

## COMMUNITY

*Missional Moms* is all about connecting, encouraging, and sharing in the joys and struggles of life together (of which there are many). We *desperately* need each other – to form soul-deep connections, fostering life-giving spaces to speak about life and the deep things of faith. It's time to take an honest look at the needs of your group – it's time to find practical ways to support one another in this wild, transformational, and radical call of living missionally to further God's Kingdom. Make these meaningful connections a priority for your group - life is far too short, challenging, and fulfilling to pursue anything less, wouldn't you agree?

Here are some meaningful places to start. Who knows where this journey will lead you, but it is sure to have something to do with loving and serving those whom God has called you to serve.

### Living Missionally

#### [The Missional Mom: Living with Purpose at Home & In the World](#)

by Helen Lee (Author)

**Paperback: 224 pages; Publisher: Moody Publishers; (December 17, 2010)**

What does it look like for YOU to live missionally? God calls us all to himself in salvation; then he calls us to serve. For each of us, that looks different. Today's Christian moms come from a full range of personal and professional context, whether they are homemakers, full-time in the marketplace, or somewhere in between.

#### [When Helping Hurts: How to Alleviate Poverty Without Hurting the Poor...and Yourself](#) by [Steve Corbett](#) and [Brian Fikkert](#)

**Paperback: 288 pages; Publishers: Moody Publishers; (February 1, 2014)**

Women today want to help, but do we always know how? *When Helping Hurts* is a paradigm-forming contemporary classic on the subject of poverty alleviation and ministry to those in need. Emphasizing the poverty of heart and society, this book exposes the need that every person has and how it can be filled. The reader is brought to understand that poverty is much more than simply a lack of financial or material resources and that it takes much more than donations and handouts to solve the problem of poverty.

#### [One. Life: Jesus Calls, We Follow](#) by [Scot McKnight](#)

**Paperback: 208 pages; Publisher: Zondervan; (December 8, 2010)**

What is the "Christian life" all about? Studying the Bible, attending church, cultivating a prayer life, witnessing to others—those are all good. But is that really what Jesus has in mind? The answer, says Scot McKnight in *One. Life*, lies in Jesus' words, "Follow me." "Jesus offers to us a kingdom dream that

transforms us to the very core of our being,” says Scot McKnight. “His vision is so big we are called to give our entire life to it. His vision is so big it swallows up our dreams.” Discover exactly what Jesus meant when he announced the arrival of God’s kingdom. Equipping you with a new understanding of that kingdom’s radical nature, One.Life shares profound, challenging, and practical insights on how to demonstrate its reality in your life. In many ways, what *The Cost of Discipleship* by Bonhoeffer challenged Christians to do in earlier generations, One.Life will do for a new generation. One.Life will call you beyond the flatlands of religiosity toward a kingdom vision that will shape everything you do.

[Interrupted: When Jesus Wrecks Your Comfortable Christianity](#) by [Jen Hatmaker](#)

**Paperback: 288 pages; Publisher: NavPress; (July 1, 2014)**

Have you ever found yourself too busy doing church than being church? Interrupted follows Jen Hatmaker’s messy journey through life and church and into living on mission. Snatching Jen from the grip of her consumer life, God began asking her questions like, “What is really the point of My Church? What have I really asked of you?” Jen discovered she had missed the point.

[The Sacred Year: Mapping the Soulscape of Spiritual Practice: How Contemplating Apples, Living in a Cave, and Befriending a Dying Woman Revived My Life Spiritual Life](#) by [Michael Yankowski](#)

**Paperback: 368 pages; Publisher: Thomas Nelson; (September 16, 2014)**

Frustrated and disillusioned with his life as a Christian motivational speaker, Michael Yankoski was determined to stop merely talking about living a life of faith and start experiencing it. Can you relate? The result was a year of focused engagement with spiritual practices--both ancient and modern--that fundamentally reshaped and revived his life. By contemplating apples for an hour before tasting them (attentiveness), eating on just \$2.00 a day (simplicity), or writing letters of thanks (gratitude), Michael discovered a whole new vitality and depth through the intentional life. Guided by the voice of Father Solomon--a local monk--Yankoski’s Sacred Year slowly transforms his life. Both entertaining and profound, his story will resonate with those who wish to deepen their own committed faith as well as those who are searching--perhaps for the first time--for their own authentic encounter with the Divine.

[The Making of an Ordinary Saint: My Journey from Frustration to Joy with the Spiritual Disciplines](#) by [Nathan Foster](#)

**Paperback: 208 pages; Publisher: Baker Books; (October 7, 2014)**

Looking for creative ways to approach spiritual disciplines? Interacting with his father, Richard, Nathan Foster explores the classic spiritual disciplines in fresh, creative ways, sharing engaging personal stories that show how these ancient practices can help us live more like Jesus in everyday life.

[Culture Making: Recovering our Creative Calling](#) by [Andy Crouch](#)

**Paperback: 284 pages; Publisher: IVP Books; (September 9, 2013)**

Have you ever found yourself caught up in the seemingly endless “culture wars”? It is not enough to condemn culture. Nor is it sufficient merely to critique culture or to copy culture. Most of the time, we just consume culture. But the only way to change culture is to create culture. Andy Crouch unleashes a stirring manifesto calling Christians to be culture makers. For too long, Christians have had an insufficient view of culture and have waged misguided “culture wars.” But we must reclaim the cultural mandate to be the creative cultivators that God designed us to be. Culture is what we make of the world, both in creating cultural artifacts as well as in making sense of the world around us. By making chairs and omelets, languages and laws, we participate in the good work of culture making. Crouch unpacks the complexities of how culture works and gives us tools for cultivating and creating culture.

