the ominous task of closing her father's detective agency after his recent death. Parentless and responsible for her fourteen-year-old sister, twenty-six year-old Toni finds herself drawn into a case her father was working on when he died. Toni believes there is a connection between his death and the girl and becomes determined to find answers. Joined by Jewish detective Abe Matthews, Toni embarks on a trail of discovery that nearly costs her sister's life. Added stress arises when her fiance grows suspicious of Toni's relationship with Abe and pushes for them to set a wedding date. With Abe's help, Toni uncovers the truth about her father's death, which truly does set her free.

Author Kathi Mills-Macias creates credible, identifiable, and likeable characters while giving enough twists in the plot to keep the reader interested. Toni's angst in dealing with the grief of her father's death, the stress of her growing feelings for Abe, and the turbulent feelings toward her fiance lend credibility to the characters. Toni is a real person who falls in love with an unbeliever. Although Abe comes to accept Christ at the end of the book, Toni realizes that unless he does she can't be in a relationship with him.

Although some parts of the resolution seem contrived, the basic premise of the book is solid. This book is not unlike those of author Terri Blackstock, who mixes mysteries, growing love with nonbelievers, and resolution of faith.

Eileen Zygarrlicke, Freelance Writer & Editor, Grand Forks, North Dakota

***October song* / Beverly Lewis. LCCN 2001002771. Minneapolis: Bethany House, 2001. HBB, 076422588X, \$15.99; PAP, 0764223321, \$11.99; Lg print, 076422588X, \$15.99. Adult. Rating: 2**

F. Amish--Fiction; Pennsylvania--Fiction. 256 p.

Beverly Lewis returns once again to Lancaster County and its Pennsylvania Dutch country setting with a collection of short stories that offers her readers a continued glimpse into the lives of favorite characters from *The Shunning*, *The Postcard*, and other titles in the Lancaster County Books series. "Hickory Hollow" follows Katie Fisher's (The Heritage of

Lancaster County series) joy in her first year of marriage, as well as her struggle to reach out to the Amish family and friends that shunned her after she chose to follow God in a different way. In "Bird-in-Hand" Rachel and her husband, Philip (*The Postcard*) prepare to become new parents, as he strives to fit in and gain acceptance from his Amish peers. "Grasshopper Level" (*The Redemption of Sarah Cain*) updates readers on the courtship of Lydia Cottrell and Levi King, and of Sarah Cain's efforts to mesh her own life with that of the People.

Beverly Lewis is a very popular author and those readers already fans will thoroughly enjoy this return visit to a familiar setting. New readers may feel a bit lost and uninitiated, jarred by the occasional use of dialect such as "wonderful-gut," "redding," "perty" and "jah." Some critics find Lewis' fiction a bit too treacly to be palatable, other readers enjoy the escape into a world of simpler lives and situations. This title will be a welcome addition to those collections with an already strong Lewis readership.

Lillian Heyvelt, Public Librarian, Denny Ashby Memorial Library, Pomeroy, Washington

On every side / Karen Kingsbury. LCCN 2001001643. Sisters, Ore.: Multnomah, 2001. PAP, 1576738507, \$11.99. Adult (High School). Rating: 3

F. Christian fiction. 372 p.

For those interested in fiction with a contemporary theme interwoven with romance, *On Every Side* is the ticket. Karen Kingsbury has come up with an interesting premise in her latest novel. Bethany, Pennsylvania, becomes the center of a hot controversy over whether the beloved, one hundred year old statue of Jesus should remain in the middle of the town park. The battle ensues with Faith Evans, up-and-coming newscaster on one side, a woman of honor and integrity. Taking the stand against her is Jordan Riley, a powerful attorney dedicated to the battle for human rights and against God. Of course the twist is that they were close childhood friends, parted for many years, and now at the opposite end of the spectrum.

Jordan is dealing with the loss of the three women he loved the most—his mother when she died years earlier, his sister, and his friend, Faith, both parted from him after the death of his only parent. His life is one marked with abandonment and now he has abandoned God. This "chance" meeting with Faith and the dilemma of the Jesus statue leave him and the town of Bethany changed forever.

Sound Christian doctrine is a large part of *On Every Side* and a book club or Bible study guide is included for readers. The story is rather predictable but not in an unpleasant way, and all ends are tied up neatly at the conclusion, which many readers prefer. Karen Kingsbury fans will love this addition to her long list of best sellers, particularly women from high school age and

older. Libraries with a large fiction section should definitely make this a "must buy" and most church libraries will find a niche for this title.

Ceil Carey, Young Adult Librarian, Public Library, Plano, Illinois

Redeeming love / Francine Rivers. LCCN 97004694. Sisters, Ore.: Multnomah, 1997. PAP, 1576738167, \$14.99. Adult. Rating: 4

F. Frontier and pioneer life--California--San Francisco--Fiction; San Francisco (Calif.)--Fiction. 464 p.

Sarah/Angel/Amanda: the girl, sold into prostitution as an eight-year-old, the teenaged harlot, and the doubting wife—all the same young woman. Readers find their emotions churning with disgust, anger, sorrow, indignation, and compassion throughout this nineteenth century love story. Francine Rivers writes *Redeeming Love* as a newly-told version of the Old Testament book, Hosea. God's love shines through this fictional story as plainly as if He stands before us saying, "I love you with an everlasting love."

When Michael Hosea first sees the beautiful young lady, "dressed in black, like a widow," walking along the street accompanied by a "big, rough-looking man with a gun on his hip," he inquires about her. He finds out she's Angel, a prostitute for whom men gladly give up all their gold dust for half an hour with her. Michael knows immediately he loves her, believes God says "marry her," and determines to do so.

During several chaste visits, Michael does not persuade Angel to marry him and leave the only livelihood she knows. He visits once more, however, and that time rescues her from near death, but marries her first. Angel awakens to find herself in Michael's cabin. After she heals from the beating, she becomes a dutiful wife, though at first a lifetime of hurts prevents her from recognizing or understanding Michael's long-suffering love. Later she refuses to do so and leaves home twice, but returns when Michael finds her.

In spite of herself, Angel's heart at last wins the battle. Her mind does not acquiesce, so she leaves home again, thinking she's doing it for Michael's good. God intervenes, convinces Angel of His love, and puts her back into the arms of her husband.

Redeeming Love, because it deals with prostitution, is a sensual story. Rivers tells it well and in a restrained manner. Although she gives many details, she allows space for the reader's imagination. The publisher's preface carries the caveat, "...exercise discretion with younger readers; if this book was a movie, it would probably be rated 'PG-13'."

First published for the secular market, *Redeeming Love* was republished for Christian readers, who have come to appreciate both her good writing and her life-changing story themes.

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

Shade / Calvin Miller. LCCN 2001003782. Minneapolis: Bethany House, 2001. HBB, 0764223631, \$12.99. Adult. Rating: 4

F. King of Prussia (Pa.)--Fiction. 160 p.

The summer heat is a picture of the intense emotions of the people in this novel, *Shade*, by popular Christian author and teacher Calvin Miller. Set in Pennsylvania in 1930, the families of King of Prussia face various problems during the hot season. From the family who learns their husband/father is dying of cancer to the woman facing the emotional problems brought by the return of a boyfriend who had left her, to the man who must deal with blackmail theft to his prized reputation, we are drawn into their tangled lives. As the months wear on, we learn their stories and see how each deals with their problem.

This short work is an interesting piece. It is really a slice of life, as not all details are wrapped up at the end. However, it is still a very satisfying novel, drawing the reader into the lives of these people, encouraging us to care about them and to think about how they choose to solve their problems. It also gives us glimpses into their relationship with God and how it relates to their everyday lives, encouraging us also to think about ours. There are rich details to make these people and their times come alive.

The book will be most appealing to adult readers, who have more life experience to draw on. Church libraries, especially those with other Calvin Miller works, should consider this addition to their collection. Individuals with an interest in 20th century history or psychology may particularly enjoy the novel also. However, it is a quick and interesting read for any book lover or people watcher, and well worth adding to a collection

Betsy Ruffin, Librarian/Teacher, Cleburne, Texas

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Treasures of the north / Tracie Peterson. (Yukon quest; 1.) LCCN 00011575. Minneapolis: Bethany House, 2001. PAP, 076422378X, \$11.99. Adult. Rating: 5

F. Frontier and pioneer life--Fiction; Women pioneers--Fiction; Yukon River Valley (Yukon and Alaska)--Fiction; Alaska--Fiction. 380 p.

In 1897, Chicago, Grace, a young socialite and only child to two wealthy, self-absorbed parents, must escape an abominable arranged marriage. Karen, Grace's long-time companion and friend, longs to go to Alaska to search for her missionary father, from whom she has not heard since her mother died. Karen's aunt agrees to chaperone the two young ladies in their joint effort to escape unnoticed. They reach the California coast and take a ship north to Alaska. Peter, ship captain, and, unbeknownst to them all, son of the closest friend of Grace's uncouth fiancée, is immediately attracted to Grace. He

provides a store for the three women to run in Dyea, an entrance to gold country along the Alaskan coastline, and begins to form a more intimate relationship with Grace. Meanwhile, as Karen searches for her father, she has taken in two children, whose father, recently widowed, is struck by gold fever and is running away from anything that reminds him of his beloved former wife. Although life is rough in this untamed country, daily details begin to smooth out, until Martin, the jilted fiancée, ruins Grace's family and has detectives trail her down.

Treasures of the North by Tracie Peterson is the first book in the "Yukon Quest" series. Once again, Peterson is at her best with an historical fiction that keeps the reader's attention through the very last page. She leaves the perfect opening for the next issue, but gives the reader enough satisfaction in her well-rounded story line that *Treasures* is able to, if necessary, stand on its own. But, then, who would want to miss the next episode? Highly recommended for all historical fiction collections. Clean, alive, romantic adventure that is anything but dry, with strong reader appeal.

Kim Harris, Librarian, Newman Riga Library, Churchville, New York

***True valor : a novel / Dee Henderson.* (Uncommon heroes; 2.) LCCN 2001006362. Sisters, Ore.: Multnomah, 2002. PAP, 1576738876, \$11.99. Adult. Rating: 4**

F. Air pilots, Military--Fiction; Women air pilots--Fiction; Euphrates River Valley--Fiction; Love stories. 338 p.

Readers who enjoy romance and adventure will appreciate Dee Henderson's second book in the Uncommon Heroes series, which combines military exploits and the developing relationship between naval aviator Grace Yates and Air Force major Bruce Stanton. *True Valor* illustrates the daily challenges and dangers men and women face in the military, as well as the complications that arise in developing and maintaining solid relationships long-distance. Henderson clearly illustrates that regardless of the difficulties, getting involved is worth the risk, if one is willing to be fully committed to making a relationship work. Challenges arise when Grace's plane goes down in combat, and Bruce is part of the team that goes in to rescue her. Both must balance the professional against the personal. This issue comes up again when Grace, recovering from a severe injury, wonders if she will be able to fly again, and considers sacrificing what she loves so much to make it easier to marry Bruce.

It is appealing to read about a female F/A-18 pilot who loves her work and doesn't feel like she has to prove anything, or be a "tough cookie." Gracie is skilled at flying, is exhilarated by the challenges, is terrified at times but can hold her own, and is still able to be fully feminine with Bruce. Henderson uses the delightful device of unfolding much of the novel

through Bruce and Grace's letters and e-mails as they write to get better acquainted, to encourage one another with scripture, and to affirm their commitment to one another. *True Valor* also has a nice romantic subplot involving Grace's beloved cousin "Wolf"—a SEAL—and Jill, Bruce's civilian sister.

Sherri Beeler, Teacher, Cascade Christian High School, Medford, Oregon

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***Unshaken / Francine Rivers.* (A lineage of grace.) LCCN 00045702. Wheaton, Ill.: Tyndale House, 2001. HBB, 0842335978, \$12.99. Adult. Rating: 5**

F. Ruth (Biblical figure)--Fiction; Bible. O.T.--History of Biblical events--Fiction; Women in the Bible--Fiction. 185 p.

Ruth's husband, Mahlon, the last of Naomi's two sons, dies of a lingering disease. Where once there were strong husbands, three widows, with overwhelming grief and few prospects for survival, are left in Moab. Naomi decides to return to Israel, the land of her birth. Although she discourages both of her sons' widows from accompanying her, one of them, Ruth, will not be shaken from her side. After a dangerous and discouraging journey, Ruth faces true rejection as a foreigner, when she tries to work and provide sustenance for Naomi and herself. When Boaz, a blood relation of Naomi's late husband, shows kindness to Ruth, Naomi starts match-making to bring the two faithful servants of God together. Ruth's patience and obedience blossoms into a promising marriage with Boaz, but all is not paradise. The lovers must have a few more shoves, from God and Naomi, before they realize that their union is not meant to be one merely of sacrifice. Boaz and Ruth discover that they share a delightful, unselfish love for each other, as well.

