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* As of March 2014

Biblical faith applied to health care
“The question is not, who uses faith and who uses reason? Everyone uses both. The question instead should be, who has the most reasonable faith?“

J. F. Baldwin
What do these conservative leaders have in common?

» Sarah Palin
  » Mark Levin
  » Glenn Beck
  » Mike Huckabee
  » Allen West
  » Sen. Tom Coburn
  » Sen. Ron Johnson
  » Mark Meckler
  » Michael Farris

They know it’s time for a CONVENTION OF STATES!

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2014 BOOKS ISSUE

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INTERNET RADIO

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“The earth is the LORD’s and the fullness thereof; the world and those who dwell therein.” —Psalm 24:1
Joel Belz

Your children’s children
It’s time for us to build a new “Grandkids’ Media Legacy”

I wouldn’t exactly call it a panic attack—but I have to admit that it goes way beyond a merely casual concern.

I’m worried, you see, about my grandkids. Implicitly, I’m worried about your grandkids as well. I worry about what they’re all going to be thinking, a generation from now, about foundational issues.

How will they describe their faith? What will their concept of God look like? How will they define “family”? What freedoms will be important to them? What economic systems will shape their lives? How seriously will they hold the Bible? The U.S. Constitution?

When I say I worry about my grandkids, and yours, it’s because I’ve been forced to confess that my peers and I are past the point of having our thinking very much shaped or changed. At 72, I’m almost as likely to see my peers’ names in the obituaries of my local paper as I am to bump into them at some event.

Even my five children, all grown and married and parents themselves, are beyond the years when I’ll do much more to affect their thinking. We chat about significant issues, I suggest things I think they should read and watch, and I pray for them, often and fervently. But changing their most important thoughts? That will probably be minimal.

But our grandchildren? It’s time, I say, to go for it.

That’s why, in the years the Lord still gives me, I intend to keep pouring myself into three major agencies of idea and heart formation. I urge you to do the same. Our churches, our schools, and our media all have a constant and pervasive influence—either encouraging or discouraging our grandsons and granddaughters to “love the Lord your God with all your heart, soul, and mind.”

WORLD’s reader demographics suggest that you are likely to have been significantly involved through the years with your local church. Don’t stop now! Keep strengthening the witness of that body, especially to the young people who hear its message. WORLD’s statistics also suggest to us that you take seriously the God-centered education of the younger members of your family. Don’t quit! Help make those schooling enterprises strong and vigorous.

But what about the media your grandchildren will inherit? Will WORLD still be providing frequent and up-to-date news and analysis, helping readers and listeners and digital customers sort out the day’s news from a keen, Christian perspective? Or will your grandsons and granddaughters just hear about some effort in the distant past where such an effort flourished for a generation—but then fell by the wayside?

A significant number of you who are reading this column are men and women who have been part of the WORLD family for a number of years. A few of you have been with us from our earliest issues in 1986. Some of you, meanwhile, have come along more recently, but identified quickly with our mission.

Of everyone in those several groups, I ask: Will you join a new cadre of front-liners who are trailblazers for a unique kind of journalism? Will you lend me a hand now in both clarifying and funding what we do for the generations behind you? I’m calling you the backers of a new “Grandkids’ Media Legacy.”

In exchange for your commitment, I pledge to send you a monthly newsletter focused on this whole topic of passing the Truth on to our children’s children. In discussing some of the practical issues we older folks regularly discuss—issues like healthcare in our later years, downsizing our homes, moving into a “second career,” helping our children with debt, participation in short-term missions, etc.—we’ll establish and work through a pattern of thinking and talking to each other in a God-centered manner.

If 50, 100, or even 200 of you will join such a group, I’ll pursue a fresh variety of ways for us to listen to each other’s ideas. If WORLD is to be a genuine help to the coming generations, we need such an exchange—including your best thoughts on funding such an enterprise well into the next generation. We’ll steer a careful course. We’ll avoid the “mission drift” that so typically pushes even strong-minded efforts toward the left, but also the rowdy-on-the-right mindlessness that speaks only to the choir and fails to convince anybody at all.

Will you join the discussion? Jot down a couple of ideas—brieﬂy—and send them my way, either to my email below or by regular post. It just might be an important ﬁrst step in earning a deep-down expression of gratitude from a few of your grandkids.

Email: jbelz@wng.org

JUNE 28, 2014 • WORLD
Ignite their imagination.

Fuel their faith.

With so many voices vying for the attention of our teens, they’re constantly seeking to know what’s real. In WORLDteen, they’ll experience engaging digital content as well as thought-provoking magazine articles that ignite their imaginations while fueling their faith. From technology to science and culture to friendships, WORLDteen is what’s real.

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JUNE 10: Insurgents overran the northern Iraqi city of Mosul, the country’s second largest city, underlining the tenuous control the Iraqi government holds in the country. The militants, from the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant, reportedly released thousands of prisoners from jails while Iraqi police and military fled—along with a half million residents. Militants also captured U.S.-supplied equipment from the Iraqi military, like Humvees. The city is in the heart of the historically Christian area of Nineveh: “Ninety-nine percent of the Christians have left Mosul,” said pastor Haltham Jazrawi of Kirkuk.
Clippers sold

Shelly Sterling, the wife of Los Angeles Clippers co-owner Donald Sterling, agreed to sell the NBA team to former Microsoft CEO Steve Ballmer for a record-breaking $2 billion. The deal allows the Sterlings to avoid a hearing where, with approval from three-quarters of NBA team owners, the league would have taken ownership of the team and sold it. The league called the hearing after charging Sterling with damaging the NBA through racist comments that were recorded and publicized. Donald Sterling has filed a separate $1 billion lawsuit against the league over the recording, the sale of the team, and the $2.5 million fine the league levied on him. He bought the Clippers in 1981 for $12 million. The Sunday after the deal, Sterling attended the worship service of a predominantly African-American church in Los Angeles with cameras in tow.

Back on YouTube

Turkey restored access to YouTube after the country's highest court ruled the ban was a violation of free speech. Turkey's government had banned access to YouTube and Twitter days before March 30 local elections. The high court had reversed the ban on Twitter in early May. Before the ban, the websites leaked a secret wiretap of a conversation between top government officials.

Shot down

Pro-Russian rebels shot down a Ukrainian military helicopter in the Donetsk region, part of the country's fractious east. The crash killed 14 people including a general, according to Ukraine's acting president Oleksandr Turchynov. Turchynov suggested that Russia had supplied arms to the rebels, a charge Russia has denied.

Trust issues

A group of atheists was preparing to continue its legal campaign to take the words “In God We Trust” off the nation’s currency a day after the 2nd U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals ruled against the effort. The three-judge panel ruled that the motto does “not have a religious purpose or advance religion, nor does it place a substantial burden on appellants’ religious practices.” Freedom From Religion Foundation co-president Annie Laurie Gaylor argued that the motto does advance religion and burden atheists, and she says she plans to bring cases in other districts. “It’s not even an accurate motto,” she said. “To be accurate, it would have to say, ‘In God Some of Us Trust,’ and wouldn’t that be silly?”

HUMAN RACE

Suing

Hall of Fame quarterback Dan Marino, 52, sued the NFL over concussions he suffered as a player. Marino joined 14 other former players in filing the suit in late May, claiming the league knew about the link between concussions and long-term health problems but concealed the information from players. Last year a group of former players reached a $760 million deal for concussion-related injuries, but a federal judge said the amount was too low and would not approve the deal.
Shinseki resigns

A damning inspector general’s report on the Veterans Affairs department prompted Eric Shinseki to resign as head of the agency. The report followed similar reports over the last decade of chronic mismanagement, fraud, and long wait times at veterans’ hospitals nationwide. At the VA medical center in Phoenix, more than 1,700 veterans seeking care never made it to a waiting list, and nationwide 64,000 new veterans requesting appointments never got them. The wait times—and falsified appointment records—are tied to 23 deaths. Members of Congress called for an FBI investigation into the cover-up and deaths, as the House debated a measure allowing veterans to receive covered care from non-VA doctors.

