

Canadian Anglican Cursillo



A BEGINNING LIST OF READING FOR SPIRITUAL DEVELOPMENT

BOOKS RELATED PRIMARILY TO "PIETY"

Augustine, Saint *The Confessions of St. Augustine*

St. Augustine lived from 354 to 430 in Rome, where he came under the influence of the philosophy of Plato. After a long inner struggle, he renounced his earlier philosophical beliefs and became a Christian. He then returned to Africa where he formed a religious community. Perhaps no one except St. Paul has been so widely read for so long. In his Confessions, he traces his own intellectual and spiritual pilgrimage to Christ.

Barclay, William *A Plain Man Looks at the Lord's Prayer* (Collins, 1964) Barclay is a brilliant and penetrating teacher, who makes profound insights understandable and simple.

Beach, Mark J. *Piety's Wisdom: A Summary of Calvin's Institutes with Study Questions*, Reformation Heritage Books, Grand Rapids, 2010.

Summary discussion of each section of the Institutes makes for simpler and easier understanding of Calvin. Second, the discussion questions at the end of each chapter are an invaluable tool for familiarizing oneself with the information he offers.

Bridges, Jerry *The Practice of Godliness* (NavPress, 1983)

Practical guidelines for deepening our devotion to God and seeking the Holy Spirit's work in developing his fruit in our lives.

Cron, Ian Morgan *Chasing Francis: A Pilgrim's Tale* (NavPress 2007)

A remarkable novel of a pastor seeking faith anew. It's compelling and is highly recommended by Archbishop Rowan Williams.

Farwell, James. *This is the Night: Suffering, Salvation, and the Liturgies of Holy Week*, (T&T Clark, New York, 2005)

This is the Night is a work of "Liturgical theology," understood as a theology inspired or informed by the liturgies of Christian Holy Week

A Beginning List of Reading for Spiritual Development

Foster, Richard, *Celebration of Discipline: The Path of Spiritual Growth* (Harper Collins, 1978)
The best one-volume introduction, covering the "inward disciplines" of meditation, prayer, fasting and study, the "outward disciplines" of simplicity, solitude, submission, and service, and the "corporate disciplines" of confession, worship, guidance and celebration. It is written in an easy-to-digest style. The extensive footnotes also provide a good list of books for further reading. [Another excellent book by Foster is *Prayer: Finding the Heart's True Home*.]

Goodchild, Phillip *Capitalism and Religion: The Price of Piety* (Taylor and Francis, 2002)
Condemns modernity and capitalism as a global religion. Presents a philosophical alternative that demands attention from philosophers, critical theorists, philosophers of religion, theologians and those in ecological politics.

Guenther, Margaret *The Practice of Prayer* (Cowley, 1998)
A down-to-earth book on the essentials of prayer that invites Anglicans to deepen an understanding of the Christian faith.

Harnard, Hannah *Hind's Feet on High Places* (Tyndale 1975)
An allegory dramatizing the journey each of us must take before we can live in "high places."

Hertzog, Skip *When God Prays: Divining the Heart of Jesus in His Prayers* (Edited by David Lindstead, Tyndall House, Carol Stream, 2003)
This is an insightful, thought provoking, and prayer provoking look at Jesus' final prayer in the Garden of Gethsemane as recorded in John 17.

Huggett, Joyce *The Joy of Listening to God* (Inter-Varsity Press, 1986)
Drawing on examples from her own life, Joyce shows us how we can quiet ourselves and prepare to hear God speak in his multicolored ways. This book is for those whose attention is turned to the One who calls us to a deeper journey into prayer.

Jerak, Brad *Can You Hear Me? Turning in to the God who Speaks* (Fresh Winds, 2003)
A practical book that invites people to practice prayer.

Keating, Thomas *Open Mind, Open Heart; The Contemplative Dimension of the Gospel* (1986)
For those wanting to open themselves to God and silence in the ordinary events of life.

Kelsey, Morton *Adventure Inward: Christian Growth Through Personal Journal Writing*. (Augsburg, 1980)
Practical insights on how to keep a journal and use it for spiritual growth.

Kelsey, Morton *The Other Side of Silence: A Guide to Christian Meditation* Paulist Press 1976
An excellent book on a rarely covered topic.