Unshaken by Francine Rivers, is a wholesome, well-written romance novella. Rivers has been writing for over twenty years, and for the Christian Market for nearly fifteen. She was inducted into the Romance Writer's Hall of Fame. With tenderness and compassion, Rivers peels back the petals of the rose that is Ruth, to reveal the fragrant beauty, strength, and femininity all women in Christ have potential to exude. The Lineage of Grace series is based on different biblical women faced with overwhelming adversities. The story of Ruth, third in the series, is peopled with believable characters that depend upon the storyline, rather than series build-up, for introduction. Includes six self / group studies, on the book of Ruth. Quality literature in a quick, easy, readable format. Recommended for all Christian collections.

Kim Harris, Librarian, Newman Riga Library, Churchville, New York

***Victor Hugo's Les miserables : the classic story of the triumph of grace and redemption / Victor Hugo; adapted for today's readers by Jim Reimann; interior illustrations by Sergio Martinez.* (A Reimann classic.) LCCN 2001026843. Nashville: Word Publishing, 2001. PAP, 0849916879, \$19.99. Adult (High School). Rating: 5**

F. Paris (France)--Social life and customs--19th century--Fiction; France--Social life and customs--19th century--Fiction. 287 p.

Those familiar with the popular musical will be familiar with some of the story of *Les Miserables*, but this adapted version fills in important details of the story of Jean Valjean. Set in France at the time of the post-Napoleonic restoration, Valjean has just been released from nineteen years in prison for theft and escape attempts. After much rejection because of his convict status, he meets the kindly bishop of Digne who not only shows him hospitality in his time of need, but forgiveness and grace after Valjean steals silver from the bishop and is caught by the police. This act of mercy, along with the unintentional theft of a boy's coin, sets Valjean on the road to redemption. Though running from the police, especially Inspector Javert, he manages to make a fortune and spend his life helping others, including raising the orphan girl Cosette.

The theme of grace and redemption are strong in this work by Bible teacher Jim Reimann, but the original work's picture of social injustice in France is still a potent aspect. Besides the prejudice faced by Valjean as an ex-convict, there are the scenes of poverty faced by many people and the doomed fight of the student revolutionaries in Paris. This version is very readable, keeping the reader's interest with page-turning action and emotional tensions, as well as its vivid portrayal of the people and life of early 1800's France. It should particularly delight fans of "Les Miz," as the musical is often termed.

This version will be great for most any library or individual, though a hardback edition would have been better for the heavier use in public or school libraries. Still, book buyers dealing with high school age and up would be well advised to purchase it. It is a quality literary work, and the two themes of grace and social injustice come through well. There is a strong reader appeal, making it potentially useful in literature courses, especially high school groups. It's a good classic turned into a good read for today.

Betsy Ruffin, Librarian/Teacher, Cleburne, Texas

***The watermark : a novella / by Travis Thrasher.* LCCN 2001002732. Wheaton, Ill.: Tyndale House, 2001. HBB, 084235445X, \$12.99. Adult. Rating: 4**

F. Grace (Theology)--Fiction; Guilt--Fiction. 240 p.

Sheridan Blake lives on the south side of Chicago with his roommate Eric Morrison in an

apartment a short distance from Covenant College where they both attend classes. Sheridan is finishing his last year after an absence and can see that Eric is making poor choices concerning substance abuse, much as Sheridan did when he attended college before. He knows he should intervene, but he doesn't really want to be involved. At an oldies movies theater he meets a fellow student, the beautiful Genevieve Dayton, who seems as attracted to him as he is to her. But their blossoming relationship is filled with obstacles that Sheridan may not be able to overcome, including his writing mysterious letters to Amy. By Christmas, it is apparent that Genevieve wants to know what is going on, especially after a beating by a mysterious assailant sends Sheridan to the hospital. Could it have been Amy's father, who keeps phoning him and following him? Afraid to tell the truth, Sheridan is devastated when Genevieve breaks up with him. Will he be able to face his failures with his parents, Eric, Genevieve, and Amy? Will he be able to be restored to a loving God and find the forgiveness that he so desperately needs?

The subtitle to *The Watermark* is "A Tender Story of Forgiveness and Hope" and it definitely is that. Travis Thrasher has done a wonderful job of portraying the hopelessness and despair that so many of today's young people feel, especially if they have made wrong choices. The analogy of each life having a "watermark" that can be seen only by being held up to the light is adeptly drawn. A beautiful illustration of restoration and of the fact that no matter how far one falls, the Father is there with open arms. Fast paced and realistic, a book that truly blesses the reader.

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

Where two seas met / Lynn Morris, Gilbert Morris. (Cheney & Shiloh; 1.) LCCN 2001003785. Minneapolis: Bethany House, 2001. PAP, 1556614373, \$11.99; Lg print, 076422610X, \$15.99. Adult. Rating: 3

F. Duvall, Cheney (Fictitious character)--Fiction; Women physicians--Fiction; Quarantine--Fiction; Honeymoons--Fiction; Epidemics--Fiction; Islands--Fiction. 317 p.

Gilbert and Lynn Morris, father/daughter writing team, continue the saga of Doctor Cheney Duvall in a new series that begins with Cheney and Shiloh Irons-Winslow enjoying their honeymoon aboard Shiloh's clipper ship *Locke's Day Dream*. Sailing in the West Indies in 1869, some of the crew resent having Cheney aboard until she gains their gratitude and respect by fixing a crewman's badly shattered leg. After a fierce storm brings only a few injuries, the crew begins to regard Cheney as a special good luck object. Taking refuge at a small island, the crew helps Cheney deal with an unidentifiable illness that ends up a plague. Bain Winslow, Shiloh's cousin, resides on a plantation on the

island and shows continued animosity towards Shiloh, even though Shiloh tries to reconcile.

The characters in this novel are well drawn. Shiloh has a terrific sense of humor and Cheney is a strong-minded caring individual. Each character is experiencing growth in some way. Relying on the Lord and letting him change or guide is fundamental to these writers.

Also, the times and places are well researched as extra added details make the setting easier to visualize. However, even though this is a new series, the characters and their backgrounds are best understood if the first series, Cheney Duvall, M.D., has been read. Many of the situations are carried over and the book standing on its own has some areas of confusion.

Paula Stewart Marks, School Principal, Bend, Oregon

While mortals sleep / Jack Cavanaugh. (Songs in the night; 1.) LCCN 2001002673. Minneapolis: Bethany House, 2001. PAP, 0764223070, \$11.99. Adult (High School). Rating: 4

F. Anti-Nazi movement--Fiction; Clergy--Fiction; Germany--History--1933-1945--Fiction. 378 p.

Jack Cavanaugh wields his story-telling magic to bring the reader the sights, sounds, and terror of Hitler's Germany in the 1940s.

Josef Schumacher, a young minister, struggles to understand how Hitler, a man who speaks so eloquently of God and country, can be a leader of a party with a reputation for hatred and naked aggression. For seven years the evergreen and the swastika have shared the Christmas season in Josef's native Germany. And each year he grows more uncomfortable with the way the Third Reich has shouldered its way into areas where it doesn't belong. But Josef's problem is not only how to maintain his principles against the Nazi threat. He must also decide whether to keep his wife and father-in-law happy. They would have him compromise, keep quiet, and not raise objections when the youth of his church become part of the Hitler Youth movement.

Josef finds it almost impossible to keep still. Then he is offered a way of combating the evil of the Third Reich by joining a renegade Gestapo agent in rescuing children who show symptoms of deformity—physical or mental—from the death house where they are starved to death or killed by injection. Josef pays a high price for his faith. For in attempting to rescue the children, he is captured.

While Mortals Sleep gives the reader an excellent insight into how a Christian can live what he believes no matter what others say or do or think.

Myrtlemay P. Crane, Freelance Writer, Editor, & Speaker, Alderwood Manor, Washington

Whirlpool / Lorena McCourtney. (The Julesburg mysteries; 1.) LCCN 2001048931. Grand Rapids: Fleming H. Revell, Baker Books, 2002. PAP, 0800757769, \$12.99. Adult. Rating: 2

F. Divorced women--Fiction. 314 p.

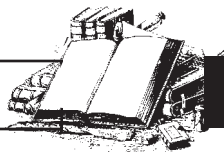
Stefanie Canfield is angry with God. He did not heal her mother or prevent her husband, Hunter Blackwell, from divorcing Stefanie to marry the woman he is living with, Trisha Duvall. The slow starting novel twists its way around these problems through flashbacks while Stefanie's current problems accelerate.

The plywood mill Stefanie co-owns with her ex-husband burns, and a body is discovered in the cooling ashes causing the police to suspect Stefanie of arson and murder. When Hunter's finance, Trisha Duvall, is murdered Stefanie is arrested and taken to jail in handcuffs. Arson investigator, Ryan Harrison, who happens to be a childhood friend of Stefanie's, cannot believe she is guilty. A flame sparks between them but Ryan is leery of her lack of faith.

Midway the mystery picks up. Val Halstead, Stefanie's assistant has an unexplained interest in Trisha, as does her husband Damon who writes books for the occult book markets. Both of them become suspects along with Hunter and Stefanie. Everyone is present when the murderer is apprehended. By now Stefanie's faith is restored and she and Ryan declare their love for each other.

The heroine loses our sympathetic support with several bad choices. She attacks Trisha in a restaurant where most of the town's aristocrats are having brunch and then breaks into Hunter's house where Trisha's dead body is found the next day. A second time she coaxes Hunter over for a nice, cozy dinner where he tries to take advantage of her. McCourtney may be trying too hard to create suspense. The arson and murder case is unresolved. *Whirlpool* is the first book in The Julesburg Mysteries for award winning romance writer Lorena McCourtney.

Maxine Cambra, Freelance writer, Anderson, California



The message: the Old Testament Books of Moses / Eugene H Peterson., LCCN 2001042578. Colorado Springs: NavPress, 2001. HBB, 1576831965, \$23.00. Adult. Rating: 4.

222.'105209. Bible. O.T. Pentateuch.

Eugene H. Peterson continues with his The Message series of translation-paraphrases. Since publication of his New Testament in 1995, he has followed up with Old Testament (OT) Wisdom Books, OT Prophets and now OT Books of Moses. His entire Bible will be out soon.

Peterson, with over thirty years pastoral experience, saw the need to get biblical text into the language of the people for our time. Although he is the author, he has an impressive list of exegetical consultants, and he has garnered praise from such disparate respondents as J. I. Packer, Tony Campolo, Madeleine L'Engle, and Michael Card.

Peterson calls the books of Moses a sermon—"maybe the longest sermon ever"—and shows them to be an "elaborate moral infrastructure," one which is foundational to all that follows.

He labels the books this way: Genesis, Conception; Exodus, Birth and Infancy; Leviticus, Schooling; Numbers, Adolescence; Deuteronomy, Adulthood. He talks of the complexity of maturity.

The books are in story form. There are chapter numbers but no verse numbers. Most chapters have titles and there are occasional subheads throughout. These are typical examples of Peterson's paraphrases, which are often presented in poetic or list form:

"God spoke: 'Earth, green up! Grow all varieties of seed-bearing plants, Every sort of fruit-bearing tree.' And there it was." (Genesis 1)

"Assign these: Caleb son of Jephunneh from the tribe of Judah; Shemuel son of Ammihud from the tribe of Simeon; Elidad son of Kislon from the tribe of Benjamin; Bukki son of Jogli, leader from the tribe of Day;... These are the men God commanded to hand out the assignments of land-inheritance to the People of Israel in the country of Canaan." (Numbers 34)

With over seven million copies of *The Message* sold so far, it obviously hits home for many people.

Jeanette Hardage, Freelance Writer, South Carolina

To live is Christ : embracing the passion of Paul / Beth Moore with Dale McCleskey. LCCN 2001025911. Nashville: Broadman & Holman, 2001. HBB, 0805424237, \$19.99. Adult. Rating: 5

225.9'2. Paul, the Apostle, Saint; Christian saints--Turkey--Tarsus--Biography. 319 p.

One of many in-depth Bible studies with much popular appeal by Beth Moore, this one has been put into a compelling book form. Study questions for each chapter follow the main text. Bible study by groups or individuals will benefit as Moore illuminates Paul's passionate devotion to Christ, practical awareness of his times, and purposeful blunt instructions. Mature students as well as teachers and preachers will benefit from thoughtful consideration of Paul's earnest instructions to those groups.

Providing background on the cultures that formed Paul and in which he lived and worked, this study enables the reader to realize more fully the context of many comments and exhortations from this prolific apostle. Moore elucidates the heart of Paul as she follows him on his journeys, beginning with his training as a rabbi. Paul, transformed by encounter with Christ, allowed God to mature him rather than embitter him. Through clarification of relationships, time sequences, social context, and language, we see him respond to humiliation with faith and to persecution with practicality. Readers may be surprised about the true translations of such controversial comments as those made about women's place in ministry and in the home.