Medicare changes

A Department of Health and Human Services board ruled that Medicare could cover sex change surgeries after Denee Mallon, 74, born a man, had filed a lawsuit to have Medicare cover such an operation. Few seniors covered under Medicare are likely to seek sex change operations—demographer Gary Gates of The Williams Institute, an LGBT issues think tank in Los Angeles, has estimated 0.3 percent of the U.S. population identify as transgender. But the ruling adds to pressures on insurance companies to cover such operations.

Monday, June 2

Bergdahl released

President Barack Obama in a Rose Garden press conference announced the release of Army Sgt. Bowe Bergdahl from five years of Taliban captivity. The United States agreed to exchange five Taliban operatives from Guantanamo Bay for Bergdahl, but that was just the beginning of the controversy. Some members of Bergdahl’s platoon alleged that he deserted his post after becoming disaffected with America, and that at least six soldiers died as a result of the search for him. Bergdahl grew up in an Orthodox Presbyterian family, but struggled to accept his family’s faith as he grew older, according to his former pastor. Bergdahl is currently receiving medical and psychological treatment, after which the Army has said it will review the circumstances of his disappearance.

Going after coal

The Environmental Protection Agency announced its long-anticipated rule to address climate change. The new rule would require power plants to reduce their carbon emissions by 30 percent compared to their 2005 levels. In practice, different states will have different target levels for reductions, but the national goal is a 30 percent reduction. Opponents said higher electricity costs resulting from the rule would hurt the economy and particularly low-income families.

Died

Ann B. Davis, the spunky maid on the 1970s sitcom The Brady Bunch, died on June 1 at age 88. Davis, whose career spanned five decades, won two Emmy Awards. The public image of her as “a strong, wonderful, lively human being” was accurate, said retired Episcopal bishop Bill Frey, whose family household Davis became part of after she re-embraced her Christian faith and left Hollywood. “The only part that’s inaccurate about that is she had trouble relating to small children, and she doesn’t cook.”
Tuesday, June 3

Primary do-over

Even after the Tuesday primary, Mississippi remained ground zero in the ongoing Republican primary battle between the tea party and the GOP establishment. State Sen. Chris McDaniel, the tea party challenger, didn’t quite garner the 50 percent threshold needed to avoid a runoff against six-term U.S. Sen. Thad Cochran. This hard-fought Republican primary is being watched closely because many believe it represents the tea party’s best chance at unseating a veteran senator during this election cycle. The group had endured many defeats this primary season after enjoying several upsets in 2010 and 2012. Mississippi voters return to the polls on June 24.

Abortion unburdened

The 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals struck an Arizona law passed in 2012 that requires abortion doctors to follow Food and Drug Administration guidelines when conducting medical abortions. The court said the law places an undue burden on women seeking abortions. The ruling contradicts similar rulings from other circuit courts, which could push the issue to the Supreme Court.

Wednesday, June 4

China crackdown

On the 25th anniversary of the massacre in Tiananmen Square, the Chinese government cracked down on at least one house church. Police rearrested Pastor Wang Yi of Chengdu Early Rain Reformed Church on Wednesday morning as his church planned to hold a meeting to pray for China. Congregants said the police then shut off the power to the office building where the church meets and posted signs that it was under maintenance. Church leaders emailed congregants to pray in their small groups instead.

Eighth man out

Shutting Russia out, the Group of Seven nations—the United States, Britain, France, Germany, Italy, Canada, and Japan—met in Brussels. After Russia’s annexation of Crimea, the seven nations in March removed Russia from the Group of Eight, which had been scheduled to meet in Sochi, Russia. President Barack Obama, speaking in Poland the day the G-7 meetings began, condemned Russia directly: “The stroke of a pen can never legitimize the theft of a neighbor’s land. So we will not accept Russia’s occupation of Crimea or its violation of Ukraine’s sovereignty. Our free nations will stand united so that further Russian provocations will only mean more isolation and costs for Russia.” Obama promised to increase the U.S. military presence in Europe as a sign of solidarity with the EU against potential Russian aggression.

Died

Lewis Katz, co-owner of The Philadelphia Inquirer newspaper, 72, died on May 31 in a fiery plane crash. The aircraft was attempting to take off from a Bedford, Mass., airport but instead raced off the end of the runway and down an embankment before bursting into flames. The National Transportation Safety Board is investigating the accident, which killed all seven passengers on the Katz-owned plane. Katz formerly owned part or all of the New Jersey Nets, the New Jersey Devils, and the New York Yankees.

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Thursday, June 5

Closing clinics

Planned Parenthood announced plans to close two of its abortion centers in Iowa, which were among the first in the country to prescribe medical abortions by videoconference. It will refer women to nine remaining abortion centers, including some that still offer abortion pill prescriptions by video. Planned Parenthood said it closed the centers to “eliminate inefficiency in resources.” Pro-lifers who had held prayer vigils outside the centers celebrated. “I think it’s good news for babies in Red Oak and Creston,” said Sue Thayer, a former Planned Parenthood center manager and now pro-life advocate, in comments to The Des Moines Register.

Coalition for Life of Iowa member prays outside the Planned Parenthood clinic in Cedar Rapids, Iowa

Burwell takes over

After a quiet and quick confirmation process, the Senate voted 78-17 to confirm Sylvia Mathews Burwell as the new secretary of Health and Human Services (HHS). Burwell previously served as the White House budget director, and will attempt to lead implementation of Obamacare. Senate Minority Leader Mitch McConnell called her “a new captain for the Titanic.”

Friday, June 6

Obamacare price hikes

A study from the University of Minnesota estimated average insurance rates on national health exchanges will increase by more than $4,000 per year per family in the next five years. The study used the government’s own Obamacare enrollment data and received part of its funding from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. In the next 10 years, the cost of insurance plans will rise more quickly than the government subsidies families receive, leading to more individuals being uninsured or on Medicaid, the study said.

Attacks continue

Reports emerged of Boko Haram attacks on villages in northern Nigeria where militants killed hundreds. The Islamic militants posed as soldiers there to protect villagers, but then opened fire while shouting, “Allahu akbar,” Arabic for “God is greater.” Word of the attacks spread slowly because roads out of the area are dangerous and phone connections are poor or nonexistent. The United States has sent 80 military advisers to Nigeria and neighboring Chad to aid in the rescue of 300 school-girls whom Boko Haram kidnapped, but the security situation has only deteriorated.

Died

Chester Nez, the last living member of the Navajo Code Talkers, died on June 4 at age 93. Nez was one of the original 29 Navajo the U.S. military recruited to create an unbreakable code during World War II. The complex, unwritten language had no alphabet and only about 30 non-Navajo could speak it at the time. From 1942 to 1945, the Code Talkers participated in every assault the U.S. Marines conducted in the Pacific theater. Philip Johnston, the son of a missionary to the Navajo, birthed the idea to use the language for secure communications.
Meet the Great Antagonists of the Faith

APOSTATE

The Men who Destroyed the Christian West

www.ApostateTheBook.com
Sunday, June 8

Karachi attack

Ten Pakistani Taliban militants launched a sophisticated attack against the international airport in Karachi, a city of 18 million people. The attack left 36 dead: airport security officials and staff as well as the militants themselves. The militants never reached the passengers inside the terminal, and flights were diverted. Pakistan’s interior minister said the group was seeking to blow up planes and take passengers as hostages. The attack showed the resilience of the Pakistani Taliban and ended speculation of peace talks between the Taliban and the Pakistani government.

Tennis champ

Spaniard Rafael Nadal won an unprecedented ninth French Open and continued his dominance on Paris’ tough clay court. The three-and-a-half-hour match was so grueling that Nadal’s rival, Novak Djokovic, was sick to his stomach partway through. Nadal, 28, is the top-ranked tennis player in the world and trails only Roger Federer for all-time Grand Slam victories.

Upset in Virginia

U.S. Rep. Eric Cantor, R-Va., on June 10 became the first sitting House majority leader to lose a primary race—and he lost it badly. Tea party challenger David Brat, a little-known economics professor, won 56 percent of the vote despite having raised only $207,000 compared to Cantor’s raising of $5.44 million. Brat framed the race as a battle over immigration: “A vote for Eric Cantor on June 10th,” he said two days before the primary, “is a vote for open borders and lower wages.” He accused the seven-term congressman of working with “multinational corporations to boost the inflow of low-wage guest workers to reduce Virginians’ wages and employment opportunities.” In another June 10 primary, U.S. Sen. Lindsey Graham, R-S.C., and a prominent supporter of the Senate’s “Gang of Eight” immigration overhaul, defeated several GOP challengers to win the party’s nomination to run for a third Senate term.