A. Kempis, Thomas *The Imitation of Christ* Cyber Library 23002
Thomas a Kempis was a fifteenth century monk whose life was filled with a genuine devotion to Christ. This book is a devotional masterpiece for Christians everywhere.

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Lawrence, Brother *The Practice of the Presence of God* Hodder & Stoughton 2009

There are many translations of the work of this 17th century monk who shows us how to "trust God once and for all and abandon ourselves to Him alone." A good modern translation is by E.M. Blaiklock, Chair of Classics, University of New Zealand.

L'Engle, Madeliene *Circle of Quiet*. (Harper Collins 1992)

Madeleine is an American Episcopalian who is writer-in-residence at the Cathedral of St. John the Divine in New York. In this book she shares her inner life, shaped primarily from materials in her journals.

Manning, Brennan, *The Ragamuffin Gospel: For the bedraggled, beat-up, and burnt-out*. (Mentomah Publications, Colorado Springs, 1990)

An eloquent approach to the subject of grace where the author shares his own pain and struggle to help readers deal with failure and inadequacy, and he challenges them to do the same.

Nouwen, Henri *Making All Things New: An Invitation to the Spiritual Life* Harper Collins, 2009 This is just one of the slim books by Nouwen which challenges the reader to a deeper relationship with Christ. [Look also for *With Open Hands*, *Reaching Out* and *The Wounded Healer*.]

Nouwen, Henri *The Return of the Prodigal Son* (Doubleday, 1994)

A personal meditation and reflection on the three dimensions of the parable - the younger son, the elder son and the father- which issues the challenge to love as the father and be loved as the son, as well as examining the themes of homecoming, affirmation and reconciliation.

Ramsey, Michael *Be Still and Know* (Cowley) 1982

A classic, written by this Archbishop of Canterbury (1961-1974). Many other books by this author are thoughtful, inspiring and devotional

Rupp, Joyce *May I Have This Dance?* (Ave Maria Press, 1992)

This book is organized on a monthly basis and explores 12 major themes, each one followed by prayer suggestions which include litanies, creative writing, guided meditations, and ideas for reflective thinking and journaling. [Other books by Joyce Rupp include *Praying Our Goodbyes*, *Fresh Bread*, and *The Cup of Our Life*.]

Rupp, Joyce, *Dear Heart, Come Home: The Path of Midlife Spirituality* (Crossroad Publishing 2004)

Add this book to your existing list of Joyce Rupp's books.

Sedgewick, Timothy F. *Christian Moral Life: Practices of Piety* (Eerdmans, Grand Rapids, 2008)

This book, a re-issue of the 1999 edition, demonstrates that the way of life we call Christian is lived in relationships to others.

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Shepherd, David R. *Augustine's City of God* (Broadman and Holman, Nashville, 1998)
An overview of a treasure of the Christian faith. Christians of many generations have been informed by reading Augustine's works which have been fundamental in shaping Christian thought, practices and values.

Sudell, Helen (Ed.) *Prayers for Children*, (Southwater, London, 2002)
A Child's Book of Prayers celebrates our sacred bond with the earth and the creative power that pervades it. Children are drawn to the simple yet powerful prayers presented in these pages.

Yancey, Philip *Prayer, does it Make Any Difference* (Zondervan, Grand Rapids, 2006)
The book contains rich biblical, theological, personal, and practical discussions and insights that help enlarge and enrich an understanding of, faith in, and practice of prayer.

Warren, Rick. *The Purpose Driven Life* (Zondervan, Grand Rapids, 2002)
A guide to a 40 day spiritual journey that will help the reader understand why he/she is loved and God's plan for him or her. A blueprint for Christian living in the 21st Century.

BOOKS RELATED PRIMARILY TO "STUDY"

Bonneau, Normand *The Sunday Lectionary, Ritual Word, Paschal Shape* (Liturgical Press, Collegeville, 1998)
An excellent guide for anyone desiring a deeper understanding of how the Sunday Lectionary draws us into the paschal mystery.

Comby, Jean, and Diarmaid MacCullough *How to Read Church History: Volume 2 from the Reformation to the Present Day* (Crossman, New York, 2004)
This history sets the development of Christianity from the 16th Century to the present within the wider history of the world as it integrates the history of Roman Catholic, Protestant and Orthodox traditions.