Careful word pictures that clarify the emotional, physical, and spiritual state of the traveling preacher, persecuted man, and beloved mentor draw us into deeper study of his words. Readers may find encouragement that God uses imperfect people, and that difficulty does not mean faithlessness. We find ways Satan tries to steal the truth. We find ways to protect ourselves from "hollow and deceptive philosophy." We see how Paul never lost sight of the basics, kept his wonder of God and knew his role in God's plan. As Paul instructs Timothy, we find specifics for our own spiritual fitness.

Moore encourages us to offer God a teachable heart, to encourage fellow believers, aggressively fight the enemy. She urges us to ask for the Holy Spirit to help us "discern the source of our distractions and direct anger toward the evil one," not other people. Constantly she reminds the reader that the goal is to allow God to draw us to His heart and let Him teach us, minister to us, restore us, and ultimately rescue us to Himself physically.

Carol B. Taylor, Freelance Writer/Certified Social Worker, Poulso, Washington

God, time and Stephen Hawking / David Wilkinson. LCCN . Grand Rapids: Kregel, 2001. PAP, 0825460298, \$12.99. Adult. Rating: 3

231.7'652. Creation. 224 p.

David Wilkerson does an admirable job explaining the universe and how it came to be in less than 224 pages. With wry humor and well-placed quotes Wilkerson weaves the threefold view of the universe (Hawkins' view, Carl Sagan, et. al., and Scripture). His use of scientific terms in layman's language is helpful and beneficial. The few cartoons in the book keep it from becoming dry and dull. This ambitious goal "An exploration into origins" becomes encumbered very quickly though, because of some very basic problems.

It is a difficult read for people unless one has a very strong (college or better) understanding of science. Wilkerson does try to keep it simple in terminology and concepts, but some basic understanding is required and unless one had AP classes in high school, the book can get a little difficult very early on. Another problem for the average reader could be the fact that it is written in the "Queen's English." Not only is the spelling irregular but the sentence structure is different to the average American as well. Combine these two things with a difficult subject and confusion may occur.

Strengths to the book are many. A wonderful notes section is very helpful. The appendix section explains the differing views of the seven days of creation and why the author chose the one he did. There is a briefly annotated bibliography section and an index.

Bianca Elliott, Public School Teacher, Linwood, Kansas

The first Christmas : the true and unfamiliar story / Paul L. Maier. LCCN . Grand Rapids: Kregel, 2001. HBB, 0825433304, \$14.99. Adult. Rating: 4

232.9'21. Jesus Christ--Nativity. 96 p.

Paul Maier, author of *The First Christmas*, is Professor of Ancient History at Western Michigan University. As an historian specializing in the study of the origins of Christianity, Maier focuses on the factual and historical context of the Christmas story. In his introduction, he writes, "Using both sacred and secular evidence ... this book tells the unfamiliar story of Jesus' birth by exploring the nooks and crannies of the past for fresh information and interesting sidelights on the Nativity." (p. 10)

Using this approach, Maier crafts an accessible, highly readable text that examines the politics,

climate, and cultural traditions of the Israel of Christ's time, and takes a closer look at some of the major players, including Mary, Joseph, Jesus, Herod, and the Magi.

This gift book edition is easy on the eyes, boasting glossy paper, large print, and generous margins. Each brief chapter begins with a verse or two from scripture, and ends with a list of notes referring to sources cited. Illustrations are plentiful, effective, and nicely captioned, but a few – particularly the full-page photographs – tend towards the grainy.

A new edition of a 1971 publication (WMU News Release, December 12, 2001), this book claims to take into consideration relevant new scholarship and research, but as many of the notes are either undated or carry dates preceding the 1970s, it is difficult to judge exactly how much new information has been added.

Armchair archaeologists and historians will enjoy this title, as will teachers looking for new ways to present Christ's birth.

The format of this book (width from binding to page edge exceeds height) will make shelving a challenge; it would be best either on display or placed in someone's oversized Christmas stocking!

Sylvia Stopforth, Librarian, Trinity Western University, British Columbia

Test of time / London, Eng.: BBC, Vision Video. VID, \$49.99. High School (Adult). Rating: 3

233. Jesus Christ--Teachings. 2 videos, 112 min.; color.

Designed as a group study resource, *The Teachings of Jesus Put to the Test of Time* includes two videos, each covering two topics: a leader's guide and program scripts in the package. The topics covered are commitment, inner peace, money, and forgiveness. An introduction to the subject with Bible verse and short background begins each lesson. This is followed by two case studies of present day people who are living out Jesus' teaching on this concept. The program script is just that, the script of what is said on each tape, making it easy to review the material presented. The leader's guide gives background information, student worksheets, and ideas for further exploration.

The videos are well done, the case studies chosen to represent a variety of situations, needs, ministries, and ethnic groups. Non-denominational in tone, it would be useful in any church setting for not only reinforcing the relevance of the Bible for today's world, but also as a missions/witness encouragement. The leader's guide is helpful without being overdone. The program script gives tape times to make it easier to find the exact place needed. Overall, the set is user-friendly and discipleship groups will benefit from going through it.

Test of Time is designed particularly for youth groups in the older teen or college range, but

could be used with adults also. Church libraries, discipleship ministries, and Christian schools are especially suited for this resource. It presents familiar ideas in a way that encourages thought and application. The videos bring visual appeal to the study and the use of young people in them furthers that appeal to the age group for which the set was designed. The worksheets are easy to use and verses for further Bible study are included in each set. The study will be a fine addition as a youth or discipleship resource.

Betsy Ruffin, Librarian/Teacher, Cleburne, Texas

Holiness by grace : delighting in the joy that is our strength / Bryan Chapell. LCCN 2001000897. Wheaton, Ill.: Crossway Books, 2001. HBB, 1581342799, \$19.99. Adult. Rating: 4

234.'8. Holiness--Christianity: Grace. 288 p.

Reconciling the call to holy living with God's all-encompassing grace is the theme of Bryan Chapell's book *Holiness by Grace*. This work challenges the Christian to serve God faithfully not from fear of losing His love, but out of gratitude for His mercy. The book's first section, *Principles of Grace*, discusses our relationship with God. The next, *Practices of Faith*, tells of living out the life of faith and holiness. The last, *Motives of Love*, discusses the motives of God and of the Christian in the daily relationship.

This is a deep but well-balanced work on an important subject, that of holy living in the light of God's love. There is much good, thought-provoking material here. The author uses a strong biblical base, giving a scripture for each chapter's idea, then expounding upon it to make his points. Questions at the end of the book encourage further thought and could be used for group study work. Good notes, index, and scripture reference sections are also included.

The book is best used by adults from college age up in individual or group discipleship study. As such, the recommended purchasers would be church libraries or individuals, though, because of the need in today's society for this idea in this balance, a public library would do well to consider it also. It is a quality work biblically and ethically, and gives valuable insights into the divine-human relationship. It is a strong work well worth purchasing.

Betsy Ruffin, Librarian/teacher, Cleburne, Texas

Breaking free : making liberty in Christ a reality in life / Beth Moore with Dale McCleskey. LCCN 0035432. Nashville: Broadman & Holman, 2000. HBB, 0805422943, \$18.99. Adult. Rating: 5

241.'4. Liberty--Religious aspects--Christianity; Christian life--Baptist authors. 289 p.

Beth Moore's book *Breaking Free* is a book based on her Bible study of the same name. Beginning as a study in Isaiah, author Beth Moore insightfully looks at the topic of freedom,

or liberty, in Christ. She draws parallels between the nation of Israel and believers today. But don't think that it is just a study of Isaiah; she utilizes much more Scripture than just one book. Isaiah is just a base to work from as the author covers the issues in our lives that keep us bound and what it takes to be released from that bondage.

Moore's contention is that Christians should be able to break free from the prisons of the sins of unbelief, pride, idolatry, prayerlessness, and legalism. She also covers how to be released from generational sins, whether they be subtle or overt. Additionally, Moore covers how to be free of sins of the past, committed by or against us. She is skilled at using word pictures to help us see what she sees. Readers will be able to identify with many of the examples she gives.

Moore really has an ability to unlock the Scriptures and make them applicable to life. In fact, application is the main point of all Moore's books. Recommended for all.

Robert M. Lindsey, Associate Library Director, Hannibal-LaGrange College, Hannibal, Missouri

Behind the power : the compelling influence of a praying wife / Wanda A. Turner. LCCN . Shippensburg, Pa.: Treasure House, Destiny Image, 2001. PAP, 0768430321, \$12.99. Adult. Rating: 2

242. Prayer. 134 p.

"Your divine destiny is to be a woman of power," says Dr. Wanda A. Turner, motivational speaker and author of *Behind the Power*. But she is not writing about power from the world's perspective. Her goal is to help women unleash God's power in their lives. Turner defines real power as "the ability and authority to recognize or reveal God" and says to be a woman of power your relationship with God must be in order.

After defining power, Turner gives biblical examples of women who relied on God's power to change them and also warns against misusing God's power. She devotes the remaining two-thirds of the book to applying God's power in your life. She outlines four steps to possess the power of God followed by how to protect it so you don't lose it. She emphasizes that to gain God's power "every bit of our power must be surrendered to Him." Each of the seven chapters ends with exercises to apply the teaching and includes nuggets of wisdom such as, "God is always worth your full, undivided attention...because you will certainly have His."

Turner writes in a straightforward style that sounds like a motivational talk. She asks many thought-provoking questions, sometimes filling several paragraphs in a row with only questions. Her writing is upbeat with humor and catchy phrases, but I found it difficult to follow her train of thought. Although the subtitle reads: "The compelling influence of a praying wife," the book does not emphasize prayer. Nonetheless, both married and single women

can glean insights to help them rest in God's power rather than their own.

Lydia E. Harris, Freelance Writer & Educator, Seattle, Washington

***How to pray for lost loved ones / Dutch Sheets.* LCCN 2001019706. Ventura, Calif.: Regal Books, Gospel Light, 2001. PAP, 0830727655, \$8.99. Adult. Rating: 5**

248.3'2. Prayer--Christianity. 111 p.

Dutch Sheets presents a practical, how-to book, *Praying for Lost Loved Ones*, that will give confidence to the most discouraged pray-er. With great insight backed by specific and powerful scriptures, this book will give the reader understanding into the heart of the unbeliever and direction for effective, powerful prayers.

Encouraging examples are included that confirm the truth and promises within God's word. If you are familiar with Dutch Sheets' best-selling book *Intercessory Prayer*, you will be doubly encouraged by this small, to-the-point book offering life to the spiritually lost.

A highlight of the book are the author's word studies that reveal the depth and power behind familiar biblical terms such as repentance (metanoia). It does not mean to "turn and go another way" as we often think, but rather is "a new knowledge." However, the results are the same, to take a new direction in life. Understanding what God intended in His word will add power to your personal prayers and encouragement to know that God is moving.

Insightful, practical, and full of hope—this book is a must for anyone praying for a lost or backslidden loved one.

*Mary McKinney, author, editor, educator, speaker
Port Orchard, Washington*

***The praying church idea book / Douglas A. Kamstra.* LCCN 2001023691. Grand Rapids: Faith Alive, CRC Publications, 2001. PAP, 1562125583, \$25.95. Adult. Rating: 4**

248.3'2. Prayer. 431 p.

For any church wanting to get serious about becoming "a house of prayer," this book is ideal. It is filled with ideas for encouraging prayer and prayer ministries in a church both corporately and individually.

The introduction discusses the biblical call to prayer and how to get started in making the church a praying church. The book then is divided into eight sections, each section with a short discussion of the topic presented followed by ideas for use by the church. Topics include prayer formats (ways to prayer), helps for the leader's prayer life, prayer ministry ideas, worship ideas, and others. Each idea gives the setting for use—individual, families, groups, etc., level—initial, intermediate, or intense, and time—short, medium, or long. Resource lists also follow each idea and a good resource section of address and websites ends the book.

The book is well done and should be especially useful to any church with or wanting to start a prayer ministry. Over 200 ideas are given in the various sections, covering all the topics needed for this growing area of ministry need. The format makes it very easy to use and the methods, activities, formats are well chosen. There is something for almost any prayer ministry type or need.

The book is excellent for church libraries to have as a resource. Pastors and prayer leaders will particularly want to have a look at it. Though many books on prayer are available, this one's purpose makes it different and makes it worth the price. It is a comprehensive and practical source for any prayer ministry. It has the potential to be a great help to adults leading in or interested in this area.