Resigned

President Barack Obama on May 30 announced embattled White House Press Secretary Jay Carney would step down in mid-June. Carney spent more than three years on the job, but during Obama’s second term he became a punchline for jokes on social media and late night shows for the way he handled questions about numerous administration scandals. Obama called Carney a good friend and a “great” press secretary. Deputy Press Secretary Josh Earnest, 39, will replace Carney.
June 23 New York Knicks star forward Carmelo Anthony has until today to notify the Knicks that he plans to pick up a contract option and play the 2014-15 season in New York. Otherwise, Anthony will be heading to free agency, making him the summer’s biggest target for NBA teams under the salary cap.

**LOOKING AHEAD**

**Ferry crew trial**

Fifteen crew members from the South Korean ferry that sank in April, killing almost 300 mostly teenage passengers, went on trial before a judge on charges that range from negligence to homicide. Capt. Lee Joon-seok, 68, and three others face the death penalty if convicted. Officials determined the doomed ferry was carrying too much cargo and made a sharp turn while traveling too fast. The captain’s lawyer argued that he had no control over the company’s practice of overloading the ferry.

**July 1** A new anti-spam law goes into effect today in Canada, affecting nearly every Canadian business—and a few American ones too. According to the law, a business may not send emails to customers without implied or express consent from the customer. Individual violators could face fines up to $1 million while corporations face fines up to $10 million.

**July 2** Former New Orleans Mayor Ray Nagin today faces a federal judge who will hand down sentencing stemming from his Feb. 12 conviction on 20 counts of fraud, bribery, and money laundering in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina. Nagin’s corruption convictions could net him 20 years in federal prison.

**June 24** Veteran GOP Senator Thad Cochran will be in the fight of his political life today as he and challenger Chris McDaniel compete in the Republican primary runoff in Mississippi. Cochran, who has been in the Senate since 1978, lost by a hair’s breadth to the conservative McDaniel on June 3. Neither candidate reached a majority, forcing the runoff (see p. 10.)

**July 4** Octogenarian rock ‘n’ roll icon Frankie Valli will headline the “Capitol Fourth” Independence Day celebration on the National Mall in Washington, D.C. The evening program, which features the former Four Seasons frontman as well as fireworks, is expected to draw hundreds of thousands of spectators.

**READ MORE AT WNG.ORG**

Keep up on the latest developments from Washington, Iraq, Sudan, and elsewhere, and find more commentary by Marvin Olasky, Mindy Belz, Cal Thomas, Janie B. Cheaney, and Andrée Seu Peterson.

**Awarded** The Ethics and Religious Liberty Commission (ERLC) awarded Imprisoned American pastor Saeed Abedini the 2014 Richard Land Distinguished Service Award on June 11 during the Southern Baptist Convention. Abedini, a U.S. citizen, is serving an eight-year sentence in Iran on dubious charges. His wife, Naghmeh Abedini, traveled to Baltimore to accept the award on his behalf. The ERLC also named the Green family, owners of Hobby Lobby, the 2014 John Leland Religious Liberty Award winners for mounting a legal challenge to Obamacare’s contraceptive mandate.

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Unwelcome fame
Student hero dodges public spotlight, financial windfall in Seattle shooting  
BY J.C. DERRICK

Seattle Pacific University student Jon Meis likes to be prepared. That’s why he always carries a can of pepper spray. Meis was ready on June 5 when Aaron Ybarra, 26, allegedly opened fire at SPU, a private Christian school, killing one and injuring two. The 22-year-old Meis used his pepper spray to subdue Ybarra and put him in a choke hold until other students and faculty members rushed to help keep the suspect pinned on the ground. Police said Ybarra, who has a history of mental illness, was carrying a shotgun, ammunition, and knives, and the actions of Meis and others likely saved lives.

“I was thrown into a life and death situation, and through God’s grace I was able to stop the attacker and walk away unharmed,” Meis, an engineering student, said in a June 9 statement.

“When I came face to face with the attacker, God gave me the eyes to see that he was not a faceless monster, but a very sad and troubled young man.”

In the aftermath of the shooting, Meis declined all media interview requests and even asked friends at SPU and his former high school not to divulge facts about his personal life. Yet some details still emerged, including his scheduled wedding on June 21. Well-wishers promptly purchased everything on the wedding registries they found at Target and Crate & Barrel. Jessamyn McIntyre, a Seattle area sports-caster, launched a crowd-funding effort and raised more than $50,000 for Meis’ “honeymoon and future” in four days. In his June 9 statement, released by SPU, Meis called the outpouring of support overwhelming and asked that all future donations go toward the victims—who were all SPU students. He said it is hard to see himself as a hero and thanked emergency responders for willingly putting their lives at risk every day. Meis noted the “devastating reality” that heroes cannot emerge without tragedy. “We cannot ignore that a life was taken from us, ruthlessly and without justification or cause,” he said. “Nonetheless, I would encourage that hate be met with love.”

Feeling respected

Colorado’s Masterpiece Cakeshop will no longer sell wedding cakes. That’s because owner Jack Phillips discriminated against two gay men, according to the state’s Civil Rights Commission, when he refused to sell them a cake. Phillips said he will sell cupcakes for anyone’s birthday party, but “I don’t want to participate in a same-sex wedding.”

So it goes: These days, no big deal. The reaction of one of the angry gays, though, is remarkable. David Mullins told CBS the commission’s decision was good news: “The next time a gay couple wanders in there for a wedding cake, they won’t have the experience we had. They will have a responsible experience and leave feeling respected.”

Let me understand: They’ll still leave without a cake, but “feeling respected.”

Customers subject to other recent close-downs can have the same reaction. Hundreds of foster care children in Illinois and Massachusetts, formerly helped by Catholic Charities, may now be languishing, but gay couples will feel respected. If trends continue, contributions to ministries and colleges that maintain a biblical position will no longer be tax deductible: They’ll have reduced income and will close down programs that serve thousands, all in the service of self-esteem for a few.

Tears Water the Seeds of Hope is the inspiring true story of a Midwest husband and wife that become disenchanted with the relentless pursuit of the “American Dream” and embark on a journey that spans six countries and redefines their hearts and lives. The story begins in a small town in America’s heartland and weaves its way through South and Central America as the couple gathers an army of supporters, and eventually establishes a non-profit organization to save the lives of children in the end stages of starvation in eastern Guatemala. The narrative is filled with action-packed adventure and heart-warming victories as the characters face incredible odds and seemingly hopeless situations, while hundreds of volunteers join mission teams to offer help and hope through the programs of the ministry. This story will take you on an emotional journey from laughter, to tears, to sheer joy as you discover that it is possible for ordinary people to make a difference, one life at a time.

“I couldn’t get enough of this book. I was completely drawn in from start to finish... Kim Tews did not sugar coat anything nor did she hold anything back. I found her story to be riveting and convicting. Tears Water the Seeds of Hope provoked, inspired and challenged me all at the same time. I highly recommend this book.”

Pilar Arsenec-National Book Critics Circle

“Tews has a very descriptive writing voice that will draw you in and hold you from the first page to the last. It is a book that will remain with you forever. The photos will touch your heart and the stories will touch your soul. If you purchase just one memoir this year, it should be this one.”

Lori Caswell-Top 1000 Reviews

“I was hooked from the first pages. Readers will be wrapped up in the emotional side of this journey and brought to laughter and tears as they learn that ordinary people can do extraordinary things. This is a must read.”

Terri Forehand-RN- Author

“Impossible to put down...an awe-inspiring journey through hardship and doubts, to peace with God, as Tews shares an honest look at faith challenges and offers sincere and valuable resolution. You will be left exhausted, but inspired to make a difference with your life. This well-penned page turner is one of the best inspirational reads to come along in quite a while.”

Malcolm Dougherty

“Kim Tews shares her faith effortlessly as she deals with the issue of why God allows suffering. Her impact is unbelievable. She never comes across "preachy," but my faith has been encouraged. I found myself in tears more than once. This is a book that I want to tell everyone about!”