[Undone: When Coming Apart Puts You Back Together](#) by [Laura Sumner Truax](#)

**Paperback: 231 pages; Publisher: IVP Books; (July 8, 2013)**

In *Undone*, Laura Sumner Truax shares her journey of seeing Scripture with new eyes. Whether a big crisis shakes us or little things wear away at us, these are moments where we are confronted with ourselves. Worse yet, we realize that underneath our masks and facades, we are not the person we are pretending to be. Who are we, really? Laura Truax knows what it's like when life hits the fan. But she discovered that these times of exposure and vulnerability can become opportunities to find out who we really are and what we are meant to be. When we come to the end of ourselves, God can meet us there to help us face our fears, take off our masks and rediscover our true self as part of his larger story. Your journey isn't done. Come discover how you can become the person you long to be.

[Playing God: Redeeming the Gift of Power](#) by [Andy Crouch](#)

**Paperback: 288 pages; Publisher: IVP Books; (September 6, 2013)**

Are you looking for a fresh perspective on how to influence the world for good? With his trademark clear-headed analysis, Andy Crouch unpacks the dynamics of power that either can make human flourishing possible or can destroy the image of God in people. While the effects of power are often very evident, he uncovers why power is frequently hidden. Throughout Crouch offers fresh insights from key biblical passages, demonstrating how Scripture calls us to discipline our power. Wielding power need not distort us or others, but instead can be stewarded well.

[SEVEN: An Experimental Mutiny Against Excess](#) by [Jen Hatmaker](#)

**Paperback: 288 pages; Publisher: B&H Books; (January 1, 2010)**

Sometimes it's easy to take comfort in our stuff. American life can be excessive, to say the least. That's what Jen Hatmaker had to admit after taking in hurricane victims who commented on the extravagance of her family's upper middle class home. She once considered herself unmotivated by the lure of prosperity, but upon being called “rich” by an undeniably poor child, evidence to the contrary mounted, and a social experiment turned spiritual was born.

[The Blue Parakeet: Rethinking How You Read the Bible](#) by [Scot McKnight](#)

**Paperback: 240 pages; Publisher: Zondervan; (December 25, 2010)**

Why Can't I Just Be a Christian? Parakeets make delightful pets. We cage them or clip their wings to keep them where we want them. Scot McKnight contends that many, conservatives and liberals alike, attempt the same thing with the Bible. We all try to tame it. McKnight's *The Blue Parakeet* has emerged at the perfect time to cool the flames of a world on fire with contention and controversy. It calls Christians to a way to read the Bible that leads beyond old debates and denominational battles. In his own unique style, McKnight sets traditional and liberal Christianity on its ear, leaving readers equipped, encouraged, and emboldened to be the people of faith they long to be.

[Pilgrim Principles: Journeying with Intention in Everyday Life](#) by [Lacy Clark Ellman](#)

We are all on journeys. We set off on journeys far away from home and journey in our everyday lives--through obstacles and accomplishments, ups and downs, stages of life and everything in between. And when we infuse our journeys with meaning and intention, they become Sacred.

Pilgrimage is a Sacred journey--a movement that brings us toward the Divine. It speaks to our longing for something more, and our search for answers to life's deepest questions: Who am I? Who is God? What makes me come alive? Though ancient in its roots, the practice of pilgrimage is alive and well today, beckoning a new generation of seekers to journey beyond the edge of daily life into terrains of mystery, wonder, revelation, delight, acceptance, and transformation. But you don't have to leave home to begin living like a pilgrim. To live as a pilgrim at home, all you need to do is see your life as a journey and your role as a seeker of the Sacred.

Daily readings include practices and reflections to make the principle personal, guiding readers on a holistic search for meaning and Sacred Encounter in daily life. At the end of this seven-week journey, eager seekers will find themselves transformed and ready to set off on their next Sacred adventure.

[Journaling as a Spiritual Practice](#) by [Helen Cepero](#)

**Paperback: 161 pages; IVP Books; (May 28, 2008)**

Whether you are a longtime journal keeper or someone who has never kept a journal at all, this book will help you go below the surface of your life with God. It is not about the art of writing, but about how journaling can form us spiritually. Every chapter combines descriptive text, illustrations from journals and the author's own experience with journaling practices integrated along the way to help you bring your own life and world into sharper focus. God wants to surprise you with the beauty of your own life, growing and alive, filled with movement, light and shadow. This is the book to do just that.

[Pilgrimage of a Soul: Contemplative Spirituality for the Active Life](#) by [Phileena Heuertz](#)

**Paperback: 204 pages; Publisher: IVP Books; (May 25, 2010)**

You can only go so far for so long before you find the limits of yourself. For Phileena Heuertz that moment arrived, mercifully, around the same time as a sabbatical to mark her twelfth year of service with Word Made Flesh, a ministry to some of the poorest people in the world. With six months' respite from the daily task of serving those who have nothing, Phileena rediscovered the genius of contemplative spirituality. Activists often see contemplation as a luxury, the sort of thing that must necessarily be laid aside in the quest to see the world set aright. But in *Pilgrimage of a Soul* we see that contemplation is essential--not only to a life of sustained commitment to the justice and righteousness of God, but to the growth in faith and discipleship that the Holy Spirit beckons each of us to. Tracing seven movements from a kind of sleepfulness to a kind of wakefulness, Heuertz shows us that life is a journey that repeats itself as we are led by Christ deeper and deeper into our true selves and a truer knowledge of God.