Betsy Ruffin, Librarian/Teacher, Cleburne, Texas

***Living with mystery / Stacey Padrick.* LCCN 2001001318. Minneapolis: Bethany House, 2001. PAP, 0764224395, \$10.99. Adult. Rating: 3**

248.4. Christian life. 216 p.

In *Living with Mystery*, Stacey Padrick offers the reader an opportunity to join her on her own spiritual journey. She organizes this journey around a series of questions to which we all seek answers. Beginning with the mystery of honesty, that is, allowing ourselves to be fully known, she journeys through questions of brokenness, love, limitations, suffering, hope, and more.

Throughout the book, Ms. Padrick shares her own struggles in personal relationships and health problems as examples of the difficulties we all face. The personal nature of her writing lets the reader know that he or she is not alone in the struggle to understand God.

Living with Mystery is for the individual or small group interested in deepening their spiritual walk. The reflections offered at the end of each chapter allow the readers to explore the mysteries in their own lives. The additional resources and bibliography also give the reader suggestions for further reading and practical advice (such as how to take a spiritual retreat) for continuing the journey.

*Jenny Manasco Lowery, Church Librarian/Former Instructor of
Biblical Hebrew, Columbus, Indiana*

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***A ten-week journey to standing firm / Donna Partow.* LCCN 2001002455. Minneapolis: Bethany House, 2001. PAP, 0764222937, \$10.99. Adult. Rating: 5**

248.8'43. Christian women--Religious life; Christian life--Biblical teaching; Determination (Personality trait)--Biblical teaching. 266 p.

With the plethora of quality Bible studies published each year, deciding which one is right for which reader can be unbearable. Time crunches and busy schedules often make

consistent prayer and meditation with the Lord nearly impossible. In this ten-week Bible study for women, Donna Partow has compiled five short (3-5 pages) daily lessons per week, with questions and important snippets to remember, in order to help successfully apply gleanings to everyday situations. Not for the faint of heart, she digs deep into the emotional pain of broken relationships that either bring us to our knees before a loving God, or wrench us from Him. Humorous anecdotes, from pink fluorescent t-shirts to priceless European vases, are word pictures designed to paint on the reader's heart the need to "stand firm" in our relationships with God, even through hard and lonely times.

Standing Firm, by Donna Partow is one of five Bible studies written by her and published through Bethany House Publishers. With an obvious heart and ministry open wide for hurting women, her writing style is down to earth, easy to understand, and disarmingly full of the meat of the Word. She reminds the reader that, although we may experience real hurts, needs, and failures, and may not always understand why God does what He does, victory is guaranteed to those who continue to look to God for their answers. Weekly scripture cards are provided for the ten week 'journey.' No doctrinal dogma outstanding. Highly recommended for women's discussion groups, particularly those with divorced or heart-sore members, and as a self-help study.

Kim Harris, Librarian, Newman Riga Library, Churchville, New York

***Keep growing : turn the ho-hum into a life-changing spiritual journey / Poppy Smith.* LCCN 2001002328. Minneapolis: Bethany House, 2001. PAP, 0764223992, \$10.99. Adult. Rating: 3**

248.8'43. Christian women--Christian life. 218 p.

Using the biblical story of Abraham and Sarah as a model, Poppy Smith offers a series of devotional studies that encourage the reader to be willing to embark on the adventure that comes when following God's will. Each chapter is based on an episode in the lives of Abraham and Sarah. She includes numerous examples drawn from the lives of real people to illustrate the truth of the biblical story. Each chapter also includes several questions that encourage the reader to examine his or her own spiritual experience. She concludes each chapter with a set of practical suggestions intended to nurture a "growing heart."

Keep Growing is helpful for a small group or individual study. Although obviously written for a female audience (all the examples in the chapters are women), it could be adapted for use in a mixed gender group as well. Mrs. Smith draws the practical truths from the biblical story and shows the reader how they can affect the individual's life today. The reflection questions in each chapter and the study questions included

as an appendix offer the reader the opportunity to go as deep as he or she wishes.

Jenny Manasco Lowery, Church Librarian/Formal Instructor of Biblical Hebrew, Columbus, Indiana

***A woman of significance : discovering your value and purpose in the eyes of God / Donna Morley.* LCCN 0012351. Wheaton, Ill.: Crossway Books, 2001. PAP, 1581342632, \$10.99. Adult. Rating: 4**

248.8'43. Women--Religious aspects--Christianity; Christian women--Religious life. 224 p.

In *A Woman of Significance*, Donna Morley takes a strong scriptural approach to the popular subject of self-image. She emphasizes God's view of us as the basis for our view of ourselves, encouraging a right view, one that is biblically based. The book is divided into three sections. The first covers the reasons we don't feel significant, the problems in our past or our thinking that distort our self-image. The next deals with regaining a sense of significance, correcting our thinking by basing our view on what God thinks of us. The last section encourages us to live out that significance in our lives through faithfulness, sacrifice, patience, and showing forth Christ's image in us to a world in need.

Strongly scripture based, this book is a good balance to the self-help books that focus on our own works and importance for regaining a feeling of significance. The author rightly encourages women to ground their self-image in what God has done and can do for us as we cultivate His image in our lives. The frequent stories are well chosen to illustrate the point being made, and the writing is clear and understandable. Questions at the end of each chapter encourage further thinking and study.

The book is well done, worthwhile for the strong Christian message on this often secularly based theme. It would be a good choice for a women's study group, as well as for individual reading by college age or adult women. As such, church libraries, public libraries, and women in general are the recommended buyers for this title. It motivates the reader toward a fresh view of herself and her relationship with God.

Betsy Ruffin, Librarian/Teacher, Cleburne, Texas

***Called to womanhood : a biblical view for today's world / Beth Impson.* (Focal point series; 3.) LCCN 2001001916. Wheaton, Ill.: Crossway Books, 2001. PAP, 1581342624, \$12.99. Adult. Rating: 4**

248.8'43. Christian women--Religious life. 192 p.

What is a Christian woman's role in society? It is an age-old question with no easy answers, but in *Called to Womanhood*, author Beth Impson elevates the status of women without compromising biblical directives.

Beginning with an historical overview of both the secular and Christian feminist movements,

Impson evaluates the reasons feminism rose to prominence, and then examines the repercussions the movement has had, both on the church and secular society.

Using thorough research, personal observation, and excerpts from scripture and other writers, Impson lays out a case for a woman's role as nurturer, care taker, and help meet, but does not imply that these roles must be fulfilled in only one way.

While she delves heavily into marriage and family as one of God's greatest gifts to women, Impson also acknowledges that women are complete, even if they never marry or have children, and encourages women to make the most of their God given traits that make them uniquely feminine. In addition, Impson underscores the need for women to maintain biblical standards of submission to male authority within the church and home.

Called to Womanhood requires extra concentration for the first few chapters, but once in, Impson's heartening work is hard to put down. It is refreshing to find a female author who can inspire women to be godly without implying that all women must make the same choices.

Virginia G. Schnabel, Freelance Writer, Shelton, Washington

***The five love languages : how to express heartfelt commitment to your mate / Gary Chapman.* LCCN 95219572. Chicago: Northfield Publishing, Moody Press, 1995. HBB, 1881273628, \$19.99; PAP, 1881273156, \$12.99; Cass, 1881273563, \$16.99. Adult. Rating: 5.**

248.8'44. Marriage; Communication in marriage; Love. 204 p.

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***The five love languages of children / Gary Chapman & Ross Campbell, M.D.* Chicago: Northfield Publishing, Moody Press, 1997. PAP, 1881273652, \$12.99. Adult. Rating: 5**

248.8'45. Interpersonal communication in children; Parent and child; Child psychology; Love. 224 p.

Too many of us are monolingual—we speak only one language. Language is the tool of communication, and all too often we fail to communicate effectively because our primary language differs from the receiver's language. This frequently happens in homes where the verbal language is the same, but the emotional "languages" that communicate love are different. In *The Five Love Languages*, marriage counselor Dr. Gary Chapman suggests five different ways in which we express or perceive love: words of affirmation, quality time, receiving gifts, acts of service, and physical touch. If, for example, the husband expresses love by acts of service while the wife is looking in vain for quality time, she will fail to perceive his love, her "emotional love tank" will remain empty, and she will feel unloved. If

the parent expresses love by giving gifts to the child who is longing for words of affirmation, the child will feel unloved. To maintain healthy relationships, family members must communicate their love in the primary language of each loved one, by using varying languages.

In *The Five Love Languages*, the author distinguishes between the temporary experience of "falling in love" with real love which "unites reason and emotion." It involves an act of the will and requires discipline, and it recognizes the need for personal growth." In chapters on the various love languages, he uses real-life experiences to illustrate the problems that differing love languages can cause, and how these problems can be addressed. Other chapters include "Discovering Your Primary Love Language," "Loving the Unlovely," and "Children and Love Languages." This 1995 edition includes a study guide.

In *The Five Love Languages of Children*, author Gary Chapman is joined by psychiatrist Ross Campbell. The first chapter illustrates the importance of a "full emotional love tank" in a child's effective functioning. Chapters on the individual love languages, using illustrations from experiences with children of varying ages, begin with "Physical Touch," and follow as in the earlier book. Additional chapters relate the love languages to the topics of discipline, learning, anger (from negative to positive expression), single-parent families, and marriage. The book concludes with a short list "For Further Reading" and a suggested "Action Plan."

There is, understandably, considerable overlap in topics. Both books point to God as the ultimate source of love. The book for spouses concludes with a chapter dealing with children, and vice versa. However, each of these books has its unique content and value for individuals in different life situations. Parents in harmonious marriages would find the counsel in the book relating to children quite valuable. Both titles are recommended for church libraries. Chapman's *The Five Love Languages of Teenagers* (2000) provides additional insights.

Donna W. Bowling, Library/Educational Consultant, Dallas, Texas

***Opening your child's spiritual windows : ideas to nurture your child's relationship with God / Cheri Fuller.* LCCN 2001017806. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2001. PAP, 0310224497, \$12.99. Adult. Rating: 4**

248.8'45. Christian education of children; Children--Religious life; Spiritual life--Christianity. 233 p.

Christian parents looking for ways to help their children develop a vital relationship with God will find a valuable resource in Cheri Fuller's new book. Also the author of *Opening Your Child's Nine Learning Windows* (Zondervan, 2001), Fuller has taken a similar approach in *Opening Your Child's Spiritual Windows*. She

stresses that God has created children to be naturally curious about spiritual matters and points out that it is in the early years when children are most receptive to spiritual nurturing and training. While stating that each child is unique, Fuller believes that there are four main spiritual windows it is vital children move through: Enjoying God, Loving God, Following God, and Serving God. She says, "the greatest privilege we have as parents is to help our children 'get the love for God,'" and goes on to say that it is the home and family, not the church, that are the primary delivery source for the Christian faith.

Her book is divided into four main parts, each concentrating on one of the spiritual windows. She uses true-life stories to introduce children's needs in each window and then follows up with concrete ideas for meeting those needs. In the "Making the Most" sections she includes an assortment of activities for taking advantage of the opportunities the window provides, ranging from activities like searching the sky with a young child to crafts and study projects for older children. "Journal Jots" suggest ideas for children to explore in their journals, and "Heart to Heart" sidebars gives parents suggestions for ways to share their own lives, ideas, and spiritual journeys with their children. A "Bookworm" list supplies children with quality reading material pertaining to the chapter's topic, while a "Bookbag" list provides parents with additional resources. Crammed full of solid ideas, this is a valuable training manual for parents who desire to be actively involved in helping their children develop a deep, authentic relationship with God.

Lillian Heytvelt, Public Librarian, Denny Ashby Memorial Library, Pomeroy, Washington

Bringing up boys / Dr. James Dobson. LCCN 2001003777. Carol Stream, Ill.: Tyndale House, 2001. HBB, 084235266X, \$22.99. Adult. Rating: 5

248.8'45. Parenting--Religious aspects--Christianity; Boys--Religious life. 269 p.

Dr. James Dobson draws from his own experience as family counselor and father to give practical advice and encouragement on how to raise boys to parents, grandparents, and educators. In his book, *Bringing Up Boys*, Dr. Dobson begins with the fact that boys are different from girls and need to be guided and disciplined according to those differences. One main essential that gives boys the best start is having an involved caring father. Dobson points out how the lack of a positive fatherly influence leads to a lack of moral certainty and lack of responsibility in boys. The book also deals with wounded spirits, desensitization and indoctrination, homosexuality, ultimate priorities, boys in school, and how media features men's weakness rather than strengths. The excellent question answer area touches many needed topics. Overall, this is an easy to read book that can break the cycle. Boys can be

approached and helped in many ways that society neglects when it lumps the population into one big pot. One size does not fit all! Dobson's advice is wise, but practical. This is a book for all Christian home and church libraries as well as an excellent gift to give to new and old fathers.