Ruth Hill

Available at amazon.com & barnesandnoble.com
‘Definitely. It’s better to kidnap one person like Bergdahl than kidnapping hundreds of useless people. It has encouraged our people.’

A SENIOR TALIBAN COMMANDER, unnamed by Time in an interview on whether the deal for the release of Sgt. Bowe Bergdahl would inspire the Taliban to kidnap others.

‘We can neither confirm nor deny that this is our first tweet.’

The initial tweet from the CIA’s new Twitter account, on June 6.

‘We would not dog-ear Exodus 20:13 (“You shall not kill”).’

The ALLIANCE DEFENDING FREEDOM in an offer to supply each Planned Parenthood center with a free copy of the Bible. The offer was made after Cecile Richards, president of Planned Parenthood, had said that “abortion is not even mentioned in the Scriptures—Jewish or Christian.”

‘We cannot bear it anymore. There’s no people anymore... no cats, no insects, there’s nothing left.’

A BRITISH DOCTOR, unnamed for security reasons, who worked in Aleppo, Syria, for two years and was injured this month in a barrel bomb attack.

‘The church is now contaminated with terror. You don’t feel safe in prayer.’

A CHRISTIAN IN KHARTOUM on the growing climate of fear in Sudan following the detention of Meriam Yahya Ibrahim, who is imprisoned in Khartoum along with her toddler son and newborn daughter on charges of apostasy.

‘We came out of the White House not only dead broke but in debt.’

HILLARY CLINTON speaking in defense of her and her husband’s six-figure speaking fees. A Republican National Committee spokesman pointed out that Hillary Clinton had an $8 million book contract after leaving the White House.
IS THERE THE POSSIBILITY OF SOME OF (THE GITMO INMATES) TRYING TO RETURN TO ACTIVITIES THAT ARE DETRIMENTAL TO US? ... ABSOLUTELY.
Dispatches > Quick Takes

FLYING HIGH

On May 28, weather radars picked up what meteorologists initially believed to be flash storms brewing just west of Albuquerque, N.M. At first, technicians believed their equipment to be malfunctioning. But eventually meteorologists discovered the true source of the radar images: mammoth swarms of grasshoppers carried overhead up to 1,000 feet by high winds. The clouds of grasshoppers continued for the next three nights.

BEER MONEY

Faced with an enormous price tag and skittish, big-money investors, Amy Johnson and two business partners needed $220,000 to secure a bank loan to open her dream restaurant. Johnson, a Minneapolis entrepreneur, came up with an idea: Why not sell tiny shares of the planned brewpub in exchange for the promise of free beer for life? The plan worked. Offering free in-house beer for life for any investor willing to pony up $1,000, Johnson found 118 participants—many of whom invested more than $1,000 in order to gobble up more shares of the restaurant. And now that the Northbound Smokehouse & Brewpub has been open for more than a year, Johnson reports that investors didn’t drink them into the red. On average, the brewpub dishes out 17 free beers daily with a cost of 40 cents per beer.

LOSING HIS SHIRT

You know crime is bad in Phoenix when the police chief gets his own shirt stolen. Phoenix police say Chief Daniel Garcia’s uniform was stolen from Suntown, a local dry cleaners, in early June. “We are not immune to that,” a police spokesman told KTVK. “Our officers, from any rank, really, from time to time become victims of crime.”

BLUE LIGHT SPECIAL

To observers, it may have looked like a routine traffic stop on June 2 in St. Augustine, Fla. Matthew Lee McMahon pulled in behind a vehicle, turned on red and blue lights, and ordered the driver to pull over. But 20-year-old McMahon was only impersonating a police officer, and the car he chose to pull over was an unmarked sheriff’s department vehicle driven by Detective Chance Anderson. Detective Anderson knew something was wrong with the traffic stop: St. Augustine is a tightly knit community, and he didn’t recognize McMahon as a law enforcement official. Anderson quickly placed McMahon under arrest, and he was charged with impersonating an officer and unlawfully displaying blue lights.
If you don’t have money for television ads or direct mail, how exactly do you win a campaign for U.S. Congress? For a white Republican named Scott Fistler (left), the key to winning an Arizona congressional seat will be a name change and a party switch. Fistler, 38, legally changed his name to Cesar Chavez (right) and switched parties in order to run in the Democratic primary for Arizona’s 7th Congressional District seat left open by incumbent Rep. Ed Pastor’s impending retirement. The long-shot candidate’s name change has earned him some free publicity as critics charge him with cynically thinking that voters in the majority Latino district will automatically cast their ballots in the August 26 primary for someone who bears the same name as the famous Mexican-American labor leader who died in 1993.

ONE OF A KIND

It’s the Honus Wagner card of the stamp world. And if you have $10 million to spare, it could be yours. Auction house Sotheby’s said it planned to auction off the world’s last remaining British Guiana One-Cent Magenta on June 16 in New York. The stamp, originally discovered by a boy in South America in 1873, dates back to 1856 when a late shipment from overseas caused the local postmaster in Georgetown to commission a small emergency printing of stamps. The stamp was last sold in 1980 for nearly $1 million, but the auction house expects the one-of-a-kind stamp to fetch between $10 million and $20 million. To date, the most expensive stamp ever sold went for $2.2 million in 1996.

CUSTOMER CARE

Employees at a Dunkin’ Donuts shop in Carle Place, N.Y., are glad that Nassau County ambulance medical technician Joseph Biundo wanted some coffee at 4 a.m. on May 30. That’s because, unknown to anyone, a malfunctioning oven vent was leaking dangerous levels of carbon monoxide at the time, and Biundo happened to be carrying a carbon monoxide detector strapped to his hip. When the carbon monoxide detector fired off, Biundo hurried patrons and employees out of the store and then phoned authorities, who were able to pinpoint the source of the leak.

BAD CALL

Police in West Midlands, U.K. released the audio of a particularly specious emergency call they received, and affixed one message: A poorly constructed ice cream cone is not the stuff of which emergency calls are made. On the 999 call—Britain’s version of the 911 system—an irate woman complained to the operator that an ice cream vendor had poorly distributed sprinkles on her dessert. “I know it doesn’t seem much of an emergency but...” the woman said on the call. “The [vendor] has basically he’s given me the ice cream and put the bits on one side, none on the other... He is refusing to give me the money back and saying I’ve got to take it like that.” Eventually the operator hung up on the angry customer.
Empty frigates
Children should experience and learn to love literature before they learn to dissect it

Has this ever happened to you? You’re in the airport terminal waiting to board a flight, or perhaps you’ve just taken a seat on a city bus. Across from you sits a woman reading a book. You tilt your head to scan the title (you’re always curious about what people are reading), and suddenly your heart skips a beat. It’s your favorite! Customary reserve takes a back seat as you gasp, “I love that book!” She looks up, eyes suddenly alight. “So do I!”

The next few minutes might strike bemused observers as a long-lost-relative reunion or charismatic revival service: sentences stampeding, hands fluttering, swoony sighs. It’s the meeting of two book lovers. Rare in person, but they meet continually online, over exclamation-studded reader reviews and blog reminiscences of lonely childhoods transformed by Jane Eyre or Robin Hood. They are living portraits of the Emily Dickinson poem: “There is no frigate like a book / To take us lands away; / Nor any coursers like a page / Of prancing poetry. . . .”

Anyone who has ever been shaken by a story, transported by a poem, or inspired by a well-written history fits my definition of “book lover.” C.S. Lewis (who as a boy experienced something like the scene I described in the first paragraph), understood this. Throughout his life he was vulnerable to stirring sagas and well-turned stanzas, a phenomenon he explored in An Experiment in Criticism. Not everyone is a book lover; Lewis suspected they were rare, but even a barely literate day laborer might find something to feed his soul in King Solomon’s Mines or “The Raven.”

It’s very odd, when you think about it. We come equipped with the capacity to enter a story, get to know fictional characters, and imagine ourselves beside them. Though it has no obvious practical value, the capacity is so deeply human it forms the bedrock of “the humanities.” After centuries of thrilling crowds and stirring hearts, literature became an academic subject—and some critics believe that’s the worst thing that ever happened to it.