[Let Your Life Speak](#) by [Parker Palmer](#)

**Hardcover: 128 pages; Publisher: Jossey-Bass; (September 10, 1999)**

How often do we stop to reflect on the true calling for our lives? Amidst the busyness of daily life, it can be difficult to sort through our sense of meaning and purpose. With wisdom, compassion, and gentle humor, Parker J. Palmer invites us to listen to the inner teacher and follow its leadings toward a sense of meaning and purpose. Telling stories from his own life and the lives of others who have made a difference, he shares insights gained from darkness and depression as well as fulfillment and joy, illuminating a pathway toward vocation for all who seek the true calling of their lives.

[The Long Loneliness: The Autobiography of the Legendary Catholic Social Activist](#) by [Dorothy Day](#)

*The Long Loneliness* is the late Dorothy Day's compelling autobiographical testament to her life of social activism and her spiritual pilgrimage. A founder of the Catholic Worker Movement and longtime associate of Peter Maurin, Dorothy Day was eulogized in the New York Times as, "a nonviolent social radical of luminous personality." *The Long Loneliness* recounts her remarkable journey from the Greenwich Village political and literary scene of the 1920s through her conversion to Catholicism and her lifelong struggle to help bring about "the kind of society where it is easier to be good."

[Peacework: Prayer, Resistance, Community](#) by [Henri Nouwen](#)

Want to learn more about how prayer relates to living missionally and radically? In a time of fear and violence, the beloved spiritual writer offers a three-fold path for Christians to embrace Jesus' ethic of peacemaking in our lives, communities, and world.

**Social Justice**

[Refuse To Do Nothing: Finding Your Power to Abolish Modern-Day Slavery](#) by [Shayne Moore and Kim Yim](#)

**Paperback: 192 pages; Publisher: IVP books; (December 21, 2012)**

Do you ever feel discouraged and helpless about the injustice in our world today? Get to know Shayne and Kimberly and their abolitionist friends, and you'll find the power God grants to all who fight for the powerless, and the joy awaiting those who refuse to do nothing. Slavery didn't end in 1833, when William Wilberforce's decades-long campaign finally resulted in the Slavery Abolition Act. It didn't end in 1863, when Abraham Lincoln signed the Emancipation Proclamation. It didn't end in 1949, when the United Nations declared trafficking "incompatible with the dignity and worth of the human person." The sad truth is, slavery never ended. It just went underground, where it continues to exploit powerless men, women and children in horrific ways throughout the world. Slavery doesn't end without a fight. What does it look like for *you* to refuse to do nothing?

**[Forgotten Girls: Stories of Hope](#)** by [Kay Marshall Strom](#) & [Michelle Rickett](#)

**Paperback: 175 pages; Publisher: IVP Books; (November 4, 2009)**

These pages hold those girls' stories: stories of deep pain and suffering, inspiring courage, and incredible hope. They are the stories of girls who have discovered their value in God's eyes, in the midst of cultures that have rejected them. They are stories of rescue and redemption by God working through compassionate people--people like you. These pages might hold pieces of your story as well, as the authors invite you to pray and speak on behalf of the millions of women and girls who still need to know how much they're worth.

**[Not For Sale: The Return of the Global Slave Trade – and How We Can Fight It](#)** by [David Batstone](#)

**Paperback: 304 pages; Publisher: HarperOne; (October 12, 2010)**

Women today want to help stop the modern-day slave trade, but it's difficult to know where to even start. Sometimes, the best place to start is by raising awareness. David Batstone gives the most up-to-date information available on the \$31 billion human trafficking epidemic. With profiles of twenty-first century abolitionists like Thailand's Kru Nam and Peru's Lucy Borja, Batstone tells readers what they can do to stop the modern slave trade.

**[Renting Lacy: A Story of America's Prostituted Children](#)** by [Linda Smith](#)

**Paperback: 168 pages; Publisher: Shared Hope International; (April 1, 2009)**

*Renting Lacy* draws us back to the heartbreaking narratives of human trafficking that are often silenced or lost amidst statistics. The average age of entry into prostitution in America is 13 years old. Forced into a life they never chose, manipulated, abused and tortured at the hands of the pimps who control them, our country's children are sold on the streets, on the internet and at truck stops across America every night. Let *Renting Lacy* draw you into the lives of these young girls as they struggle to survive each night, watching their childhood hopes and dreams slip away in the darkness. Let it compel you to action.

**[Good News about Injustice: A Witness of Courage in a Hurting World](#)** by [Gary Haugen](#)

**Paperback: 272 pages; Publisher: IVP Books; (August 20, 2009)**

Accounts of injustice from our own communities and from around the world often leave us feeling outraged and helpless. And we wonder where is the God of justice? The good news about injustice is that God is against it. God is in the business of using the unlikely to perform the holy, Haugen contends. And in this book he not only offers stories of courageous witnesses past and present, he also calls the body of Christ to action. He offers concrete guidance on the ways and means its members can rise up to seek justice throughout the world.

**[The Locust Effect: Why the End of Poverty Requires the End of Violence](#)** by [Gary Haugen](#)

**Paperback: 368 pages; Publisher: Oxford University Press; (February 4, 2014)**

It's often difficult to fully grasp the roots and causes of global poverty, isn't it? Although this book isn't all-encompassing - it's a compelling place to start. Filled with vivid real-life stories and startling new data, *The Locust Effect* is a gripping journey into the streets and slums where fear is a daily reality for billions of the world's poorest, where safety is secured only for those with money, and where much of our well-intended aid is lost in the daily chaos of violence. While their call to action is urgent, Haugen and Boutros provide hope, a real solution and an ambitious way forward. *The Locust Effect* is a wake-up call: Its massive implications will forever change the way we understand global poverty - and will help secure a safe path to prosperity for the global poor in the 21st century.