Crossan, John Dominic, and Jonathan L. Reed *In Search of Paul* (HarperCollins, San Francisco, 2004)
How Jesus' Apostle opposed Rome's empire with God's kingdom.

DND (Department of National Defense) *Religions in Canada* (DMGIEE, Ottawa 2003)
Provides a list of the 38 religions recognized in Canada, by the Government of Canada, and for which DND provides Chaplain Services. The list includes the major Christian denominations, as well as Judaism and Islam. However, it also contains a number of others such as Wicca, Rastafarianism and the Bahá'í that are not truly religions, but a form of spirituality. Each has a several page description and explanation that includes what are considered the religious elements, moral code, organization and government, devotional and worship practices, major celebrations and observances, dietary requirements, etc.

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Foster, Richard *Streams of Living Water* (HarperCollins, 1998)

An examination of the six dimensions of faith and practice that define Christian tradition. Each tradition is examined from the standpoint of an historical figure, a contemporary figure, and the practices of study, retreat, service and community.

Gumbel, Nicky *Questions of Life: A beginner book for new Christians* (Cook Publishing 1993)

The promoter of Alpha defends the basic issues of the Gospel.

Hill, Jonathan *The History of Christian Thought* (InterVarsity Press, Downers Grove 2003)

The fascinating story of the great Christian thinkers and how they helped shape the world as we know it today.

Jeffery, Grant R. *Journey into Eternity, Search for Immortality* (Frontier Research Publications, Toronto, 2000)

This examines compelling evidence that we were created by God to live forever. After exploring the overwhelming evidence that we do survive after death, this book investigates the nature of immortality and our future life in eternity.

Jones, Cheslyn, Geoffrey Wainwright, Edward Yarnold SJ, and Paul Bradshaw (Eds) *The Study of Liturgy, Revised Edition* (Oxford University Press, New York, 1992)

This is an easily readable and comprehensive history of the development of Liturgy. This study shows how such things as seasonal colors, vestments, Church calendars, and specific prayers came to be part of liturgical worship.

Kasper, Walter *The God of Jesus Christ* (Crossroads, New York, 2000)

Kasper describes life as having its origin in God the Father and its center in the Son of God reaching its completion in the Spirit of God. In defending the concept of the Trinity against Arians, modalists, tritheists, Kasper sounds a mantra that God is love (I John 4:8,16) and Supra-personality in a relationship of freedom.

Kreeft, Peter *Christianity for Modern Pagans* (Ignatius, 1993)

This book is in the form of "notes" from class lectures on the writing of Blaise Pascal, a seventeenth century scientist; whose collection of "sayings" (*Pensees*) related to the Christian faith, has great relevance for today. [Recommendation: Read everything by Peter Kreeft that you can get your hands on.]

Kreeft, Peter *Your Questions, God's Answers* (Ignatius, 1994)

Scriptural answers to common and important questions about the meaning of life, our identity, overcoming failure and temptation, the mystery of God's love, and much more. God's answers to the deepest needs of people of all ages and times.

Lewis, C.S. *Mere Christianity* *BBC Broadcast Talks 1943, 1945*

A top "must read" classic.

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Lucardo, Max *In the Grip of Grace* (Word Publishing, 1996)

In *The Grip of Grace*, the authors invites the reader to walk the mountain peaks of God's mercy. This book will remind you that God who first made you is strong enough to sustain you.

Macdonald, George *Getting to Know Jesus* Ballantine Books 1989

Fresh glimpses into the life of Jesus by a writer of whom C.S. Lewis said: "I know hardly any other writer who seems closer, or more continually close, to the Spirit of Christ himself."

McGrath, Alister *U I Believe": Exploring the Apostles' Creed* (Inter-Varsity Press, 1977) An exploration of the basics of the Christian faith as affirmed by the church around the world through the centuries. Discussion questions for individual and group study.

Olson, Roger E. *The Mosaic of Christian Belief: Twenty Centuries of Unity and Diversity* (Intervarsity Press, Downer's Grove, 2002)

Christian history and theology is examined for the many differences and similarities that have characterized different denominations and presuppositions. The aim of this book seems fairly simple: to find a common bond that all Christians everywhere can unite under and find agreement.