Paula Stewart Marks, School Principal, Bend, Oregon

Focus on the Family clubhouse family activity book / edited by Marianne Hering. LCCN 2001002895. Carol Stream, Ill.: Tyndale House, 2001. PAP, 1561799033, \$10.99. Adult (Elementary). Rating: 4

249. Bible--Study and teaching--Activity programs; Christian education of children; Christian education--Activity programs; Family--Religious life. 300 p.

What parent doesn't dread those two words "I'm Bored!" Trying to come up with suggestions will be much easier with the *Focus on the Family Clubhouse Family Activity Book*. With almost 300 activities to choose from, there is plenty to keep children and parents satisfied. Editor Marianne Hering has done a super job of putting together an engaging and entertaining batch of activities for children young to nearly teen. There are sections for almost every occasion: indoors, outdoors, travel, helping people, recipes, and crafts. Each activity lists suggested ages, and then has "gather, go and grow" sections. The gathering tells what materials are needed, the go are the instructions, and the grow are the Biblical applications. The well-organized, thought-provoking layout almost makes a parent eagerly anticipate the next complaint of "I'm bored!"

Family friendly and faith-building, the *Clubhouse Family Activity Book* is a resource worth looking into. It not only applies to families, but any group that works with children, ranging from daycare to Sunday School teachers, to baby-sitters to grandparents. This would be a well-received gift as well as a great curriculum booster. The large format with its scattering of black and white illustrations makes it a book kids will want to pick up and get motivated to use.

Pam Webb, School Library Technician II, Sandpoint, Idaho

Friends : the key to reaching Generation X / Ralph Moore. LCCN 2001031738. Ventura, Calif.: Regal Books, Gospel Light, 1997, 2001. PAP, 0830728570, \$11.99. Adult. Rating: 4

259.'25. Church work with young adults; Generation X--Religious life; Evangelistic work. 206 p.

Many of you are no doubt thinking to yourselves, "Generation X is passé; aren't things moving on to the Millennial Generation now?" The subtitle of *Friends* indicates that it is a book about reaching Generation X. It is about much more. For those who are looking for new concepts on running a church and fresh ideas for evangelism, this is certainly a book to look at. Moore is very much a proponent of planting

churches until the nation reaches saturation. He also has some very definite, progressive ideas on evangelistic methods. Much more relationship oriented than process oriented.

Those who continue to think, "Generation X is passé; aren't things moving on to the Millennial Generation now?" are not aware of the underlying problem according to Moore. Generation X only got a few years attention from the church and, as a result, remains the least converted generation in the history of North America. The church is going to be needing this generation as leaders in the future. However, it won't be easy and it won't be accomplished by business as usual.

There is a sprinkling of charismatic thought, but that should not dissuade one of a different background from looking at what Moore has to say. He discusses some things that are probably common knowledge in the charismatic world. For example, he mentions the "Toronto Blessing" as if the reader should be familiar with it. But as was mentioned above, there is only a little discussion of such things.

Recommended for anyone willing to look at new ways to reach out and affect this nation.

Robert M. Lindsey, Associate Library Director, Hannibal-LaGrange College, Hannibal, Missouri

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Let Mt. Zion rejoice! : music in the African American church / James Abbingon. LCCN 2001022996. Valley Forge, Pa.: Judson Press, 2001. PAP, 0817013997, \$15.00. Adult. Rating: 5

264.'2'08996073. Church music--United States--21st century; African Americans--Music--History and criticism; African Americans--Religion; African American churches. 143 p.

Long the subject of scrutiny, church music is also the subject of much debate and discussion, and the topics are far ranging. From where to place the music in the worship service to what type of music should be included—hymns vs. CCM, organ and piano vs. guitar and drums—there seems to be no end of opinions and no real solution in sight. Add to the mix the feeling of some that few churches really understand the role and function of music in worship and you begin to get a hint of how controversial a topic music is in the church.

That is, unless you have had the privilege of attending a worship service at an African-American church. There, music is more than part of the service: it is often the vehicle whereon the whole service rides. Music accompanies prayer, it accompanies testimony time, it accompanies preaching, and it leads the praise as the service winds down. (I say winds down because in many of the black churches with which I am familiar services are over long past the strike of a particular hour.)

In an attempt to more fully understand the role of music in the context of the African American church, James Abbingon, in his book, *Let Mt.*

Zion Rejoice, sets out to “concentrate on selected topics and areas in African American church music that have been neglected or rarely discussed in print” (xiii). Among those areas are qualifications for musicians, worship planning (xiii). He even proposes a calendar of observance of the African American Church year. Addressing each of these broad areas in a clear, succinct, and well-researched style, readers will not find difficult either understanding Abbington’s message or following its presentation. Of particular interest to students of this music will be Abbington’s call to excellence and partnership on the parts of the minister and the music staff of the church.

Well documented and well researched, *Let Mt. Zion Rejoice* will be a useful resource for any student of music in general and African American music in particular.

Raymond Legg, Bryan College, Dayton, Tennessee

Operation world / Patrick Johnstone and Jason Mandryk with Robyn Johnstone. 21st century ed. . LCCN . Minneapolis: Bethany House, 2001. PAP, 1850783578, \$17.99. Adult. Rating: 5

266. Missions. 798 p.

This is the sixth edition of *Operation World* and it keeps getting better. Johnstone and Mandryk produced a book that facilitates people to pray intelligently for countries and organizations systematically throughout the year. The Christian organizations (i.e., Samaritan’s Purse, etc.) and countries of the world are placed alphabetically in the book and information regarding the organization or country is provided such as the number and type of Christians, persecution levels, prayer requests of the church in the country, and much more. There are graphs and data tables. An addition over previous editions is a listing of praises from the different countries. There is a CD and website available for the reader. The authors “tell it like it is” regarding each country and its political situation regarding their treatment of Christians and offer no apologies. They strive to recognize all Christian organizations. They do not recognize groups such as Mormons and Jehovah’s Witnesses. The appendices are powerful with websites for countries and helpful organizations and mission agencies. A “must have” for serious missions people and prayer warriors. Helpful for Christian schools and home schoolers because of the educational thematic tie in to geography, politics, social studies, and missions.

Bianca Elliott, Public School Teacher, Linwood, Kansas

Overcoming the world missions crisis / Russell L. Penney, general editor. LCCN . Grand Rapids: Kregel, 2001. PAP, 0825434661, \$17.99. Adult. Rating: 3

266. Missions. 389 p.

Concerned that U.S. mission’s education is turning away from biblical principles,

overcoming the World Missions Crisis calls for a renewed emphasis on sound theology, belief in the doctrines of biblical inerrancy and Christ as alone sufficient for salvation, as well as a return to the missions standards found in the Bible, especially Acts. Russell L. Penney, acting as editor, and other writers contribute essays in three sections: defining the crisis, theological concerns, and practical matters. Appendices offer further helps for those involved in missions.

The book is soundly conservative in doctrine, philosophy, and general tone. Penney and the others are obviously concerned with the quality and future of missions in our country, making some good points. The work gives a good overview of missions education and work, covering philosophical as well as practical matters, though it seems to come from a more independent than denominational point of view. The essays are well written, readable, and understandable for laymen and ministers alike, and the topics generally well chosen, enlightening, and thought provoking.

The book should be of interest to any college age and above person involved in missions, from the mission education and support groups in the local church to the missionaries on the field. As such, church libraries, Christian colleges, and seminaries would be the recommended purchasers. It has a lot of worthwhile information and many good things to say that are often ignored in today’s world. *Overcoming the World Missions Crisis* is a thoughtful work worth a long look.

Betsy Ruffin, Librarian / Teacher, Cleburne, Texas

Women, faith, and work : how ten successful professionals blend belief and business / Lois Flowers; foreword by Thomas G. Addington and Stephen R. Graves. LCCN 2001026273. Nashville: Word, 2001. PAP, 0849942861, \$12.99. Adult. Rating: 5

277.2'083'092. Christian women--United States--Biography; Women employees--United States--Biography; Work--Religious aspects--Christianity; Employers--United States--Biography; Christian biography--United States. 169 p.

How can a woman be a force for God on the job? Can it be done and how does it look? *Women, Faith, and Work*, by Lois Flowers, reveals how a woman can live a completely Christian life and find success within her chosen field at the same time. The text provides revealing interviews with ten women who have sought and found the keys to a meaningful blend of beliefs with business.

Flowers has highlighted the stories of a diverse group of women who share a deep devotion to Christ. While their demographics are different in nearly every way – age, ethnicity, location, and more—each believes God has called her to the work she performs. The intriguing interviews offer the reader inspiration and

insight as each woman shares her successes, struggles, and failures with touching honesty.

Should the reader care to make further inquiries of the women who were interviewed, email addresses are listed and discussion is encouraged. The author also records the lessons she learned from the experience. Subject headings include First Things First, Competence, Integrity, and Balancing Life’s Demands. A helpful collection of scriptures suggested by the ten women are added and arranged by subject.

Every woman who has come to the realization that her Christian walk is not to be showcased only on Sunday will appreciate the wisdom contained in *Women, Faith, and Work*. With her expertise as a former editor with the *Life@Work Journal* as well as a strong faith heritage, Flowers cohesively connects the accounts of the interviewees with their equally engaging acumen in a powerful book. Sure to motivate all who endeavor to integrate faith with work, it is highly recommended reading.

Cathy M. Elliott, Freelance Writer, Anderson, California

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Killing fields, living fields : an unfinished portrait of the Cambodian Church--the Church that would not die / Don Cormack. LCCN . Grand Rapids: Monarch Books, 2001. PAP, 0825460026, \$. Adult. Rating: 5

281.909. Christian Church--Cambodia. 429 p.

Killing Fields, Living Fields is Don Cormack’s stunning account of the birth, growth, and tribulations of the Body of Christ in the Southeast Asian nation of Cambodia. Evangelization was minimal until 1923 when two American couples, the David Ellisons and the Arthur Hammonds arrived. What follows is a slow and steady growth of the Church in a country where to be a true patriot is to be Buddhist. Cormack, who was and is himself a missionary to Cambodia, relates many inspiring accounts of these first generation Christians and their devotion to the Lord. A time of great growth and renewal was experienced by the Christians there in the early 1970s, many of whom were descendants of those first believers, but the Cambodian Church had no idea of the persecution to come. Cormack’s harrowing account of what follows for these believers during the scourge of the Khmer Rouge in the late 1970s chills the heart while at the same time uplifting the soul. He shares not only his personal experiences of working in the refugee camps in Thailand but the many stories told to him by those who escaped the killing fields. He concludes with the triumphant return of the Church to the capital of Phnom Penh and the maturity and growth that continues to this day.

This awesome account of the Cambodian Body of Christ is well worth the reading. Cormack has included a timeline, notes, and an index.

While he does not hold back and recounts with brutal honesty the persecution of these dear brothers and sisters, neither does he dwell unnecessarily on the gruesome details. His prose is clean and sparse and to the point. He also does not over-glorify the individuals involved but tells of their personal ups and downs and points out the current difficulties in the Cambodian Church. Truly a book that every Christian teen and adult would benefit by reading.

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

How to get your husband to talk to you / Nancy Cobb, Connie Grigsby. LCCN 2001000543. Sisters, Ore.: Multnomah, 2001. PAP, 1576737713, \$16.99. Adult. Rating: 1

302.2. Interpersonal communication; Man-woman relationships; Men--Psychology. 284 p.

How to Get Your Husband to Talk to You by Nancy Cobb and Connie Grigsby is an advice book aimed at improving marital communication. Chapters are short and address various challenges or aspects of communication. Study questions are included for individual or group use.

Neither Cobb or Grigsby are marriage therapists or counselors. They base their advice on their own experiences. Unfortunately, it is also based on stereotypical ideas about the sexes. Men are this way; women are that way. Men are single-task oriented. Women are multitask oriented. Men eat and women cook.

Much of the advice given is common sense. Listen to your husband. Treat him with respect. Don't expect him to read your mind, etc. Each chapter is summed up by a "bottom line," such as "Hugging is often the kindling that gets the fire glowing."

This book will only be of use to those who have minor communication problems. Those who are really struggling should turn to books by trained counselors, such as Gary Smalley and John Trent. Surely there are better marital communication books available. Not recommended.

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

A very good marriage / by Tom Mullen; foreword by Philip Gulley. LCCN 2001042858. Richmond, Ind.: Friends United Press, 2001. PHBB, 0944350577, \$17.00. Adult. Rating: 5

306.81. Marriage; Marriage--United States--Religious aspects--Christianity; Man-woman relationships. 157 p.

Looking for a unique wedding or anniversary gift? Or an enjoyable and instructional addition for your church library? Tom Mullen's new book, *A Very Good Marriage*, satisfies those needs.

At the beginning of his sophomore year at Earlham College, Mullen is on hand to "welcome freshmen and transfers to the wonders and excitement of college life." It also, he admits, "...allowed us returning male students to peruse new women students." Or, as his "dignity-disadvantaged roommate, ...put it, 'we had the first chance to check out the chicks!'"