**[Let Justice Roll Down](#)** by [John Perkins](#)

**Paperback: 224 pages; Publisher: Baker Books; (April 27, 2012)**

Want to read about what the transforming work of faith in the life of John Perkins? This is the book for you. His brother died in his arms, shot by a deputy marshall. He was beaten and tortured by the sheriff and state police. But through it all he returned good for evil, love for hate, progress for prejudice, and brought hope to black and white alike. The story of John Perkins is no ordinary story. Rather, it is a gripping portrayal of what happens when faith thrusts a person into the midst of a struggle against racism, oppression, and injustice. It is about the costs of discipleship--the jailings, the floggings, the despair, the sacrifice. And it is about the transforming work of faith that allowed John to respond to such overwhelming indignities with miraculous compassion, vision, and hope.

**[Birmingham Revolution: Martin Luther King Jr.'s Epic Challenge to the Church](#)** by [Edward Gilbreath](#)

**Paperback: 208 pages; Publisher: IVP Books; (November 1, 2013)**

Birmingham Revolution is not simply a work of historical reflection. This book encourages us to reflect on the relevance of King's work for the church and culture of our day. Whether it's in debates about immigration, economic redistribution or presidential birth certificates, race continues to play a role in shaping society. What part will the church play in the ongoing struggle?

**[Half The Sky: Turning Oppression into Opportunity for Women Worldwide](#)** by [Nicholas Kristof](#) and [Sheryl WuDunn](#)

**Paperback: 320 pages; Publisher: Vintage; (June 1, 2010)**

Want to learn more about how you can do your part in unleashing women's potential around the world? With Pulitzer Prize winners Nicholas D. Kristof and Sheryl WuDunn as our guides, we undertake an odyssey through Africa and Asia to meet the extraordinary women struggling there, among them childbirth. Through these stories, Kristof and WuDunn help us see that the key to economic progress lies in unleashing women's potential. Throughout much of the world, the greatest unexploited economic resource is the female half of the population. Countries such as China have prospered precisely because they emancipated women and brought them into the formal economy. Unleashing that process globally is not only the right thing to do; it's also one of the best strategies for fighting poverty. Drawing on the breadth of their combined reporting experience, Kristof and WuDunn depict our world with anger, sadness, clarity, and, ultimately, hope.

[\*\*The New Jim Crow: Mass Incarceration in the Age of Colorblindness\*\*](#) by [Michelle Alexander](#)

**Paperback: 336 pages; Publisher: The New Press; (January 16, 2012)**

*The New Jim Crow* is a book that will both challenge you and change the way you see the world. With dazzling truthfulness, legal scholar Michelle Alexander argues that "we have not ended racial caste in America; we have merely redesigned it." By targeting black men through the War on Drugs and decimating communities of color, the U.S. criminal justice system functions as a contemporary system of racial control—relegating millions to a permanent second-class status—even as it formally adheres to the principle of colorblindness. This book is a call to action and a must-read for anyone serious about entering into this much needed conversation.

[\*\*Daughters of Hope: Stories of Witness & Courage in the Face of Persecution\*\*](#) by [Kay Marshall Strom](#) & [Michelle Rickett](#)

**Paperback: 200 pages; Publisher: IVP Books; (September 9, 2003)**

In this deeply moving book, Kay Marshall Strom and Michele Rickett tell the stories of persecuted Christian women from around the world. From Africa to the Middle East to Asia, they give voice to our sisters persevering under the yoke of oppression and injustice. Each section provides specific prayer points and practical action steps to equip us to respond to the issues at hand. Join Strom and Rickett in a prayerful and powerful journey exploring stories of witness and courage.

## **Womanhood and Identity**

[\*\*Unsqueezed: Springing Free From Skinny Jeans, Nose Jobs, Highlights, and Stilettos\*\*](#) by [Margot Starbuck](#)

**Paperback: 237 pages; Publisher: IVP Books; (May 20, 2010)**

Ever check the mirror and wonder if you look good enough? Do you choose your clothes to disguise your flaws? Do you sometimes think plastic surgery might be the only way for you to feel good about your

body? Do you ever feel squeezed into someone else's mold? Come and join Margot Starbuck in her journey to become unsqueezed! In twenty-seven brief, funny and reflective chapters she helps us discover why God really gave us bodies and what we can do with them to serve him and others. Jump out of that suffocating mold and discover what your body is really for.

**[To Be Told: God Invites You to Coauthor Your Future](#)** by [Dan Allender](#)

**Paperback: 240 pages; Publisher: Waterbrook Press; (November 7, 2006)**

In this insightful and compelling book, Dr. Dan B. Allender shows you how to read the stories of your life. He helps you understand the meaning that God has written into every detail of who you are. As a result, you can share your story with others and listen to their story, revealing unique aspects of God's hand at work. God's guidance is near at hand. God is not only your Authority, God is also your Author. As God writes the stories of your life, God uses your past to open up your future. Join Allender in exploring the themes God has woven throughout your story – you seriously won't regret digging into this book. A must read!

**[Jesus Feminist: An Invitation to Revisit the Bible's View of Women](#)** by [Sarah Bessey](#)

**Paperback: 256 pages; Publisher: Howard Books; (November 5, 2013)**

Bessey speaks directly and compassionately to her fellow Evangelical Christians, arguing the case for viewing Jesus as unbounded by gender considerations in valuing the worthiness of humans. Gender roles have been debated for centuries, and now Sarah Bessey offers a clarion freedom call for all who want to realize their giftedness and potential in the kingdom of God. Through a thoughtful review of biblical teaching and church practices, Bessey shares how following Jesus made a feminist out of her.