O'Murcho, Diarmuid *Adult Faith: Growing in Wisdom and Understanding* Orbis Books 2010
He has many other books that challenge the reader.

Packer, J.I. *Knowing God* (Crossway Books, 1994).

Formerly published as *Growing in Christ*, this is a resource book on the basics of Christian belief, using the Apostles' Creed, the Lord's Prayer, and the Ten Commandments.

Shortt, Rupert *On Rowan Williams: Critical Essays* (Cascade, 2009) A collection of essays which reflect on Rowan Williams' writing, his view on scripture, grace, community and much more.

Schaeffer, Francis *True Spirituality* (Tyndale, 1971)

Discusses basic considerations of the Christian life, with particular reference to freedom from the bonds of sin and the results of the bonds of sin. [Look also for other books by Schaeffer, an American missionary to Europe; this is one of his best.]

Sykes, Stephen, John Booty and Jonathan Knight (Eds.) *The Study of Anglicanism, Revised Edition* (Fortress, Minneapolis, 1998)

An in- depth history of the Anglican Church, this is it. It not only explores the past to present, but also presents issues about the future of Anglicanism.

Tickle, Phyllis *The Great Emergence: How Christianity is Changing and Why* (Baker Books 2009) A creative and provocative book that unpacks the chaos of contemporary culture and religious upheaval and promises hope for today.

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Wright, N.T. *The Challenge of Jesus: Rediscovering who Jesus was and is* Intervarsity Press 1999

The author is a New Testament scholar and the Bishop of Durham. A challenging read about a growing understanding of Jesus in the first century and following Jesus today.

Watson, David *Jesus Then and Now* (Lion1983)

This book answers the question "What is it about Jesus that is so relevant today?"

Yancey, Philip *The Jesus I Never Knew* (Zondervan Publishing House, 1995)

Philip Yancey begins by reflecting on the Jesus of his childhood - a Jesus associated with "Kool-Aid and sugar cookies and gold stars for good attendance" and follows himself until, when in university he sees Jesus as "the God who lay down on the dissecting table." This book explores the Jesus who invites Yancey to "examine me, test me. You decide." What emerges in this thoughtful and thought-filled book as it examines every phase of the life, death, resurrection and ascension of Jesus is a Lord I never knew but One whom I now call friend and brother. This book should be on everyone's reading list!

Yancey, Philip *What's So Amazing About Grace?* (Zondervan Publishing House, 1997)

Yancey explores in new and insightful ways the word which comes easily to our lips but which most of us cannot explain other than the Catechism definition - GRACE? Yancey asks "what is grace and what's so amazing about it"? Through the use of literature, personal experience and a wondrous imagination, Yancey invites us to answer the question for ourselves. Once you have read this, you will never think of Grace in the same way again.

Yancey, Philip *Disappointment With God* (Zondervan Publishing House, 1997)

This pithy volume gives new insights into the nature and character of God.

Yancey, Phillip *What Good is God?* (2009) Zondervan Books

Yancey tackles tough issues that challenge faith. He writes from real world settings to proclaim hope and grace. He has interviewed and travelled to many countries like China and South Africa and unveils the presence of God and grace as he addresses difficult questions and ethical issues.

BOOKS RELATED PRIMARILY TO "ACTION"

Ascough, Richard S., and Sandy Cotton *Passionate Visionary: Leadership Lessons from Paul* (Novalis, Toronto, 2005)

An accessible, enjoyable book, which is ideal for individual or group study. See how Paul rates as a CEO and stack up to Paul's benchmarks for leadership.

Bowen, John *Evangelism for "Normal" People* (Augsburg Press, 2002)

A professor at Wycliffe College in Toronto, Mr. Bowen makes evangelism seem less scary for Canadian churchgoers.

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Chittister, Joan *Wisdom Distilled From the Daily: Living the Rule of St Benedict Today* (Harper and Row, 1990)

The tenets of Benedictine spirituality are remarkably similar to the Cursillo "tripod" of piety, study, and action. This book, by a modern Benedictine Sister, brings a wealth of practical wisdom in how to live the life of piety, study and action in our modern world. [This book would fit equally well under "piety" and "study."]