Then he sees Nancy, who had a "smile that would melt an iceberg and a freshly scrubbed beauty..." Their friendship develops into an enduring love that characterizes their forty-one years of marriage. They discover what it means to love each other in all of life, including sickness and health. Nancy, who suffers physical problems, dies suddenly December 18, 1998.

Situations they face, lessons they learn, all point to the reasonableness of long term commitment to one another through marriage. Mullen says, "Growing old together allows time for two people to wear each other's love very well indeed." *A Very Good Marriage* validates this.

Then he speaks of the grief following the death of his best friend, lover, wife, and mother of their four children. He goes on living with day by day reminders of Nancy's presence and love, always grateful for their years together.

Mullen's characteristic humor lifts this poignant story to a bearable level. *A Very Good Marriage* challenges folks in Mullen's age category to consider their own marriages, and to make fresh commitments. Young people starting the journey will discover guideposts. Only 151 pages, it makes a compelling can't-put-it-down read. End Notes offer additional reading on subjects he covers in the previous nine chapters.

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

The healthy marriage handbook / Louise A. Ferrebee, general editor. LCCN 2001025760. Nashville: Broadman & Holman, 2001. PAP, 080549054X, \$14.99. Adult. Rating: 3

306.81. Marriage; Marriage--United States--Religious aspects--Christianity. 339 p.

Comprehensive, honest and biblically sound, *The Healthy Marriage Handbook* covers the major stumbling blocks of communication (too stressed to talk, how to deal with an impossible-to-please mate, asking a spouse to change), working through conflict (unaccepting in-laws, hiding from conflict, a mate who yells), sex (understanding fidelity, adapting to an altered body image, early ejaculation, and painful intercourse); and other major issues.

Focused on problem resolution, multiple contributors include psychologists, financial advisors, educators, and pastors. The detailed answers and workable solutions offered provide readers insight, understanding, and methods to resolve conflict. The table of contents is organized under seven broad areas: Communication; Conflict, Sex; Intimacy;

Spiritual Oneness; Intimacy; Parenting; and Money Management. Specific questions are listed in the table of contents. The format of this book allows readers to research specific concerns quickly.

The Healthy Marriage Handbook addresses more than 200 questions and covers topics left out of many handbooks. One particularly good chapter covers sexual issues frankly and openly, and another addresses parenting as a team. The book is easy to read, easy to use, and offers pragmatic, biblically based solutions. Other marriage manuals cover these topics in further depth, but this book is a good starting place for couples beginning to address their problems.

Includes a list of acknowledgements for further resources, a topical index and list of contributors and their credentials.

Cynthia Washington, Review Columnist for Christian News Northwest, Puyallup, Washington

For bitter or for better? : keys for a great marriage / presenter, John Drescher. Worcester, Pa.: Gateway Films, Vision Video, 2001. VID, 1563645319, \$69.99. Adult. Rating: 4

306.85. Marriage. 1 book, 241 p.; 1 leader's guide; 2 videos, col., 100 min. ea.

John Drescher's thorough overview of the problems typical to marriage is presented here in text and video formats. Chapters, typically three pages, offer insight on why opposites attract, importance of commitment as an act of love, when conflict can be a vital turning point in marriage. A question for thought and discussion wraps up each chapter. His overall message is that we chose our attitude about our spouses, and that negative attitudes can be turned around to have a dynamic, Godly marriage.

Though the video is somewhat dry—Drescher lacks the dynamic presentation offered by Gary Smalley—his insights are acute. The curriculum kit offers couples and small groups tools to begin identifying and healing areas of marital conflict. The tapes cover a lot of ground and are guaranteed to stimulate conversation. Drescher's kit is reasonably priced compared to other tape series.

For the Love of Marriage, the book included in this kit, is deceptively slender but weighty in wisdom. The author is encouraging, to the point with his analysis of problems in relationships, and offers biblically sound solutions. This would be an excellent resource for churches wishing to inspire and nurture married couples and couples in pre-marriage counseling. A multiple-copy discount order form is found on the last page of the book.

Cynthia Washington, Review Columnist for Christian News Northwest, Puyallup, Washington

The gift of grandparenting : building meaningful relationships with your grandchildren / Eric Wiggin. LCCN 2001002073. Wheaton, Ill.: Tyndale House, 2001. PAP, 1561799246, \$12.99. Adult. Rating: 5

306.874'5. Grandparenting. 308 p.

Both experienced and novice grandparents will benefit from Focus on the Family's comprehensive release, *The Gift of Grandparenting*. Author Eric Wiggin, father of four and grandfather of eleven, offers sage advice based on personal experience, interviews with godly grandparents, research findings, and God's Word. Throughout the book, he validates the importance of grandparents and emphasizes the need to support children in raising godly offspring. He states, "The influence of loving grandparents on grandchildren is profound, reaching beyond mere belief to shape behavior, affecting destinies."

Reading this book is like having a caring mentor to guide you in your grandparenting role. Filled with practical tips and home-spun stories, some parts seem like a course in Grandparenting 101. To help new grandparents get started, Wiggin encourages shopping at garage sales to equip Grandma's house with baby furniture for little ones and play equipment for older children.

But Wiggin's insights go beyond the toddler years to include important topics related to older grandchildren and teenagers. He covers subjects such as communication, teenagers of today, how to invest in your grandchildren's futures, gift giving, and spiritual teaching. He also addresses the more challenging issues of split-family grandparenting, setting limits, raising grandchildren when parents can't, and letting go. Whether grandchildren live nearby or far away, grandparents can apply Wiggin's sound principles and guidance.

Besides the twenty-one helpful chapters, this guidebook includes extensive footnotes and worthwhile resources. *The Gift of Grandparenting*, written with warmth and conviction, makes a valuable tool for grandparents to reread as they and their grandchildren mature through the stages of life.

Lydia E. Harris, Freelance Writer & Educator, Seattle, Washington

Footnotes : a life without limits / Lena Maria Klingvall. LCCN 2001020421. Deerfield Beach, Fla.: Health Communications, 2001. PAP, 155874911X, \$10.95. Adult. Rating: 4

362.4'3'092. Klingvall, Lena Maria; Physically handicapped--Biography; Extremities (Anatomy)--Abnormalities; Musculoskeletal system--Abnormalities. 188 p.

Anyone who has ever wasted a lot of time and energy feeling sorry for themselves needs to read *Footnotes: A Life Without Limits*, by Lena Maria Klingvall. In this simplistic but heartfelt narrative, Lena Maria reminds everyone that God makes no mistakes. When Lena Maria

arrives in the world with no arms and only one full leg and foot, her parents take on the challenge, and do their best to treat Lena as if she were totally normal. With their encouragement, and her faith in God, Lena works hard to make the most of her life, in spite of her handicaps. As a result, she becomes a championship swimmer, a much sought after gospel singer, a missionary, and a wife.

What this simple paperback lacks in literary style is made up for with content that keeps the reader wanting to know what will happen next to Lena Maria. Footnotes is a real gem of encouragement sure to inspire anyone who reads it.

Virginia G. Schnabel, Freelance Writer, Shelton, Washington

The organized home schooler / Vicki Caruana. LCCN 2001003933. Wheaton, Ill.: Crossway Books, Good News Publishers, 2001. PAP, 1581343051, \$10.99. Adult. Rating: 4

371.04'2'068. Home-schooling--Planning; School management and organization; Christian education--Home training. 159 p.

Homeschooling educators and those in general looking for information on how to organize their lives, will find valuable tips and ideas in Vicki Caruana's *The organized homeschooler*. Vicki maps out each chapter clearly giving a premise on organization, why it is important, different ways to implement that particular premise, and what God's Word has to say about it. The author does not insist things have to be only her way and none other but rather gives some leeway for personality differences and approaches.

The author's writing style is very easily read. As you would expect, her ideas are presented in an orderly fashion but beyond that, the importance of pleasing the Lord is woven beautifully into her advice to homeschoolers. In other words, the reader is not being exhorted to organizations skills for organization's sake only but because through this one can please the Lord, and more effectively accomplish the work he has given to do.

Also included in this helpful book is The list of lists for homeschooling, including such things as lists of goals, curriculum choices, learning objectives, and more. Several pages of additional resources contain websites, available articles and books. The author concludes the book with Final Thoughts "As you progress toward a more organized lifestyle, you will be blessed. God will bless you with more time, more energy, and more peace. And with those things you can finally do all that He has called you to do."

Cecil Carey, Young Adult Librarian, Public Library, Plano, Illinois

First place / Carole Lewis with W. Terry Whalin. Rev. ed., . LCCN 200109707. Ventura, Calif.: Regal Books, Gospel Light, 2001. HBB, 0830728635, \$. Adult. Rating: 3

613.2'5. Weight loss--Religious aspects--Christianity; Health--Religious aspects--Christianity. 204 p.

More than a weight-loss plan, *First Place* seeks to encourage men and women to put Christ first in every area of their lives, including the physical. This book titled by the name of the plan, First Place, gives an overview of the program, explaining the biblical foundations for it and the commitments needed to fulfill it. Carole Lewis, the author, is the national director of First Place. Having lived the program herself, she writes honestly and helpfully of her own struggles in living a healthy lifestyle and encourages the reader to do so also.

The book is a good introduction to the plan and backs up with scripture the lifestyle changes First Place endorses. Success stories are given but it also deals honestly with obstacles that may have to be faced. Appendices give further information on food groups and calorie counts, exercise, and more. The style is readable and the information clear. It's a helpful book explaining a helpful program.

The book will be especially useful for individuals or churches involved in the First Place program or thinking about starting a group. Group leaders may want a copy of their own, and church libraries might place one with either discipleship or health materials. Adults would be the primary reader, but high school and college young people desiring to develop a healthier lifestyle will also gain much. The balanced outlook of the book is good, encouraging not just physical changes but looking to spiritual and emotional health also. It's a well-done work.

Betsy Ruffin, Librarian/Teacher, Cleburne, Texas

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Angry kids : understanding and managing the emotions that control them / Richard L. Berry. LCCN 2001019789. Grand Rapids: Fleming H. Revell, Baker Books, 2001. PAP, 0800757572, \$16.99. Adult. Rating: 5

619'.64. Anger in children; Anger in children--Case studies; Anger in adolescence; Anger in adolescence--Case studies; Child rearing. 297 p.

Over the years our society has become more and more child-oriented in its focus. Entertainment, consumer products, and most definitely the news is targeted toward youth. Gone is the adage of "should be seen and not heard." The sad fact is our youth are being heard more, and it is the cry of anger.

Dr. Richard Berry relies on his experience as a marriage and family therapist to provide a source to help parents cope with today's angry kids. This book comes with case examples, illustrations, plans, and helps to battle the frustration and helplessness that comes with dealing with an angry child. Dr. Berry applies wisdom and biblical guidelines to situations, offering hope to combating this destructive emotion.

One illuminating aspect of this book is that it is not just children themselves who have an anger problem, adults share this same emotion. And it is brought out that adults can be a contributing factor, if not the reason for a child's anger. This book makes it all too clear, as difficult as it is to admit, that many adults are just angry kids all grown up, and there is a need to overcome those submerged angry ways in order to help children overcome theirs. A valuable resource filled with game plans for anger management and countless suggested references that should be a definite consideration for parents, teachers, youth workers, counselors, social workers, and school personnel looking for answers to the perplexing question of what to do about angry kids.

Pam Webb, Library Technician Sandpoint

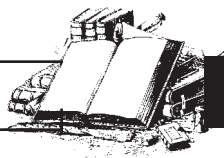
*Lillian Heytvelt, Public Librarian, Denny Ashby Memorial Library,
Pomeroy, Washington*

***How to be a God chaser and a kid chaser :
prioritizing passions while parenting /
Tommy and Thetus Tenney. LCCN .
Shippensburg, Pa.: Fresh Bread, Destiny
Image, 2001. PAP, 0768450063, \$11.99.
Adult. Rating: 3***

649. Parenting. 128 p.

Well-known evangelist Tommy Tenney (author of *The God Chasers*, Destiny Image, Feb. 1999) has joined forces with his mother, Thetus Tenney, and other Christian leaders (Dr. James Dobson, Dutch and Ceci Sheets, Beth Alves, etc.) in writing this guide for those who are torn between the demands of parenting and the desire to pursue God. There are no simple formulas to be found here, but a lot of sharing of solid advice. Tommy Tenney asks the question: "Are we teaching them as much about the joy of His presence as about the proper place for dirty clothes, toys, and a civil tongue?" Thetus Tenney: "There will always be distractions ... and there will always be God. And God will always be bigger than distractions." In a chapter entitled, "Married, with Children," Stacey Cambell writes of the importance of practicing the presence of God and of seeking Him in all of the activities of life. Jane Hansen shares her story of pursuing God for a wayward child and of the revelation God gave her as she focused on Him rather than her despair.