**[Mama's Got a FAKE I.D: How to Reveal the Real You Behind all That Mom](#)** by [Caryn Dahlstrand Rivandeneira](#)

**Paperback: 224 pages; Publisher: WaterBrook Press; (March 17, 2009)**

No one begins life as a mom. Before you have children, you are an amazing combination of friend, daughter, confidant, visionary, encourager, and thinker. You start out in life using your gifts and abilities in a surprising variety of settings. Then you have children and the role of mom—as wonderful as it is—seems to consume you. In *Mama's Got a Fake I.D.*, Caryn Dahlstrand Rivandeneira helps moms like you reclaim the person God made you to be. God still wants to use you in ways that let your gifts, passions, and personality shine.

**[Stronger Than You Think](#)** by [Kim Gaines Eckert](#)

**Paperback: 241 pages; Publisher: IVP Books; (January 19, 2007)**

If you've known broken relationships, if you've ever felt like you don't measure up, if you've suspected something inside you might be missing or flawed, then this book is for you. Kim Gaines Eckert, psychologist and counselor, has spent years helping women with a variety of life issues, from self-

esteem and body image to developing healthy relationships and healing from the past. In this book Kim invites you into her conversations with women. You'll discover you are not alone in your struggles, and you'll learn from her practical and proven guidance for growth and change. And because growth is always more powerful in community, each chapter includes questions for you to explore in a small group.

[\*\*A Year of Biblical Womanhood: How a Liberated Woman Found Herself Sitting on Her Roof, Covering Her Head, and Calling Her Husband "Master"\*\*](#) by [Rachel Held Evans](#)

**Paperback: 352 pages; Publisher: Thomas Nelson; (October 20, 2012)**

Strong-willed and independent, Rachel Held Evans couldn't sew a button on a blouse before she embarked on a radical life experiment—a year of biblical womanhood. Intrigued by the traditionalist resurgence that led many of her friends to abandon their careers to assume traditional gender roles in the home, Evans decides to try it for herself, vowing to take all of the Bible's instructions for women as literally as possible for a year.

[\*\*Women of Influence: Ten Traits of Those Who Want to Make a Difference\*\*](#) by [Pam Farrel](#)

**Paperback: 223 pages; Publisher: IVP Books; (May 18, 2006)**

Do you dream of making a difference for God—but wonder how to begin? Do you find it difficult to keep your focus amid the urgency of everyday living? Do you feel ill-equipped to help those who turn to you for guidance? Are you searching for direction for your life—a ministry that matters? Pam Farrel has been there, as have so many countless other women she has discipled. In this book she shares what she has learned about discipling, discovering a personal ministry, and staying focused on your goals.

[\*\*The Resignation of Eve: What if Adam's Rib is No Longer Willing to Be the Church's Backbone?\*\*](#) by [Jim Henderson](#)

**Paperback: 320 pages; Publisher: Tyndale Momentum; (January 20, 2012)**

In talking with women around the country, Jim Henderson has come to believe that there is an epidemic of quiet, even sad resignation among dedicated Christian women who are feeling overworked and undervalued in the church. Inviting women to speak for themselves, *The Resignation of Eve* is a must-read, life-changing book for women who have been engaged in the Christian church as well as their pastors and ministry leaders.

Containing personal interviews with women and new research from George Barna, *The Resignation of Eve* is a field report on what women have to say about how they've been affected by their experiences within the church. It is crucially important because, across the board, the research shows that women are driving changes in the church . . . so what will happen if they resign?

[\*\*How I Changed My Mind About Women in Leadership: Compelling Stories from Prominent Evangelicals\*\*](#) edited by [Alan F. Johnson](#)

**Paperback: 272 pages; Publisher: Zondervan; (November 6, 2010)**

This book features a number of autobiographical accounts as to how various persons have come to change their minds about women in leadership. Well-known Evangelical leaders—individuals and couples, males and females from a broad range of denominational affiliation and ethnic diversity—share their surprising journeys from a more or less restrictive view to an open inclusive view that recognizes a full shared partnership of leadership in the home and in the church based on gifts not gender. *How I Changed My Mind About Women in Leadership* offers a positive vision for the future of women and men together as partners of equal worth without competitiveness in the work of equipping this and the next generation of Christian disciples for the 'work of ministry' and service in the Kingdom of God.

[More Than Enchanting: Breaking Through Barriers to Influence Your World](#) by [Jo Saxton](#)

**Paperback: 208 pages; Publisher: IVP Press; (January 20, 2012)**

Women have always been central to the life of the church. From the early hours of the first Easter when women were charged to announce the resurrection of Jesus, to the state of the contemporary church, where women outnumber men in pews and positions of service. But as central as women have been, they've also found themselves regularly marginalized--and not only in the church but in the neighborhoods, cities and societies they inhabit. Jo Saxton invites women to discover (or rediscover) the gifts and talents that God has vested in us, and more important, the calling God has placed on each of us to seek first the kingdom of God where we are.

[Are Women Human: Penetrating, Sensible, and Witty Essays on the Role of Women in Society](#) by [Dorothy Sayers](#)

**Paperback: 75 pages; Publisher: Wm. B. Eerdmans Publishing Co.; (August 6, 2005)**

Want a witty, quick read that will leave you with food for thought? Then this is the book for you. One of the first women to graduate from Oxford University, Dorothy Sayers pursued her goals whether or not what she wanted to do was ordinarily understood to be "feminine." Sayers did not devote a great deal of time to talking or writing about feminism, but she did explicitly address the issue of women's role in society in the two classic essays collected here.