DePree, Max *Leadership is an Art* (Doubleday, 1989)

Written by the CEO of Herman Miller Furniture, this small book is filled with wisdom about leadership in today's world, based on the Christian understanding of leadership as servanthood. [Look also for the sequels, *Leadership Jazz*, and *Leading without Power*.]

L'Engle, Madeleine *The Irrational Season* (HarperCollins, 1977)

Madeleine talks about her life as a professional woman, wife, mother and grandmother in the context of her faith. Her open sharing of her times of closeness to God, along with her times of doubt and uncertainty, strike responsive chords in her readers.

Hunter, George, G. *The Celtic Way of Evangelism: How Christianity can Reach the West...Again* (Abingdon Press 2000)

This book provides interesting reading for all who take the Great Commission seriously. The book looks deeply into the world of Celtic Christianity and early church planters and offers a rich source of information for the contemporary Christian.

Kushner, Harold S. *The Lord is My Shepherd: Healing Words of the Twenty-third Psalm* (Random House, New York, 2003)

If you are looking for a book about putting your spiritual life into meaningful practice, you might wish to read this book. It is filled with inspiration and encouragement for an ongoing trusting relationship with God. Kushner takes each phrase of the Psalm as his chapter headings, and verse by verse, provides insight and practical suggestions for how to make these truths come alive each day.

Lotz, Anne Graham *The Magnificent Obsession: Embracing the God-Filled Life* (Zondervan, Grand Rapids, 2009)

This is an excellent selection for seekers as well as Christians looking to expand their understanding of relationship with Jesus Christ. An authentic and Spirit filled read.

Lucado, Max *Just Like Jesus* (Word, 1998)

A new look at ten attributes of Jesus and His relationship to God and the people He met and worked among. In each case, the author provides examples of Jesus "in action." A modern example of a similar situation, and practical help on how each of us can emulate Jesus in our environments.

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Matlins, Stuart M., and Arthur J. Magida (Eds) *How to be a Perfect Stranger 3rd Edition* (Sklight Paths, Woodstock, 2003)

The ultimate reference for how to act and what to expect when attending a religious service at any of the most common religions in North America.

Moore, Mary Elizabeth, Mullino *Teaching From the H·E·A·R·T: Theology and Educational Method* (Trinity Press, Harrisburg, 1998)

Moore's book speaks to the heart, offering the piece that seems to be missing, particularly in Christian Education but perhaps from education in general. As with the work of Parker Palmer, Moore proposes that for true education and understanding to take place, the teaching and the "knowing" must come from the heart as well as the mind.

Payne, Claude E., & Beazley, Hamilton *Reclaiming the Great Communion* (Jossey-Bass 2001) A message of hope and a plan of action for all desiring to build the Body of Christ. This is a resource which inspires the church to move from maintenance to mission. It is practical and based on real life situations and stories.

Presler, Titus *Horizons of Mission* (Cowley Publications, Boston, 2001)

This provides a vision of mission in the multicultural environment of the global community. The ten principles for mission in the 21st Century will help individuals and parishes to engage in world mission.

Price, Hilary *The Life That Changed My Day* (Authentic Media, Milton Keynes, 2004)

Through this book you will take a new look at Jesus his life his miracles and his teachings and be able to come to your own conclusion about him.

Schaeffer, Francis *No Little People* (Inter-Varsity Press, 1974)

Sixteen sermons based on Schaeffer's experience of living in a Christian community (L'Abri Fellowship) in the Swiss Alps.

Webber, Robert E. *Ancient-Future Worship: Proclaiming and Enacting God's Narrative*, (Baker Publishing, Grand Rapids, 2008)

Easy to read and flows very well. Webber cuts across the so-called "worship wars." He notes how staid traditionalism and silly happy-"clappyism" easily tend toward idolatry and man-worship. An ancient-future model provides a glorious alternative.

Whitehead, Evelyn Eaton, and James D. Whitehead. *The Promise of Partnership: A Model for Collaborative Ministry* (Harper Collins, New York, 1991)

A "must read" for anyone in ministry leadership in any denomination. The basic principle the text operates from is that we are all called to use the gifts and talents we have been given to serve the community, and that each member in the community has something to offer. The basic skills necessary for ministry partnership are reviewed and numerous examples are provided for clarity.