“Literature” as subject is the study of literary craft. Craft is involved in every form of art, and learning about perspective and composition (for example) can help us understand a painting. But it can also distract us from the experience of just standing and looking. “The first demand any work of any art makes upon us is surrender,” Lewis wrote. “Look. Listen. Receive.” It makes sense to teach literature from a critical perspective in college, after students have read and liked dozens of books. But the younger the child, the less she’ll gain from character arcs and compare-and-contrast. In fact, too much of this could harm a child’s appreciation for literature in general, like poking at a live lab specimen until it’s dead.

The new Common Core standards appear to make a bad method much worse. Instead of reading lots of novels and stories, students are exposed to “texts,” which they are then taught to dissect. Fiction and poetry go in the same hopper with informative essays and tracts. The fourth- or fifth-grader can’t just read; critical exercises bar his way to the story and its potential “to take us lands away.” If books are frigates, children should be allowed to step aboard and experience the journey, not make detailed diagrams of the rigging. Curriculum writers don’t seem to understand the main problem with standard educational theory, at least since John Dewey: “The child is not a soul, but a brain. Brains don’t need experience; they only need facts. If your child’s summer reading list came with worksheets, ditch them if you can. Just let the kids read, and continue to read to them—lots of books, and all kinds of books. They don’t have to finish every one they start; literary tastes are as individual as fingerprints and take time to develop. The cost is low, the value high. Take it from Emily Dickinson: “How frugal is the chariot / That bears the human soul.”
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Finding virtue

**MOVIE**: Edge of Tomorrow is a sci-fi movie for the thinking man

**BY DERRINGER DICK**

Major William Cage (Tom Cruise) is a coward. Not a sniveling, whining sort of a coward, but a charismatic officer in the U.S. Army who does public relations work to stay out of combat and will do almost anything to keep it that way. The last thing he wants to do is strap on a mechanized battle suit and fight the invading alien horde. But circumstances are not in his favor, and he finds himself being dragged toward the battlefield by Master Sergeant Farell (Bill Paxton) who tells him that combat will be his baptism by fire—his chance to rectify his past wrongdoings, no matter what sort of parasitic lowlife he might have been in the past.

And baptized by fire he is. Over and over and over again. As he fights, his cowardice transforms into courage, and his selfishness gives way to selflessness, especially after he begins to work with Rita Vrataski (Emily Blunt), the war’s most decorated warrior. Together, they attempt to find and destroy the leader of the Mimics, the metallic alien warriors that have overrun most of Europe and seem uncannily skilled at adapting to human weapons and strategies.

*Edge of Tomorrow* is unmistakably a summer action flick. Alien invasions? Check. Awesome mechanized battle suits? Check. Extended combat sequences? Check. But it stands apart from standard summer fare because of its interesting and imaginative plot line (it is based on the novel *All You Need Is Kill* by Hiroshi Sakurazaka) and original character development. Unlike many action movies,
**Edge of Tomorrow** is complex enough to demand attention to the plot, not merely the elaborate action scenes. And while *Edge of Tomorrow* does not fully explore its metaphor of baptism by fire, it does take seriously the idea that virtue is born of adversity.

Virtue, in this case, mostly involves killing things and blowing stuff up, with a healthy sprinkling of saving individual’s lives and all of humanity thrown in for good measure. But cowardice is a real vice, born of selfishness, while courage is a genuine virtue, born of self-sacrifice—even if it is sometimes a genuine virtue, born of self-sacrifice—even if it is sometimes a genuine virtue, born of self-sacrifice—even if it is sometimes a genuine virtue, born of self-sacrifice—even if it is sometimes a genuine virtue, born of self-sacrifice—even if it is sometimes a genuine virtue, born of self-sacrifice—ever if it is sometimes. Computer-generated imagery should not devalue this film’s morality tale, even if it is sometimes

...overshadowed by explosions, car chases, and nifty tilt-rotor dropships.

Of course, no story is good if it is told badly. *Edge of Tomorrow* is directed by Doug Liman, who finds a good balance between gritty action sequences, plot propulsion, and occasional moments of laugh-out-loud comedy. (For those who hated the Bourne series and everything shaky-cam stands for, it does not co-star in this movie.) Tom Cruise and Emily Blunt execute their roles well, and a solid supporting cast backs them up.

That is not to say the movie is perfect or that it will be equally enjoyed by everyone. Some may not like inhabiting a world where governments decide to build the Hollywood alien-fighting weapon of choice—mechanized battle suits—to fight the Mimic invasion, instead of using nuclear weapons. Others may object to the film's catalog of death, destruction, and choice use of the English language, although the film as a whole is clean for a PG-13 film, eschewing constant swearing in favor of more productive dialogue.

As a whole, however, *Edge of Tomorrow* is a sci-fi movie for the thinking man, a well-executed and enjoyable film. Perhaps it is not an instant classic or a time-les masterpiece, but it represents the best of the contemporary action flick: good action sequences, an interesting plot, and solid characters. If you prefer your explosions with a side of story, this one’s for you.

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**DVD**

**Still Mine**

**BY MEGAN BASHAM**

During an early scene in *Still Mine*, a thoughtfully true story of lifelong love recently released on DVD, 87-year-old farmer Craig Morrison (James Cromwell) learns that he won’t be able to sell his strawberry crop for the year. A new federal regulation has decreed that retailers can only sell produce that’s been transported by refrigerated truck. Craig protests—he just picked his strawberries a couple hours ago, and it’s not a hot day. Nonetheless his regular buyer has no choice but to refuse the beautiful produce. “Seems like there’s a regulation for everything these days,” Craig mutters as he drives away.

If the strawberries represent the minor inconveniences wrought by bureaucracy, the rest of the film illustrates how very personal impersonal government can become.

Craig returns from his meeting with the grocer to discover that his Alzheimer’s-afflicted wife of 60-plus years has fallen down the stairs. Craig doesn’t want to put her in a nursing home. His father taught him all the skills of expert carpentry, and he owns a lovely piece of land—all he needs, he figures, to build a single-level home better equipped to meet her needs.

What he doesn’t figure on is a building inspector who flags Craig for everything from his lumber not being engineer-approved (though it exceeds the quality of most certified wood) to his trusses not being stamped by a certificated inspector (though it exceeds the quality of most certified wood) to his trusses not being engineer-approved (though they are more sound than typical professional work). Complying with a work stoppage order means Craig won’t have his new home ready for the worst of his wife’s illness. Ignoring it means a jail sentence.

We’ve all read stories of bureaucratic overreach and shaken our heads. But the image of a loving husband fighting the powers of the state to care for his wife shakes our hearts. The Morrismos’ relationship is real and complicated (Craig’s frequent swearing and a brief glimpse of his bare backside account for the PG-13 rating). But the specifics of their experience illustrate better than a stump speech ever could what we lose when we promote a safety net mandated by government over the freely given support of spouses, families, and churches.

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**Still Mine**

_IDA: MUSIC BOX FILMS • WORDS AND PICTURES: ROADSIDE ATTRACTIONS_
MOVIE

Ida

BY J.C. DERRICK

From Schindler’s List to Life Is Beautiful, a wide range of movies have examined aspects of the Holocaust, but few films explore the ripple effect of one of history’s darkest moments. That’s the void Polish writer and director Pawel Pawlikowski tries to fill with *Ida.*

Set in 1961, *Ida* (rated PG-13 for thematic elements and discreet nudity) tells the story of a young woman who is on the verge of taking her vows as a Catholic nun. Although Anna (Agata Trzebuchowska) grew up at the convent where she lives, the mother superior requires her to go meet her last surviving relative before committing to a lifetime of chastity, poverty, and obedience to the church. Anna soon learns from her aunt, Wanda (Agata Kulesza), that she was born as a Jewish girl named Ida. Her family died in the Holocaust. The stunning news leads Anna to question who she is and what she wants in life as she embarks on a mission with her aunt to find where her parents are buried.

Pawlikowski draws in viewers with a compelling narrative, superb acting, and mesmerizing cinematography—even though he uses no camera movement until the movie’s final scene. Quiet Polish dialogue (with English subtitles) and an unpredictable storyline keep the audience engaged throughout the 80-minute movie.

Pawlikowski eschews lighthearted moments—there’s hardly a smile in the movie—and delves deep into difficult subjects, including the meaning of life, death, the significance of family history, and the realities of post-war communism. The choice to shoot in black and white makes an already gloomy film even darker.