[My Single Mom Life: Stories and Practical Lessons for Your Journey](#) by [Angela Thomas](#)

**Paperback: 240 pages; Publisher: Thomas Nelson; (May 6, 2008)**

The day Angela Thomas sold the only thing she had, the diamond from her engagement ring, to take care of her kids was the day she began to believe they were going to make it. In that decision, the faith she had always talked about became the faith she was going to learn how to live. In the years since, God has given Angela a passionate desire to live an amazing life, even while raising four kids as a single mom. In this book she shares her hard-earned wisdom on loneliness, dating, finances, and parenting, encouraging every solo mom. "As a gift to our children," she says, "we can become healthy moms who are strong and amazing women in spite of our circumstances."

[Half the Church: Recapturing God's Global Vision for Women](#) by [Carolyn Custis James](#)

**Paperback: 208 pages; Publisher: Zondervan; (March 16, 2011)**

Women comprise at least half the world and usually more than half the church. But so often Christian teaching for women either fails to move beyond a discussion of roles or assumes a particular economic situation or stage of life. This shuts a lot of women out from contributing to God's kingdom as they were designed to do. Furthermore, the plight of women in the Majority World demands a Christian response, a holistic embrace of all that God calls women and men to be in his world.

### **Adoption/ Loving the Fatherless & Widow**

[Adopted for Life: The Priority of Adoption for Christian Families & Churches](#) , by [Russell D. Moore](#) ,

**Paperback: 232 pages, Publisher: Crossway (April 8, 2009)**

*A manifesto calling Christians to adopt children and to equip Christian families going through the process. Offers biblical foundations for adoption and identifies adoption as a Great Commission priority in evangelical churches.*

[Kisses from Katie: A Story of Relentless Love and Redemption](#)

by [Katie J. Davis](#) (Author), [Beth Clark](#) (Contributor)

**Paperback: 304 pages, Publisher: Howard Books (September 4, 2012)**

What would cause an eighteen-year-old senior class president and homecoming queen from Nashville, Tennessee, to disobey and disappoint her parents by forgoing college, break her little brother's heart, lose all but a handful of her friends (because they think she has gone off the deep end), and break up with the love of her life, all so she could move to Uganda, where she knew only one person and didn't even speak the language?

[The Global Orphan Crisis: Be the Solution, Change Your World](#)

by Diane Lynn Elliot

**Paperback: 360 pages, Publisher: Moody Publishers; (September 20, 2012)**

God's call to care for the orphaned and vulnerable children of the world is not easy or comfortable. And it will require willingness, commitment and sacrifice. The more you know about the global orphan crisis the more your heart will break and it will cause you to want to do something... anything... to make the life of an orphaned child a little easier.

### **Marriage**

[Intimate Allies: Rediscovering God's Design for Marriage and Becoming Soul Mates for Life](#) by [Dan B. Allender](#)

**Paperback: 400 pages; Publisher: Tyndale House Publishers; (February 7, 1999)**

In *Intimate Allies*, counselor Dan Allender and theologian Tremper Longman III merge their minds and skills to strip away cultural expectations and takes a fresh look at God's design for the marriage

relationship. The authors focus on five foundations taken from Genesis 1-3 and include an extensive review of other biblical passages on marriage. Each section begins with a real-life story concerning an unresolved marriage issue and concludes with the same story built on the “foundation” of a godly marriage. With eloquence and wisdom, *Intimate Allies* will challenge readers to move their marriages out of the mundane and into the fulfilling and enriching experiences God intended.

[The Seven Desires of Every Heart](#) by Mark & Debra Laaser \

**Paperback: 224 pages; Publisher: Zondervan; (February 5, 2013)**

*The Seven Desires of Every Heart* explores the common desires God has given us—to be heard, affirmed, blessed, safe, touched, chosen, and included. Using stories, biblical references, and sound psychological principles, the Laasers explain each desire and show us how we seek it and what it feels like to have it truly fulfilled. You will learn healthy ways to embody these desires in your relationships and be given the tools you need to start repairing and rebuilding relationships and developing new skills for creating emotional and spiritual intimacy.

[Sacred Marriage: More Holy than Happy](#) by Gary Thomas

**Paperback: 304 pages; Publisher: Zondervan; (February 4, 2002)**

Everything about your marriage--everything--is filled with prophetic potential, with the capacity for discovering and revealing Christ's character. The respect you accord your partner; the forgiveness you humbly seek and graciously extend; the ecstasy, awe, and sheer fun of lovemaking; the history you and your spouse build with one another--in these and other facets of your marriage, *Sacred Marriage* uncovers the mystery of God's overarching purpose. This book may very well alter profoundly the contours of your marriage. It will most certainly change you.

## **Fiction**

[Sensible Shoes](#) by [Sharon Garlough Brown](#)

**Paperback: 349 pages; Publisher: IVP Books; (February 27, 2013)**

Sharon Garlough Brown tells the moving story of four strangers as they embark together on a journey of spiritual formation: Hannah, a pastor who doesn't realize how exhausted she is. Meg, a widow and recent empty-nester who is haunted by her past. Mara, a woman who has experienced a lifetime of rejection and is now trying to navigate a difficult marriage. Charissa, a hard-working graduate student who wants to get things right. You're invited to join these four women as they reluctantly arrive at a retreat center and find themselves drawn out of their separate stories of isolation and struggle and into a collective journey of spiritual practice, mutual support and personal revelation. Along the way, readers will be taken into a new understanding of key spiritual practices and find tangible support for the deeper life with God. If you want to travel this journey with others, you will find a group study guide and book club resources at [www.sensibleshoesclub.com](http://www.sensibleshoesclub.com).