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Wilberforce William *Real Christianity e-books 2011*

Discusses the role of the Christian in public service. Written by a nineteenth century British politician who was instrumental in the demise of the British slave trade.

COMPENDIUMS AND DAILY READINGS

Attaway, Andrew (Ed) *Daily Guideposts 2011: A Spirit-Lifting Devotional* (Ideals Publications, Nashville, 2010 (published annually))

This book is marked by its liveliness, humor and sense of compassion for, and empathy with, others. Each entry consists of a single true, first-person story, starts with a single Bible verse that inspires reflection, and ends with a short, relevant prayer of the contributor for the day. In addition, there is a range of special features that provide additional insights into different aspects of Christian living,

Cowman, C.E. *Streams in the Desert* Zondervan 1999
Daily devotional readings.

Foster Richard and James Bryan Smith, editors *Devotional Classics*. (Harper Collins. 1990)
This wonderful compendium introduces the reader to a wide variety of classical Christian works, by providing a brief (less than a page) biographical sketch of the author, a two to three page excerpt from one of his writings, a short related Bible passage, several questions for reflection (suitable for individuals or groups) and suggested exercises related to the subject. Finally, it provides details of other works by the same author.

Gottlieb, Glenn. *A Book of Proverbs, Psalms and Prayers: Inspiration for Every Day*, (Platinum Press, New York, 2002)

This single volume contains all of the Proverbs #1 through #31 and all of the Psalms #1 through #150. In addition a careful selection of the most popular Prayers and Hymns is also included. These words chosen from the bible provide comfort and strength in times of travail and trouble. The hymns have been included without the music for quiet home reading rather than church. The prayers have been chosen for quiet personal reading and meditation

Laurie, Greg *Breakfast with Jesus* (Tyndale House, Carol Stream, 2003)

The author enables the reader to see Jesus through the eyes of his followers as a living, breathing, ever present friend, mentor and teacher. It is arranged in 84 chapters that can be used as the basis for daily study.

Macdonald, Gary *Diary of an Old Soul* (Augsberg, 1975)

366 short devotional poems for reflection, one for each day of the year.

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McGrath, Alister E., (Ed.) *The Christian Theology Reader, Second Edition* (Blackwell Publishing, Malden, 2001)

This book contains more than 300 seminal readings from the entire Christian tradition arranged for daily or weekly study.

Meyer, Joyce *Starting Your Day Right: Devotions for Each Morning of the Year* (Warner Books, New York, 2003)

A great thing to start out your day with.... a short reminder of how to walk with God on a daily basis....to bring joy, peace and to build strength to a wonderful day!

Olford, Stephen F. *Windows of Wisdom: Devotional Studies in Proverbs* (Ambassador Emerald International, Greenville, 2001).

A Collection of wisdom sayings presented in practical terms for daily living.

Spangler, Anne, *Praying the Name of Jesus: A Devotional Guide*(Zondervan, Grand Rapids, 2006)

Joy, peace, and power are only some of the gifts promised to those who trust in the name of the Lord. Praying the Names of Jesus will lead readers into a richer and more rewarding relationship with Christ. A companion to *Praying the Names of God*.

Stewart, Ann Marie. *Preparing my Heart for Advent: A Spiritual Pilgrimage for the Christmas Season* (AMG Publishers, Nashville, 2005)

A seasonal guide to daily devotions, that challenges us to immerse ourselves in scripture, during the months of November and December, so that we are more likely to keep Christ in Christmas, rather than become entangled by obligations and commercialism.

Sulliavn, Shirley, and Shirley Sullivan. *A Practical Guide to the Liturgy of the Hours*, (Catholic Book Publishing, Totawa, 2008)

A useful guide to praying the Liturgy of the Hours, especially for beginners.

Warren, Rick. *Daily Inspiration for the Purpose Driven Life* (Zondervan, Grand Rapids, 2003)

A stand alone book for daily reflection, and an easy reference tool when reading the *Purpose Driven Life*.

BIOGRAPHIES AND AUTOBIOGRAPHIES

Lewis, C.S. *Surprised by Joy* (Harcourt, Brace, Javanovich 1966)

One man's autobiography of his pilgrimage from atheism to Christianity.