Pawlikowski succeeds in making a film that resonates with the audience, but he fails to include the most important part of a story: redemption. Anna is presented with only the false choice of life in a convent or the life of drunken revelry exemplified in her aunt. The result is a story that illustrates the hopelessness of life without Christ—whether it takes the form of embracing the world or shunning it.

MOVIE

Words and Pictures

BY ALICIA M. COHN

For a movie mainly about inspiration, *Words and Pictures* is spectacularly lacking in it.

This movie is an hour and 44 minute-long rant (that feels longer) masquerading as a romantic comedy about two private high-school teachers, one of English and the other art, who deliver fiery spontaneous monologues about the importance of words and pictures. And that’s too bad, because even though Jack Marcus and Dina Del Santo are caricatures, they are played by Clive Owen and Juliette Binoche, two good actors working hard to be authentic and to have honest chemistry when they are not forced to laugh their way through jokes this screenplay tries to pass off as witty banter.

When we meet them, Jack and Dina are living parallel empty lives struggling—for different reasons—to regain former artistic glory. Their students look to them for inspiration, they look to each other, and none of it works out. While the movie purports to end happily it’s unclear why.

The movie is rated PG-13 for “mature” themes, including alcohol abuse, some nude art, premarital sex, and mild language, but more offensive is the sheer lack of a point. “Is a picture more powerful than a word?” is an interesting question, but a movie about its various answers is not. Director Fred Schepisi and writer Gerald Di Pego seem most energized by the philosophical exposition taking place mainly in classroom settings, and fill the rest of the movie’s runtime with endless scenes of Dina struggling to paint and Jack falling down drunk. Unrelated subplots include teenage sexual harassment, a years-old one-night stand with a member of the school board, and the slow deterioration of a father-son relationship.

While words and pictures may “elevate” the characters’ lives beyond humdrum reality (such as her rheumatoid arthritis and his drinking problems), this movie doesn’t deserve to be elevated.
A century ago

Onto the world war treadmill

BY MARVIN OLASKY

Christopher Clark’s *The Sleepwalkers: How Europe Went to War in 1914* (Harper, 2012) engrossingly shows how myths that glorified terrorism a century ago led to millions of deaths and struck a blow to Christianity in Europe from which that continent has not recovered.

Clark begins his tale in 1903, when 28 assassins invaded the royal palace in Belgrade and after a two-hour search killed Serbia’s king and queen—but that episode in some ways started in 1389, when a Serbian assassin cut the throat of Turkey’s sultan, and then was captured and beheaded. From then on in Serbia, “assassination, martyrdom, victimhood and the thirst for revenge on behalf of the dead were central themes.”

By 1911 a Serbian Union or Death organization (aka the “Black Hand”) was in operation, with new recruits swearing an oath to “execute all missions and commands without question.” Leaders recruited several 19-year-olds, including the sickly Gavrilo Princip, to assassinate Archduke Franz Ferdinand, heir to the Austro-Hungarian empire that Serbs saw as a threat. Princip had memorized a long epic glorifying the assassin of 1389, and sometimes spent whole nights sitting at the grave of another famous assassin.

I won’t go through the convolutions that from 1887 to 1914 turned Europe into a powder keg with a Serbian fuse, but Clark explains well why World War I eventually became three-on-three, with the Central Powers (Germany, Austria-Hungary, and the Ottoman Empire on one side) and the Triple Entente (England, France, and Russia, big brother to the Serbs) on the other. It’s striking how incestuous Europe’s religious establishments were: German Kaiser Wilhelm II and British King George V were both grandsons of Queen Victoria, and Russian Tsar Nicholas II’s wife was Victoria’s granddaughter: “The outbreak of war in 1914,” Clark notes, “looks rather like the culmination of a family feud.”

British and French politicians, German militarists, and idiots all over played a role as well in the tragedy, but let’s cut to June 28, 1914. The lead Serbian plot to assassinate Franz Ferdinand failed, but because of a missed turn the archduke’s car stopped right in front of Princip, a poor shot. That allowed the teen to fire two shots at point-blank range into Ferdinand and his wife (see p. 80).

Four tragic years

Both sides of the three-on-three had their strengths and weaknesses, but overall the armies were even enough that the world war, like America’s Civil War, dragged on for four years: 600,000 died in the 1861-1865 conflict, 17 million died in the 1914-1918 slaughterhouse. Peter Hart’s *The Great War: 1914-1918* (Oxford, 2013) is a 532-page blow-by-blow combat history of the major battles, and Paul Fussell’s *Great War and Modern Memory* (Oxford, new edition, 2013, first published in 1975) displays and explains the psychological trauma.

Some with faith in God’s sovereignty wondered and wandered, but Philip Jenkins, in *The Great and Holy War: How World War I Became a Religious Crusade* (Harper, 2014), details the folly of those who thought they knew. The Christian religious establishment in country after country had slid into liberalism, and Jenkins points out that “the lack of any eternal absolutes allows the church to be swept along with contemporary political obsessions.” He notes that in Germany “liberal Protestantism... came close to state worship, if not war worship”—and hierarchs in other countries were not far behind.

After the war, Britain and France pinned all the blame on Germany instead of also taking responsibility, and thus sowed the seeds of World War II and its 60 million to 85 million deaths. Germany, beginning in 1919, had 15 years of political and cultural flailing summarized well in Eric Weitz’s *Weimar Germany: Promise and Tragedy* (Princeton University Press, new edition, 2013). Some anti-Communists even allied with a wild man they thought they could control, Adolf Hitler. –M.O.
NOTABLE BOOKS

Four recent nonfiction books reviewed by SUSAN OLASKY

Homer Economicus: The Simpsons and Economics edited by Joshua Hall
Some economics professors use The Simpsons to explain basic microeconomic principles to their classes. In this volume they contribute essays about money, market failure, externalities, and other concepts using examples drawn from the animated TV show. For example, an episode in which Homer gains weight so he can be classified as disabled (and thus be allowed to work from home) can help students understand the role of incentives and opportunity costs, the relation of means and ends, and how governmental policies affect individual behavior. When the Simpsons get an elephant and sell rides for $2, Homer rejoices at $58 earned until he discovers that food costs $300. He raises the cost of a ride to $500, and his revenues fall to zero.

Treasuring Christ When Your Hands Are Full Gloria Furman
This slender book brings the fullness of the gospel to bear on different facets of motherhood. Furman diagnoses one mother’s problem—“not a lack of creativity, accomplishment, or skill; but her inability to love God and others as Jesus loves her”—and shows that the remedy is not more practical parenting tips. In the chapter “Mommy Brain,” she writes about forgetfulness: “When the mundane looms larger than eternal life, we forget who God is, who we are, and who our children are.” In “The Fictitious Mother of the Year,” she lists ways mothers fall to live up to God’s holiness, and then points out “how firm our foundation of justification by faith really is.” She helps moms see their calling as “a piece of evidence of God’s triumphant agenda to give life despite the curse of death.”

The Screwtape Letters: Annotated Edition
C.S. Lewis
With the permission of Douglas Gresham, dramatist Paul McCusker took on the job of annotating Screwtape. He makes clear in the introduction that he wants to provide helpful context, clarification, and definitions rather than an interpretation of the famous correspondence between a senior devil and his novitiate. Each page of the large format book has two columns of text, with Screwtape in black in a large font and the annotations in red. Some notes refer to passages in Mere Christianity or other Lewis writings on the same topic, and others explain unfamiliar phrases or identify historical and literary figures and works.

Call the Midwife: A Memoir of Birth, Joy, and Hard Times Jennifer Worth
Jennifer Worth was a midwife in post–World War II London who worked in an East End neighborhood with an order of Anglican nuns that had provided medical care in the neighborhood for nearly a century. In this memoir, she recounts the history of the neighborhood and the habits of those who made their living on the docks. Her stories, both heartwarming and grim, depict a tight-knit, insular community struggling to survive. It’s hard to imagine that level of poverty in London just 60 years ago. Both the nuns and lay midwives were motivated by their Christian faith. At first Worth doesn’t understand that faith, but she eventually comes to share it.
DAVID JEREMIAH, author and senior pastor of a San Diego–area evangelical megachurch, has mastered the use of audio and video to expand his audience. He forthrightly explained to Patrick Henry College students how he does it.