[A Land Without Sin: A Novel](#) by [Paula Huston](#)

**Paperback: 312 [ages; Publisher: Slant; (August 1, 2013)**

As revolutionary forces gather in the Lacandon jungle of southern Mexico in the fall of 1993, an idealistic American priest vanishes from his post in San Cristóbal de Las Casas. The Church, immersed in trying to negotiate a peaceful solution to the escalating conflict between wealthy landowners and poverty-stricken indigenas, remains strangely silent in the face of his disappearance. When his sister, Eva, only thirty-four but already a hardened battlefield photojournalist, finds out what's going on, she flies to Central America to find him, taking a job assisting a taciturn Dutch Mayanist in order to provide herself with a cover. But as it turns out, he, too, is on a secret quest. From the great pyramids of Tikal and the graceful palaces of Palenque to the shadowy guerrilla camps of the vast Lacandon, *A Land Without Sin* is a modern-day journey into the heart of darkness.

[Lila](#) by [Marilynne Robinson](#)

**Paperback: 272 pages; Publisher: Farrar, Straus, and Giroux; (October 7, 2014)**

Marilynne Robinson, one of the greatest novelists of our time, returns to the town of Gilead in an unforgettable story of a girlhood lived on the fringes of society in fear, awe, and wonder.

Lila, homeless and alone after years of roaming the countryside, steps inside a small-town Iowa church—the only available shelter from the rain—and ignites a romance and a debate that will reshape her life. She becomes the wife of a minister, John Ames, and begins a new existence while trying to make sense of the life that preceded her newfound security.

Neglected as a toddler, Lila was rescued by Doll, a canny young drifter, and brought up by her in a hardscrabble childhood. Together they crafted a life on the run, living hand to mouth with nothing but their sisterly bond and a ragged blade to protect them. Despite bouts of petty violence and moments of desperation, their shared life was laced with moments of joy and love. When Lila arrives in Gilead, she struggles to reconcile the life of her makeshift family and their days of hardship with the gentle Christian worldview of her husband which paradoxically judges those she loves.

Revisiting the beloved characters and setting of Robinson's Pulitzer Prize-winning *Gilead* and *Home*, a National Book Award finalist, *Lila* is a moving expression of the mysteries of existence that is destined to become an American classic.

[Shades of Mercy](#) by [Caryn Dahlstrand Rivandeneira](#)

**Paperback: 272 pages; Publisher: River North; (September 1, 2013)**

It's 1954 and the world—even the far Northwoods of Maine—is about to change. But that change can't happen soon enough for fourteen-year-old Mercy Millar. Long tired of being the "son" her father never had, Mercy's ready for the world to embrace her as the young woman she is—as well as embrace the forbidden love she feels.

When childhood playmates grow up and fall in love, the whole community celebrates. But in the case of Mercy and Mick, there would be no celebration. Instead their relationship must stay hidden. Good girls do not date young men from the Maliseet tribe. At least, not in Watonsville, Maine. When racial tensions escalate and Mick is thrown in jail under suspicion of murder, Mercy nearly loses all hope—in love, in her father, and in God himself.

[Orphan Train](#) by [Christina Baker Kline](#)

**Paperback: 278 pages; Publisher: William Morrow; (April 2, 2013)**

*Orphan Train* is a gripping story of friendship and second chances from Christina Baker Kline, author of *Bird in Hand* and *The Way Life Should Be*.

Penobscot Indian Molly Ayer is close to “aging out” out of the foster care system. A community service position helping an elderly woman clean out her home is the only thing keeping Molly out of juvie and worse...

As she helps Vivian sort through her possessions and memories, Molly learns that she and Vivian aren’t as different as they seem to be. A young Irish immigrant orphaned in New York City, Vivian was put on a train to the Midwest with hundreds of other children whose destinies would be determined by luck and chance.

Molly discovers that she has the power to help Vivian find answers to mysteries that have haunted her for her entire life – answers that will ultimately free them both.

Rich in detail and epic in scope, *Orphan Train* by Christina Baker Kline is a powerful novel of upheaval and resilience, of unexpected friendship, and of the secrets we carry that keep us from finding out who we are.

[Lost and Found: A Novel](#) by [Ginny Yttrup](#)

**Paperback: 355 pages; Publisher: B&H Publishing Group; (January 14, 2012)**

It appears Jenna Bouvier is losing everything: beauty, family, and wealth. When her controlling and emotionally abusive mother-in-law accuses Jenna of an affair with her spiritual director and threatens to expose them, Jenna also risks losing her reputation as a woman of faith. Will she capitulate to her mother-in-law’s wishes again or fight for what she holds dear? As Jenna loses her life, will she find it?

Andee Bell has found exactly what she wanted: fame, fortune, and respect. There’s also a special man in her life—Jenna’s brother. Despite her success, a secret quells Andee’s contentment. As memories torment, will she find peace in a relationship with God, or will she sabotage herself while also taking down the only person she cares about? As Andee finds her life, will she lose it?

Moving between San Francisco and the Napa Valley, Jenna and Andee form an unlikely relationship that leads them to a crossroad. They can follow familiar inclinations, or risk it all and walk in faith.

[Words](#) by [Ginny Yttrup](#)

**Paperback: 339 pages; Publisher: B&H Books; (February 1, 2011)**

Ten-year old Kaylee Wren doesn't speak. Not since her drug-addled mother walked away, leaving her in a remote cabin nestled in the towering redwoods-in the care of a man who is as dangerous as he is evil. With silence her only refuge, Kaylee collects words she might never speak from the only memento her mother left behind: a dictionary.

Sierra Dawn is thirty-four, an artist, and alone. She has allowed the shame of her past to silence her present hopes and chooses to bury her pain by trying to control her circumstances. But on the twelfth anniversary of her daughter's death, Sierra's control begins to crumble as the God of her childhood woos her back to Himself.