Marshall, Catherine *Beyond Ourselves* (McGraw-Hill, 1961)

A spiritual autobiography of an extraordinary woman, full of wisdom and truth. (Other titles by Catherine include: *Mr. Jones*, *Meet the Master*, and *To Live Again*.)

FICTION-HISTORICAL NOVELS

Bull, Molly Noble *Sanctuary* (Tsaba House, Reedley, 2007)

Sanctuary is a fast paced adventure story with romantic overtones that begins in France in 1740 and ends in Scotland. Rachel, a Jewish girl, must flee her village with her late boyfriend's brother or risk being killed. The brother, Pierre Dupre, is a French Huguenot and secretly in love with Rachel. They hide in a church but must soon move on, and danger follows them every step of the way.

Carie, Jamie *The Snowflake* (B&H Publishing Group, Nashville, 2010)

A heartwarming story to lift your spirits to know God is with us no matter what the circumstances and everyone deserves to have love in their lives, then *The Snowflake* is just that book.

Daimant, Anita *The Red Tent* (St. Martin's Press, New York, 1997)

A first-person narrative which tells the story of Dinah, daughter of Jacob and sister of Joseph. She was a talented midwife and proto-feminist. She is a minor character in the Bible, but the author has broadened her story. The book's title refers to the tent in which women of Jacob's tribe must, according to the ancient law, take refuge while menstruating or giving birth, and in which they find mutual support and encouragement from their mothers, sisters and aunts.

George, Margaret *Mary, Called Magdalene* (Penguin Putman Inc., New York, 2002)

No one knows the details of Mary of Magdalene's life, but Margaret George has created an entire life for her as a strong woman who after many years of struggling between possession by pagan gods and her faith in God, is healed by Jesus and becomes one of his disciples.

Hollingsworth, Mary *Fireside Stories of Faith, Family and Friendship* (Word Publishing, Nashville, 2000)

A collection of touching and hilarious tales about the forces that impact our lives. Family loves unconditionally, faith shapes us eternally, and friends encourage us daily.

Orsfield, Margaret, and Peter Horsfield *Beyond Golgotha* (Brechin Books, Nanaimo, 1993)

A look beyond the well-known narratives of Jesus' death and resurrection that traces them back to their roots, to a world of ancient and colourful stories about angels, blood money, clouds, mountaintops, donkeys and prophets.

Mayo, Margaret, and Peter Malone *Brother Sun and Sister Moon: The Story of St. Francis* (Orion, London, 1999)

Mayo combines the true history and biography of St. Francis with myths about the saint's life, drawing a distinction between life and legend. After recounting the saint's life, Mayo explains what happened after his death, including information regarding his canonization and the formation of the Franciscan Order.

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O'Brien, Michael D. *Father Elijah: An Apocalypse* (Ignatius Press, San Francisco, 1996)
Father Elijah is the story of a humble priest meeting a formidable adversary. It is not only a prophetic warning and a celebration of weakness over strength, the small over the great. It is a journey of the soul in a quest for God, as the universal becomes the particular. The *Apocalypse* of Scripture becomes our own apocalypse, as we face our own numbered days. This novel is a deep examination of the heart of man, what he is made of, where he has been, where he is going, and most importantly, the map he needs to get there.

O'Brien, Michael D. *A Landscape With Dragons: The Battle For Your Child's Mind*, (Ignatius Press, San Francisco, 1998)
Our culture is in motion, changing form, calling evil good and good evil, and many who are committed to 'good' are embracing the new forms as acceptable. When our culture has finally changed completely, will there be anyone there who will even know what happened? This is a vitally important book. It is sound, sane, insightful, spiritual, discerning, and enables readers to establish and maintain oases of light in the new dark ages that are already upon us.

Peretti, Frank E. *Prophet* (Tyndal House, Carol Stream, 1992)
In this book, Peretti tackles some hot social issues through the story of a man's journey of awakening to who he is and what he stands for. The social comments regarding the media, and the way news is spun to meet the agenda's of the owners of the media is on the money and reflective of how we see the media manipulate public opinion.

Young, Wm. Paul *The Shack* (Windblown Media, 2007)
In a world where religion seems to grow increasingly irrelevant, *The Shack* wrestles with the timeless question "Where is God in a world so filled with unspeakable pain?" The answers Mack gets will astound you and perhaps transform you as much as it did him.