We have in American evangelicalism a certain star system, and that can lead to cults of personality. You’re a star: How do you guard against that? I have a good wife: That’s the most important thing. I’m involved in a local church and don’t think of myself as a star. I was in a bookstore, and the girl who was running the store said, “I can’t believe you’re in my store, I’m so excited! Can you just wait here a minute?” She came back and said, “Would you sign these books for me?” She gave me seven books written by Josh McDowell. I signed Josh McDowell’s name in them and gave them back to her.

With everything else you’re doing, how do you produce your non-Josh McDowell books? I’ll preach a series of messages. That’s what I know how to do. Then I have one man who works for me, a Westminster graduate and a wordsmith. He’ll clean up
some of it, and then one other guy looks at it. The goal is to take the thoughts in my heart and the preaching that I do and put it in the best written form. I need a lot of people to help me, and I give them all credit. We’re a team.

Sounds like the labels we see in museums: from the studio of such and such famous artist. Yes. A friend that I did a book with did art, and a lot of people worked on his art. He didn’t paint all his pictures.

I appreciate your demystifying the process of authorship. What about becoming a bestseller? We release a new book every fall, and around that book are eight rallies that we do across the country in arenas. We have radio and television programs and a magazine read by 200,000-300,000 people: During the month the book is released all the articles, all the devotionals, everything has to do with the content of that book. We have a prelaunch campaign from August 15 to the first days of October, offer that book through the internet. We try to get people to pre-buy the book, and in order to do that we say if you pre-buy the book, we will open up for you a whole library of digital assets.

Then comes the release. We keep those books as they’re ordered until the book is released. Then we push them all through the wicket at the same time. When that happens, the book gets noticed: It’s not about how many you sell; it’s about how fast they go through the sale programs so they get noticed. One of the challenges if you write as a Christian is that Christian bookstores don’t report to the bestsellers lists, so you’ve got to build a marketplace in the Barnes & Nobles, the Books-A-Millions, the Targets, the big houses so the books get counted. For the first time last year we sold more books in secular bookstores than we sold in Christian bookstores.

The New York Times for its bestseller list counts sales from a bunch of secular stores; I understand there’s a company that will go in and buy several books in each of these bookstores. The companies that do that spread the release point of these books that are purchased by individuals so they can get attention. Is that legitimate? The bottom line is you’re around the message. When I do a new book, they’ll create 10 vignettes to introduce every chapter so that every time it comes on the air it grabs people’s attention. Somebody asked me if it’s fun to write a book, and I said no, it’s not fun to have written a book, but it is fun to market one.

When you start a new sermon series that’ll eventually become a book, how do you decide what to emphasize? I love to preach through the Bible: Right now I’ve been in the book of Mark. When you preach consecutively through the Bible, you may think: How’s that going to help you with what else you’re doing? It helps you stay alert to all the issues that are going boy of Mark is “immediately”? It’s in there 42 times, and every time you turn around Mark is jumping off into something else. It’s difficult for me when I go to do a topical series and leave the consecutive exposition of the Scripture.

One topical series became your book last year, What Are You Afraid Of? In the spring I preached 10 messages on fear and that 10 message series became the book, then aired on television in the fall. As soon as I got done with that, we also did a small group curriculum, which I’d never done that before. I taped condensed messages on fear and made them available to our small group leaders so they could play them in the homes,

“You can’t just write a book and say I’m not going to have anything to do with marketing. If you don’t care enough about it to try and figure out how to get it in the hands of other people, nobody else is going to either.”
The old ballgame

THE BASEBALL PROJECT adds to its impressive lineup of albums about America’s pastime

By Arsenio Orteza

The Baseball Project is a uniquely American alternative-rock supergroup made up of the Young Fresh Fellows’ Scott McCaughey, Dream Syndicate’s Steve Wynn, plus Steve Wynn & the Miracle 3’s Linda Pitmon, and R.E.M.’s Pete Buck and Mike Mills. They write and perform affectionately witty and catchy songs about baseball—its players and fans, heroes and villains, winners and losers—sometimes in the same song. Internal monologues are their specialty.

When they debuted in 2008 with Vol. 1: Frozen Ropes and Dying Quails, many fans regarded the “Vol. 1” as a joke. “Past Time,” after all, name-checked over a dozen famous players. And there were whole songs devoted to Jackie Robinson, Satchel Paige, Willie Mays, Harvey Haddix, Curt Flood, Fernando Valenzuela, Jack McDowell, Big Ed Delahanty, Mark McGwire (or was it Barry Bonds?), and Ted Williams (the language of which would’ve had an ump ejecting them). Surely, The Project had emptied its bullpen. Only it hadn’t. If the subsequent 16 tracks of “real-time commentary” collected in 2010 as The Broadside Ballads was the musical equivalent of a batter’s staying alive by fouling off pitches, Vol. 2: High and Inside (2011) was an extra-base hit for sure.

Getting McCaughey, Wynn, and Co. to first base was the addition to the group’s insightfully, even poignantly, fleshed-out roster of Ichiro Suzuki, Tony Conigliaro, Reggie Jackson, Roger Clemens, Carl Mays, Pablo Sandoval, Tim Lincecum, Denard Span, Pete Rose, Sal Maglie, Ryne Duren, Don Drysdale, and Bob Gibson. Earning them a double was even hookier and harder-rocking hooks than they’d rolled out the first time.

And now there’s 3rd (YepRoc). It may not be a homer, but it improves The Project’s already impressive slugging percentage.

Coming in for admiration and/or sympathy this time are Luis Tiant, Dale Murphy, Hank Aaron, Babe Ruth, Larry Yount, every beloved player with a lousy personality or a rap sheet (“They Played Baseball”), and—with among the bonus cuts—Prince Fielder. Coming in for disapprobation and/or sympathy: Lenny Dykstra, Alex Rodriguez, Pascual Pérez, and—with among the bonus cuts—Melky Cabrera. Just plain celebrated are baseball-card collecting, Yankee Stadium’s Monument Park, and the meditative properties of pouring over box scores.

The music ranges from folk-rock to power-pop, the singing from McCaughey’s and Wynn’s sports-nerd whimsy to Pitmon’s ball-girl charm. Both vary in intensity along with the humor-to-analysis ratio (which remains about 50-50).

But what best brings all of the band’s qualities together is “The Day Dock Went Hunting Heads.” Dock is Dock Ellis, the charismatic, multitalented, and notoriously unpredictable Pittsburgh Pirates pitcher who was the subject of Donald Hall’s masterly sports biography Dock Ellis in the Country of Baseball. The song mentions Ellis’ most notorious accomplishment, throwing a no-hitter on LSD, but focuses on the day he attempted to jump-start the slumping Bucs by hitting every Cincinnati Reds batter that he faced before getting pulled in the first inning. Thirty years after the fact, the incident—and now the song—still possesses inspirational properties.

The official version concludes with a Ramonesy, one-minute, three-second version of “Take Me Out to the Ballgame.” It’s the kind of closer that suggests three strikes may be all the Project’s members have in them.

But in baseball there often are extra innings—a fact for which one can only hope Roberto Clemente, Marv Throneberry, Brooks Robinson, Ted Kluszewski, Joe Garagiola, Frank Howard, and Roy Campanella are on deck for a cleanup-batting Vol. 4.
NOTABLE CDs

New or recent pop-rock albums reviewed by ARSENIO ORTEZA

**Turn Blue** *The Black Keys*
Give Dan Auerbach and Patrick Carney credit for trying to maintain their precarious place atop the rock ‘n’ roll heap. Not only have they retained Danger Mouse, the producer who helmed 2011’s *El Camino* and proved that their garage-rock minimalism could withstand modernization, but they’re forging ahead too. Their problem is that they still have nothing to say worth quoting in love letters or scrawling on restroom walls (tell-tale title: “Waiting on Words”). And thus they fail the ultimate garage-rock—modernized or otherwise—test.

**The Box Set Series** *Daryl Hall & John Oates*
Hall & Oates really were special as hit machines go. And although their previous four-disc box is only five years old and has 30 more songs, this economy-priced, 44-track, no-frills package has its uses. First, it spans only 1975–1990, leaving the obscurities to the duo’s possession obsessives. Second, the “deep album cuts” restore long (and unjustly) overlooked catchy tunes to the canon (best: “The Last Time,” “Give It Up”). Third, every sparkling pop-soul hit (assuming that the live “She’s Gone” counts) is included.