Tommy Tenney contributes only one chapter, the rest are written by his mother, alternating with those of other Christian leaders. Parenting and pursuing God are both large subjects, and while this book does not offer a tightly focused answer to how to do both at the same time, the reader does gain insight through the different experiences the contributors share. Each chapter includes an introduction to the writer, as well as end notes. A 31-Day Kid Chaser's Prayer Guide for God Chasers is found at the end of the book. Each day the reader is given a "claim," such as reverence, humility, purity, diligence, etc., as well as a "declaration" to speak over one's child. Those parents feeling alone in their struggles to balance heavenly passion and earthly parenting will find comfort in this book.



***The Christian writers' market guide : 2002* / Sally E. Stuart. LCCN 95642005. Colorado Springs: Shaw Book, WaterBrook, 2002. PAP, 0877881901, \$28.00. Reference. Rating: 5**

070.5'2. Christian literature--Publication and distribution--United States--Directories; Theology--Periodicals--Directories. 629 p.

The Christian Writers' Market Guide 2002 by Sally Stuart stands out as an essential reference for any Christian writers seeking to be published in the Christian community. The book begins with resources for writers included to give authors a chance to connect with other groups, find information and illustrations that fit their market needs, gain instruction, find websites and software. Next, the book includes forty pages of book publishers listed according to category. Then, the next hundred pages list alphabetically the book publishers, giving websites, email, addresses, the way to approach, and how to query. The latter part also lists subsidy publishers and gives a market analysis of book publishers. The next three hundred pages deals with periodicals. The book first lists topics publishers are interested in. Then an alphabetical listing of major markets is listed which includes pay scale, length of articles, guidelines available, editor's names, circulation figures, contact details such as address, phone, email, fax. The last market area listed is greeting card and specialty markets.

The book ends with an area of helps including Christian writers' conferences, workshops, clubs, editorial services, agents and contests, indices and glossary. Overall, with more and more publishers making guidelines available by email or websites, this book puts easy access and necessary information in the grasp of any potential writer. *The Christian Writers' Market* is very user friendly and contains accurate, up-to-date publishing information.

Paula Stewart Marks, School Principal, Bend, Oregon

***The strongest Strong's exhaustive concordance of the Bible* / James Strong; fully revised and corrected by John R. Kohlenberger III and James A. Swanson. 21st century ed., fully rev. and corrected. LCCN 2001026577. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2001. HBB, 0310233437, \$34.99. Reference. Rating: 5**

220.5'2033. Bible--Concordances, English; Hebrew language--Dictionaries--English; Greek language, Biblical--Dictionaries--English. 1742 p.

Want an easy to use and comprehensive alphabetic index to every word of the King James Version Bible? *The Strongest Strong's Exhaustive Concordance of the Bible* will fit that

need nicely. Headings show the indexed words exactly as they are spelled in the KJV. In addition to studying related words, this concordance can be used with any edition of the KJV, as variations in spellings are included. Since 45 words occur so often they make up nearly half the bulk of the KJV, these words are indexed in their own section, the Index of Articles, Conjunctions, Particles, Prepositions, and Pronouns.

Great care has been taken by the editors, programmers, and proofreaders to create contexts that are informative and accurate. The Main Concordance indexes 407,296 references to 12,811 KJV words, with the Index of Articles indexing 283,541 references to 47 KJV words.

Also included is a Hebrew-Aramaic Dictionary-Index to the Old Testament, Greek Dictionary-Index to the New Testament, and Topical Bible Reference. The latter offers access to more than 7,000 biblical topics enabling the reader to look up a subject, person, place, or book of the Bible in alphabetical order.

Spelling and punctuation has been verified with computer accuracy and each word as a statistic indicating the number of times it translates any Hebrew, Aramaic, or Greek word in the KJV. No heavier than a medium sized yellow-page directory, the concordance fits well into most adult hands.

Highly recommended as a concordance for all public library collections, for private and church libraries, and an ideal tool for group Bible study. The comprehensive nature of this work makes this a lasting title helpful for the home.

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

***Bible atlas* / by Stephen Motyer; illustrated by Brian Delf. LCCN 2001018239. Wheaton, Ill.: Tyndale Kids, Tyndale House, 2001. HBB, 0789478722, \$17.99. Reference. Rating: 5**

220.91'022'3. Bible--Geography--Maps. 48 p.

This big oversized pictorial Bible atlas illustrated by Brian Delf would be a fine addition to any grade school or middle school library or homeschool classroom. It is divided into sections on the Old and New Testaments and moves chronologically through them. It begins with an overview map of the Holy Land as it is today, followed by two pages on why and how we map and a brief discussion of archeology. This is followed by the Old Testament section, which contains maps on the journeys of the patriarchs, the Israelites in Egypt, the flight from Egypt, the Promised

Land, Israel and the Philistines, David's kingdom, Solomon's temple, the divided kingdom, Babylon, and the Persian Empire. The New Testament section includes maps illustrating Jesus' birth and early life, Jesus' early ministry, the miracles of Jesus, his travels to Jerusalem, his death and resurrection, and the early church including Paul's missionary journeys.

Each page has many full color illustrations and modern day photographs of the areas. In the corner of each map page, there is an inset showing exactly where in the Holy Land each specific map is to be found. The volume is concluded with an A-Z of Bible places and an index. The maps are easy to follow and understand, the graphics are well done and clearly delineated and the text is easy enough for third through fifth grades but detailed enough for older students as well. A great addition to any Bible study but also a book that can stand alone as an interesting read.

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

***The concise dictionary of Christian theology* / Millard J. Erickson. Rev. ed., . LCCN 2001002826. Wheaton, Ill.: Crossway Books, Good News Publishers, 2001. PAP, 1581342810, \$. Reference. Rating: 4**

230'.03. Theology--Dictionaries. 222 p.

The Concise Dictionary of Evangelical Theology is, as the title implies, a handy-quick reference guide containing concise definitions of terms, phrases, people, and places related to the study of theology and contemporary Christian thought. While some theological dictionaries offer article length discussions of theological terms, this dictionary provides definitions ranging from one to about twenty lines.

The Concise Dictionary is evangelical in the sense that it was written from an evangelical perspective. This does not mean, however, that only evangelical terms are included. Phrases, terms or people not normally associated with evangelicalism are also included—such as the Death of God Theology, Friedrich Nietzsche, or New Age Religion.

As a dictionary of theology, one would expect that the book would define theological terms like regeneration or Traducianism, and it does, but the book also includes people, groups, and movements related to evangelicalism, such as Carl Henry, the National Association of Evangelicals, and the Oxford Movement. Relevant social issues and “hot topics” are also

covered, for example, abortion, abstinence, euthanasia, bioethics, genetic philosophy, intelligent design, and open theism.

The Concise Dictionary of Evangelical Theology was written by Millard Erickson, author of numerous books and one of the most prominent conservative evangelical theologians of our time.

For a more detailed analysis of theological terms, the *Evangelical Dictionary of Theology* (Elwell, Walter, ed. 2nd ed. Grand Rapids : Baker, 2001) would be an excellent source, but for a quick reference guide when reading books or articles by theologians or Christian thinkers, *The Concise Dictionary of Evangelical Theology* is perfect.

Dr. Dennis Ingolfsland, Director of Library Services and Associate Professor of Bible, Crown College, St. Bonifacius, MN.

The dictionary of historical theology / general editor, Trevor A. Hart; consulting editors, Richard Bauckham ... [et al.]. LCCN 0045323. Grand Rapids: Wm. B. Eerdmans, 2000. HBB, 080283907X, \$50.00. Reference. Rating: 5

230'.09. Theology, Doctrinal--History--Encyclopedias. 599 p.

Claiming to be the first one volume handbook in English on this topic, *The Dictionary of Historical Theology* is a very helpful reference resource. It is good for those interested in theology, history of philosophy, or church history. The entries range from more than a column in length to five pages, with the average entry size being a little more than a page. With 314 entries, each article is signed and has a Further Reading section at the end. The 173 international contributors come from a wide range of denominational and theological backgrounds to give expression to the complexity of Christian theological development.

One extremely valuable addition to the dictionary is an index, for those who are interested in seeing all the entries that mention, say, John Wycliffe, who has an entry of his own, or C. S. Lewis, who does not.

This is not a theological dictionary. If one wants to look up 'supralapsarianism,' then this is not the place. This book covers the historical development of theology, not the technical terms of theology.

Some will be surprised at what is missing: neither Fundamentalism nor the anti-modernism pamphlets, *The Fundamentals*, are even mentioned in the index. Evangelical Theology is an entry; but there are not many related cross-references, especially for the 20th century.

Chronological from the Apostolic Fathers to Postmodernism, the dictionary covers individuals and movements of all time periods in the progress of Christian thought. Recommended for interested individuals,

academically minded high schools and all colleges and universities.

Robert M. Lindsey, Associate Library Director, Hannibal-LaGrange College, Hannibal, Missouri

The Facts on File dictionary of weather and climate / edited by Jacqueline Smith. LCCN 2001040465. New York: Facts on File, 2001. HBB, 0816045321, \$44.00. Reference. Rating: 4

551.5. Meteorology--Dictionaries; Weather--Dictionaries. 250 p.

The Facts on File Dictionary of Weather and Climate edited by Jacqueline Smith is an impressive collection of about 2,000 words and definitions that are all weather and climate related. Among the topics covered alphabetically are acid rain, cloud formation, climate changes, winds, global warming, and storms. Sixty line drawings help the reader visualize complex terms. Four appendices give a short history of weather, both metric and English measure conversion tables, temperature conversions, and very useable weather related web sites. This extremely detailed text is well suited for term papers and research at either the high school or college level. This is a highly academic book not intended for light browsing, but for serious students that want to know everything about weather or teachers that want to be better prepared.

Paula Stewart Marks, School Principal, Bend, Oregon

Bird tracks & sign : a guide to North American species / by Mark Elbroch & Eleanor Marks. LCCN 2001020602. Mechanicsburg, Pa.: Stackpole Books, 2001. PAP, 0811726967, \$34.95. Reference. Rating: 4.

598'.097. Birds--North America--Identification; Animal tracks--North America--Identification. 456 p.

To meet the needs of those interested in observing and investigating the natural world, field guides of one sort or another have been developed over the years. For birds, in particular, both general and area-specific guides for visual identification are a given. In the last few years these printed guides have been augmented with video-based tools. In addition, there are a significant number of bird species which are difficult, if not impossible, to identify by sight alone. Audio guides of the various songs and call notes (both on audiocassette and CD) are now available. At times knowing what birds inhabit in a particular habitat can be of great benefit and there are guides that fill this niche. However, if you cannot see or hear the bird, there may be other clues for detecting their presence in a particular location.

Bird Tracks & Sign is designed to enable you to learn about the daily lives of birds, even when you can't identify them by sight or sound. The "clues" which Elbroch and Marks discuss include: tracks and trails, pellets, droppings, signs of feeding, nests and roosts, feathers and

skulls (the later chapter was written by Diane Boretos, a professional biologist). Elbroch is the practitioner, teaching tracking courses and working on various inventory projects. Marks is a teacher and environmental advocate. Together they provide a thorough introduction to this fascinating world.

This book can be useful in a number of ways: first, as a reference tool for interested nature lovers. Second, *Bird Tracks & Sign* is a comprehensive introduction to the world of wildlife tracking, focusing on birds as the subject under consideration. The use of sidebars to highlight interesting background information is particularly valuable, as is an appendix of resources. This is a book to sit down with, take out on the trail, and refer back to as the need arises.

Ted Goshulak, University Librarian, Langley, British Columbia, Canada

The Sibley guide to bird life & behavior / illustrated by David Allen Sibley; edited by Chris Elphick, John B. Dunning, Jr., and David Allen Sibley. LCCN 200133903. New York: Knopf, 2001. HBB, 0679451234, \$45.00. Reference. Rating: 5

598'.097. Birds--North America; Birds--Behavior--North America; Birds; Birds--Behavior. 588 p.