Brought together by Divine design, Kaylee and Sierra will discover together the healing mercy of the Word-Jesus Christ.

[The Faith of Ashish \(Blessings in India\)](#) by [Kay Marshall Strom](#)

**Paperback: 320 Pages; Abingdon Press; (August 1, 2011)**

Virat and Latha named their son Ashish, for he is the light and glory of their world. Yet a simple drink of water from the wrong cup changes them forever. Virat, Latha, and Ashish are Untouchables in 1905 India, members of a caste who must never contaminate the world of the other, higher, castes.

When Ashish is in desperate need of a doctor, Virat risks everything to save his son and ventures into the dangerous realm of the high caste. There, the strength of a father's love, the power of a young British nurse, and the faith of a child change the lives around them.

[The Hope of Shridula \(Blessings in India\)](#) by [Kay Marshall Strom](#)

**Paperback: 336 pages; Publisher: Abingdon Press; (March 1, 2012)**

The Blessing in India series is a saga set in India's heartbreaking history and breathtaking present that points toward a future of hope. Along the way, name-only Christianity collides with Hinduism, and then is confronted by an entirely new understanding of the call to follow Christ.

India: 1946. For forty-eight years, Ashish and his family toiled as slaves in the fields of the high-caste Lal family, and all because of one small debt. At fifty-four, Ashish was old and worn out. Every day was a struggle to survive for his family including his only daughter.

His wife had named the girl Shridula—Blessings. "Perhaps the name will bring you more fortune than it brought me," Ashish told his daughter. His words proved to be prophetic in ways he could never have imagined. And when the flames of revolt brought independence to India, they seared change into the family of Ashish.

[The Love of Divena](#) by [Kay Marshall Strom](#)

**Paperback: 320 pages; Publisher: Abingdon Press; (September 1, 2012)**

India 1990. In the final book of the Blessings of India series, Shridula, old and stooped at fifty-nine, makes her painful way to pay homage to the elephant god Ganesh, lord of success and destroyer of evils and obstacles. "Why are we Hindus instead of Christians?" her seventeen-year-old granddaughter Divena asked. "Because we are Indian," said Shridula. So begins a spiritual journey for Divena as she struggles against an entire culture to proclaim a faith close to her heart while rocking the world of two families.

[The Call of Zulina](#) by [Kay Marshall Strom](#)

Set in 1787 in West Africa, *The Call of Zulina* opens as the scorching harmattan winds blow. Desperate to avoid marriage to an odious suitor, Grace escapes the family compound only to be caught up in a slave revolt at the fortress of Zulina. Soon, she begins to grasp the brutality and ferocity of the family business. Held for ransom, viciously maimed by a runaway slave, and threatened with death, Grace is finally jerked into reality and comes to sympathize with the plight of the captives. She admires their strength and courage and is genuinely moved by the African Cabeto's passion, determination, and willingness to sacrifice anything, including his own life, for his people's freedom.

### **Memoir**

[Learning to Walk in the Dark](#) by [Barbara Brown Taylor](#)

**Hardcover: 208 pages; Publisher: HarperOne; (April 8, 2014)**

Taylor has become increasingly uncomfortable with our tendency to associate all that is good with lightness and all that is evil and dangerous with darkness. Doesn't God work in the nighttime as well? In *Learning to Walk in the Dark*, Taylor asks us to put aside our fears and anxieties and to explore all that God has to teach us "in the dark." She argues that we need to move away from our "solar spirituality" and ease our way into appreciating "lunar spirituality" (since, like the moon, our experience of the light waxes and wanes). Through darkness we find courage, we understand the world in new ways, and we feel God's presence around us, guiding us through things seen and unseen. Often, it is while we are in the dark that we grow the most.

[An Altar in the World: A Geography of Faith](#) by [Barbara Brown Taylor](#)

**Paperback: 240 pages; HarperOne; (February 9, 2010)**

Taylor shares how she learned to find God beyond the church walls by embracing the sacred as a natural part of everyday life. In *An Altar in the World*, Taylor shows us how to discover altars everywhere we go and in nearly everything we do as we learn to live with purpose, pay attention, slow down, and revere the world we live in.

[Leaving Church: A Memoir of Faith](#) by [Barbara Brown Taylor](#)

**Paperback: 251 pages; Publisher: HarperOne; (April 10, 2007)**

Barbara Brown Taylor, once hailed as one of America's most effective and beloved preachers, eloquently tells the moving and delightful story of her search to find an authentic way of being Christian—even when it meant giving up her pulpit

[The Girl in the Orange Dress](#) by [Margot Starbuck](#)

**Paperback: 201 pages; Publisher: IVP Books; (May 22, 2009)**

With a good dose of humor and a willingness not to take herself too seriously, Margot Starbuck offers us an exuberant, frank and, at times, poignant romp as she searches for the Father who will not fail. You are invited to come along.

[Warrior Princess: Fighting for Life with Courage and Hope](#) by [Princess Kasune Zulu](#)

**Hardcover: 272 pages; Publisher: IVP Books; (December 8, 2009)**

Princess Kasune Zulu grew up in an Africa trying to make sense of the mystery illness claiming its people. As a child, she could not know the disease that claimed the lives of her parents and baby sister would go on to infect more than 100 million people. Left alone to care for her siblings, Princess later discovered she herself was HIV positive. But she heard a calling to become an advocate and ambassador for those affected by disease and poverty. From talking to truck drivers about AIDS to her providential work as a radio broadcaster, Princess has boldly stepped up to speak on behalf of the voiceless and forgotten. Princess's journey has taken her from the dusty villages of Zambia to the offices of world leaders from the White House to the United Nations.