Owls : a guide to the owls of the world / by Claus König, Freidhelm Weick, and Jan-Hendrik Becking; [illustrated by Friedhelm Weick]. LCCN 99060571. New Haven, Conn.: Yale Univ. Press, 1999. HBB, 0310079206, \$50.00. Reference. Rating: 4

598.97. Owls; Owls--Identification. 462 p.

Raptors of the world / by James Ferguson-Lees and David A. Christie; illustrated by Kim Franklin, David Mead, and Philip Burton. LCCN 200124478. Boston: Houghton Mifflin, 2001. HBB, 0618127623, \$60.00. Reference. Rating: 5

598.9. Birds of prey--Identification. 992 p.

Wrens, dippers and thrashers / by David Brewer; illustrated by Barry Kent MacKay. LCCN 2001093423. New Haven, Conn.: Yale Univ. Press, 2001. HBB, 0300090595, \$50.00. Reference. Rating: 3

598.81. Wrens; Dippers (Birds); Thrashers (Birds). 272 p.

The release of high quality ornithological books continues unabated. Following on the unheralded success of his *Sibley Guide to Birds*, David Sibley, together with two co-editors, has brought together over forty-five expert birders and ornithologists to produce a general reference work on the biology of North American birds. As a companion to the field guide, it is divided into two distinct parts. First, there is a presentation of the basics of avian

biology which is carried out in an extremely readable manner. The second part includes summary information on the eighty bird families of North America. This section synthesizes up-to-date research with background information describing the taxonomy, foraging, breeding, behavior, and distribution of the various families of birds. In an effort to provide a maximum space for information the bibliography is not included in the book, but can be found on the Internet at: <http://www.sibleyart.com>.

This is a book for consulting once you have arrived back home after a day "in the field." As a synopsis of current scientific knowledge packaged in an attractive and highly readable fashion it is unrivalled.

The remaining three volumes, despite different publishers, constitute the latest releases in the Helm Identification Series. Produced in England by A.C. Black (under their Christopher Helm imprint), the North American editions are published by a number of different presses.

The Owls volume provides an overview of the 212 species of owls found worldwide. Given the nocturnal lives owls live, a double CD has been produced (purchased separately), providing vocalizations of 80% of the species covered in the book. With 64 color plates and detailed species accounts, this is the most exhaustive volume produced on this family of birds.

Raptors of the World is the culmination of eighteen years of work and covers all 313 species of diurnal birds of prey. Each species is illustrated in adult, juvenile, and selected immature plumages (112 color plates). Where the Owls book focuses on vocalizations, the present work highlights the flight and multitude of plumages of this fascinating family. An interesting feature of the book is the use of three introductory color plates which act as size keys to the genera of raptor.

The last volume, *Wrens, Dippers and Thrashers*, is "the first comprehensive guide to the world's eighty-three wrens, five dippers and thirty-six thrashers" in a single work. The 124 species are displayed in thirty-two color plates and described in well-written species accounts. Brewer and MacKay, both Canadians, have provided us with a fascinating look at these three bird families.

With input from authors and illustrators, both professional and amateur, from five countries, the four books reviewed here demonstrate the dynamic nature of this area of natural history. Much has been learned, but much more needs to be discovered and these volumes provide valuable guidance in that endeavor.

Ted Goshulak, University Librarian, Langley, British Columbia, Canada

***Encyclopedia of mammals* / edited by David Macdonald. LCCN 2001033615. New York: Facts on File, 2001. HBB, 0816042675, \$300.00. Reference. Rating: 4**

599'.03. Mammals. 3 vol.

This beautiful and comprehensive encyclopedia, newly expanded from one to three volumes since the 1984 edition, presents the latest developments in the study of wild mammals around the world. Edited by David Macdonald, an award winning author, documentary filmmaker, and professor at the U. of Oxford, the encyclopedia meets his goal of combining hard science and user-friendly communication to convey an informative and entertaining overview of the world's 4,600 mammal species.

The first volume covers carnivores and sea mammals, the second volume deals with primates and large herbivores, and in the third volume marsupials, insect eaters, and small herbivores are covered. A general essay introduces and highlights the common features and main variations of each order of mammal. Next, and forming the bulk of each volume, are the accounts of individual species. An especially useful feature is the "Factfile" sidebar that gives a quick summary of each species' distribution, habitat, diet, breeding cycles, longevity, and conservation status. "Special Feature" sections offer a range of "cutting edge" research from front-line researchers, and the photo stories found at the end of some chapters present wonderful sequences of wildlife photography. The third volume includes a complete species list, comprehensive index, glossary of biological terms, and bibliography.

This encyclopedia can be enjoyed by both casual browsers and researchers of all ages. While the full color photographs and drawings on each page make using these volumes a visual delight, this is clearly a secular text, and the inclusion of evolutionary information may be problematic for some users. Recommended for libraries with a larger budget in need of a comprehensive, up-to-date animal reference.

Lillian Heyvelt, Public Librarian, Denny Ashby Memorial Library, Pomeroy, WA

***The C. S. Lewis encyclopedia : a complete guide to his life, thought, and writings* / Colin Duriez. LCCN 99048055. Wheaton, Ill.: Crossway Books, 2000. PAP, 1581341369, \$17.99. Reference. Rating: 5**

823'.912. Lewis, C. S. (Clive Staples), 1898-1963-- Encyclopedias; Christian literature, English-- Encyclopedias; Fantasy fiction, English-- Encyclopedias; Authors, English--20th century-- Biography--Encyclopedias. 240 p.

As I have studied literature through the years I have noticed several significant trends. Among the most fascinating is watching how certain authors tend to come in and go out of vogue with no predictability other than the whims of the public. One such author, Rudyard Kipling, for instance, was the focus of as much attention for

what he wrote as for how he wrote it. Critics agreed and disagreed over the inherent worth of his poetry to the point that his name was bantered about mostly in derision. (I have heard it said that one would ask, "Do you like Kipling?" Another would respond, "I don't know. I have never Kiplped.")

It appears that one such author to whom that sort of lighthearted criticism will never be applied is C.S. Lewis. It seems that interest in the man and his work will neither soon disappear—if at all—nor will it fail for lack of ways to study the wealth of material he left behind.

That said, however, in the preface of *The C.S. Lewis Encyclopedia: A Complete Guide to His Life, Thought, and Writings*, author Colin Duriez speculates that while everyone seems to know something about the life and work of Lewis, how many of them actually know him and the depth of his views on important Christian issues, literature, life, etc. It is toward developing depth in readers of this prolific author that *The C.S. Lewis Encyclopedia* is offered.

Written for a general audience, this very readable and quite enjoyable volume will be a valuable asset to every library, public or private, and to every reader interested in serious study of Lewis' life and work. From identifying "Toadpipe" and "Thulcandra" to articulating Lewis's views on important contemporary issues such as the Tao and cancer, Duriez has done a masterful job of giving readers on every level more than an encyclopedic list of facts and details: he has developed what they will soon discover is Lewis's views on them. This can be considered an indispensable resource on a wide range of topics.

Along with books like *The Quotable C.S. Lewis* edited by Martindale and Root, *The C.S. Lewis Encyclopedia* is a must for every serious student of this wonderfully complex, godly Christian man.

Raymond Legg, Bryan College, Dayton, Tennessee

***Historical maps on file* / Martin Greenwald Associates. LCCN 2001018265. New York: Facts on File, 2001. LLF, 081604600X, \$330.00. Reference. Rating: 5**

911. Outline maps; Atlases; Historical geography-- Maps. 1 atlas (2 v.) : maps.

This loose-leaf three-ring binder collection of 400 plus maps covers ancient civilizations, medieval Europe, Europe from 1500 to 1815, and Europe from 1815 to the present. Approximately one-third of the collection is devoted to American history, from Indian tribes in America prior to European civilization to the electoral vote by state in the 2000 Presidential election.

Many of the maps relate to political, military, or economic themes, e.g., Roman Expansion 240 BCE – 30 BCE, England in the 9th century, Civil War in England 1642-43, and WWII the

Western Front 1914-18. Volume II covers the western hemisphere, e.g., Hudson Bay Forts, 17th century, Africa and the Middle East, e.g., Desert Oases of the North, c. 1800, Asia, e.g., China during the Ming Dynasty c. 1415-1624, and Australia & the Pacific Islands, e.g. Penal Settlements in Australia 1845-1900.

Purchasers may photocopy any of the maps if used for non-profit, educational, or private use.

Recommended for use by history teachers, and for historical map collections in all public and academic libraries. Homeschooling families will find a treasure in many of the maps for they convey a lot of information in a short space. Public libraries with many high school students utilizing the reference section will find many uses for this resource.

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

Maps on file / Martin Greenwald Associates. LCCN . New York: Facts on File, 2001. LLF, 0816046832, \$330.00. Reference. Rating: 5

912. Outline maps; Atlases. 1 atlas (2 v.) : maps.

This versatile three-ring binder compilation of 500 maps is a treasure that one can come back to again and again. Have you heard mention in the news of Cape Verde Islands? Either check the index, or go to Africa, and map 2.09 gives one details. Each of the continents serves as a chapter divider, and all countries are listed alphabetically, e.g. Africa starts with Algeria and goes to Zimbabwe. Volume 2 starts with maps of each of the 50 American states and Washington, DC. A chapter on demographics mentions population, human development index and life expectancy.

Want to trace volcanic activity? Go to Natural Resources & Energy Resources, protected natural areas and map 11.12 will highlight active volcanoes and the ring of fire. Chapter 12 outlines political entities, highlighting UN member states, Europe Community, Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries, etc.

Reproduction and photocopying for educational, non-profit, or private use accompanies the purchase. All statistics are updated reflecting available population figures, social indicators, and trade information. A 15,000 entry index makes access to the maps quick.

Highly recommended for all public and school libraries. It is a treasure easy to use for homeschoolers, and one that teachers can use many times in having a current map for countries or events under consideration.

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

Encyclopedia of African nations and civilizations / The Diagram Group and Keith Lye. LCCN 2001040283. New York: Facts on File, 2001. HBB, 0816045682, \$75.00. Reference. Rating: 4

960'.03. Africa--Civilization--Encyclopedias; Africa--History--Encyclopedias. 400 p.

Three sections, each illustrated by line drawings, timelines, and maps, give the reader a close-up view of Africa and its unique characteristics. The section Africa Today presents an overview of the political and economic status of each of the five main regions of Africa, while the section Development of the Continent focuses on areas of particular relevance to the cultural development of Africa as a whole. The third section, A to Z, is the core of the book with its 300 pages presenting in alphabetical order the history of each civilization and the emergence of the independent nations.

An impressive feature of this work is the editorial team's effort to integrate visual forms of information with the text. The use of two-color artwork, together with painstaking detail, draws in the student, researcher, and teacher.

Recommended for all history collections in public and private libraries, a must title for research collections for high school and community college students, and a good title for those libraries and schools seeking to add a comprehensive and interesting title on Africa.

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

Atlas of the North American Indian / by Carl Waldman; illustrations by Molly Braun. LCCN 99023678. New York: Facts on File, 2000. HBB, 0816039747, \$21.95. Reference. Rating: 5

970.004'97. Indians of North America; Indians of North America--Maps. 385 p.

Atlas of the North American Indian is a comprehensive overview of Native American history, culture, and contemporary life. Beginning with arrival theories, such as crossing a land bridge over the Bering Strait, and ancient civilizations, such as the Maya, Aztec, Anasazi, and Mound Builders, it continues through to the issues of today, such as U.S. Indian policy, gaming, and cultural renewal. Indian history from the first contacts with explorers to the Indian wars and land cessation are well covered. Maps and illustrations are abundant.

This is a revised edition of a well-regarded work, even being chosen as "Outstanding Reference Book of 1985" by the NYPL. This version seems to live up to that reputation. It is objective in its tone, well rounded in its views, and comprehensive in its overview. The maps are well chosen, clear, and helpful in visualizing the concepts presented. The illustrations are nicely done and include pictures and line drawings of the people and their art. Appendices give a chronology, contemporary

reservations, museum of archeological locations, and more. A bibliography, glossary, and index are also included and are very helpful. The book is a good addition for a subject often under-covered in libraries.

As a reference work, the volume would be most helpful to school or public libraries, but anybody with an interest in Native American studies should find the work interesting. The atlas is well researched and well written. Because of scholarly tone, high school through adults will be the likely readers. Schools will find it useful as a curriculum aid and study resource; history buffs will appreciate the insights into this part of American history. At a reasonable price for this quality of work, the book will be a great addition to a library.

Betsy Ruffin, Librarian/Teacher, Cleburne, Texas

Atlas of Asian-American history / Monique Avakian. LCCN 0049509. New York: Facts on File, 2001. HBB, 0816036993, \$85.00. Reference. Rating: 3

973'.0495. Asian Americans--History; Asian Americans--History--Maps. 214 p.

The focus on Chinese, Japanese, Korean, Asian-Indian, Filipino, and South-east Asian immigration will serve those collections well that need detailed information on the immigration experience of Asian Americans. In terms of geographic scope, the book concentrates on South, Southeast, and East Asia.

As an illustrated history of the immigration, migration, and acculturation of diverse groups to American society, this book addresses the theme of movement. It refers to the struggle of Asian Americans to achieve acceptance and full civil rights, and includes the migration of people from place to place to give a visual picture of where the Asian Americans were coming from, and also where they came to.

Maps give concrete life to the story of how geographic, cultural, and political borders have been crossed over the century and a half of Asian-American history.

Recommended for those public, community college and academic libraries needing a close-up view of Asian-American immigration. Teachers of high school students will find many of the illustrated maps of particular help.

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

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