**As Sure as the Sun** *Ellie Holcomb*
Unlike the earnest Everyman folk-rock that she helps her husband make in Drew Holcomb and the Neighbors, Ellie Holcomb’s solo soft-pop glows around a poetic core of explicit Christian faith. Plainspoken prayers and confessions link language from hymns and Scripture while piano-centric instrumentation rides subtly (and sometimes not so subtly) beautiful melodies to the most flattering effect that the producers Ben Shive and Holcomb’s father Brown Bannister can muster. And galvanizing the parts into a whole is Holcomb’s voice, which arrests from beginning to end.

**Xscape** *Michael Jackson*
The skinny: eight tracks partially recorded between 1983 and 2002, finally completed by contemporary, clout-wielding producers. Expect a ghoulish mish-mash and you’ll be pleasantly surprised. Expect a Great Lost Album and you’ll be disappointed. Figure eight tracks coming in at 34 minutes to be too little too late and you’ll understand why all eight are reprised in their “original versions” and why “Love Never Felt So Good” appears thrice. Listen to “Do You Know Where Your Children Are” and you’ll wonder why this album wasn’t called Clueless.

To see more music news and reviews, go to wng.org/music
These days when a book is the click of a mouse away, it’s important to remember what suffering and hardship guided many great books to safe harbor in our hands.

Fifty years ago Boris Pasternak smuggled messages on cigarette paper to the Italian publisher of Doctor Zhivago. The publisher told Pasternak to trust the manuscript only to a courier who could produce the matching half of a torn bill. The Soviets went so far as to send a surrogate to Milan to intimidate the publisher, but the poet-turned-novelist and his publisher held fast, determined to see the work survive.

Another Soviet dissident writer, Aleksandr Solzhenitsyn, documented (see The Oak and the Calf) the lengths necessary for his manuscripts make it out of the Soviet Union. The Gulag Archipelago’s three volumes were typed out at least four times by accomplices then glued into false book bindings, buried in backyards, concealed in the lid of a phonograph, and stored in the grate of a fireplace—in that case quickly lit when the KGB arrived, which it did.

One of Solzhenitsyn’s erstwhile typists, a librarian from Leningrad, produced multiple copies of manuscripts and squirreled them in secret places to be smuggled to the West. The KGB tracked her down, interrogated her for five days—leading to the discovery of The Gulag Archipelago and the Nobel laureate’s expulsion to West Germany in 1974. The librarian? She was found hanged in her tiny apartment.

The Soviets weren’t the only ones who knew how to gag free speech. More recently, the Chinese Communist Party jailed Liao Yiwu four years for his poem “Massacre” and subsequent writings on the 1989 Tiananmen Square uprising. Officers repeatedly searched his house and took manuscript pages. Tortured in an overcrowded prison, and witness to inmate deaths at the hands of interrogators “as commonplace as rice,” Liao did the obvious thing and wrote a book about it. His preface to For a Song and a Hundred Songs begins: “I have written this book three times, thanks to the relentless obstructions of the Chinese security police.”

And what more shall I say? For time (and space) would fail me to tell of Dietrich Bonhoeffer, Salman Rushdie, Naguib Mahfouz, or Liu Xiaobo, the 58-year-old 2010 Nobel laureate who languishes since 2008 in a Chinese prison. These men plus others faced the noose, escaped assassins, endured interrogations, witnessed beatings, wrote books in code then transcribed them all over again—so that you and I could read their works in a hammock by filtered summer light.

Their skill and determination to preserve the stories of humanity at its “absolute zero of existence,” as German novelist Herta Müller points out, gave them a compulsion for observation that proved both a way out for them and a way to record for our benefit. “Perception is a torment and the torment of perception is a blessing,” said Müller. Whether explicitly stated or not, all are yearning toward a higher authority than the state, a better country, and a truer hope.

This internet age, where every man and woman can be his own publisher, might appear to close the gap for the dissident writer, making censorship difficult. But the internet and social media are more suited to sprints of courage, and the works of these dissident writers are marathon runs, the result of years and lifetimes of risk.

That’s why any oppressive state knows the most dangerous things of all are the ideas and stories told in books.
Legal Christian Publishing in China

One of The Most Significant Opportunities for the Advancement of the Gospel in a Generation.

In recent years it has become possible to receive government approval for some forms of Christian literature in China. These changes have enormous implications for the future of the Chinese church!

The Robert Morrison Project is a non-profit, non-denominational Organization dedicated to legally translating and publishing reformed literature in China. Our aim is to focus on areas of the world where the church is poor, faces great hardship, and often has no access to quality Christian literature.

**Why is legal Christian publishing in China so important?** China has one of the largest publishing vacuums of legal Christian books in the world. Once a book receives official approval it can then be sold to anyone, anywhere, in any quantity without any fear of reprisal. The book has complete, unrestricted access to the entire nation. With only about 1,500 Christian books in legal circulation in China, this is truly a once in a generation opportunity.

Our goal over the next ten years is to legally publish 120 reformed titles in China which will provide urgently needed resources for Chinese pastors and missionaries to shepherd the church. The challenge in fulfilling this goal is a lack of funding. Christian publishing in China is still very much in its infancy, and consequently it must rely on outside financing.

Will you prayerfully consider making a financial contribution towards this publishing project? Together we can make a difference by supporting the church in China. For more details or to make a tax-deductible donation, please contact:

**Robert Morrison Project**

P.O. Box 51788, Durham, NC 27717
Email: rmp@psmail.net ● www.robertmorrisonproject.org

“**This project has enormous potential. If the books are chosen well and the translations are first class, the potential influence for the gospel, the promise of edifying and strengthening believers, the hope for raising biblical and theological literacy, can scarcely be overestimated.**”

- Dr. D.A. Carson, Professor, Trinity Evangelical Divinity School

Pictured here is one of the eight Christian bookstores in Beijing. Currently, there are about 200 Christian bookstores in China. Fifteen years ago there were none.
WORDS ON PAPER

Three reasons for pessimism, and three more for optimism, about the future of printed books

BY JANIE B. CHEANEY  Illustration by Krieg Barrie

The room was buzzing. The speaker at a local writers group in 1998, executive editor of an e-publishing company, had described a future electronic Eden: closer relations between authors, publishers, and readers; royalties of 50 percent or more; faster submission turnaround; lower overhead translating to greater profits. Caught up in her own enthusiasm, the speaker snatched a stray book from a nearby table. “In 20 years,” she said, waving the volume so vigorously its pages flapped, “what use will anybody have for this?”

Mutterers from the audience, uneasily shifting in chairs. She’d gone too far.

“Reports of my death have been greatly exaggerated,” Mark Twain wrote in response to a premature obituary. Other overhasty death reports have consigned Republicans, men, socialism, and God to the grave. As for physical books, the e-publisher represented by our speaker that day is now defunct, while volumes with spines and covers still dominate library shelves. Book lovers have breathed a sigh of relief, but the future of the printed page is murky.

Books and culture: inseparable, at least in the Western mind, since the first printed Bible rolled off Johannes Gutenberg’s press. But the dominance of electronic images leads publishing professionals to say we’re in the biggest revolution since Gutenberg, and nobody knows exactly where it’s headed. The signs are troubling, in at least three areas:

First, changes in publishing. Fewer editors take time to groom and develop a promising writer. Publishers shove aside midlist titles in their search for potential blockbusters on which the companies gamble huge advances. The big mergers of the ’90s and early aughts, always followed by downsizing, reduced the number of options for a promising manuscript. As veteran editors retired or became agents, the remaining staff skewed younger and trendier, hunting the next big fad rather than building up a cache of quality literature.

More significantly, publishers failed to get ahead of the e-curve. The electronic reader our guest speaker so enthusiastically promoted back in 1998 was roughly the size of a shoebox: It was awkward to use and had
little content. That was the future? Lulled into a false sense of security, traditional publishers let the insignificant share of e-reading consumers chow down on B-list fiction, unaware that a revolution was brewing in the R&D department at Amazon.com.

With the introduction of the Kindle came the second revolutionary wave—not so much in the way books are read, for bare words on a handheld screen are processed the same as on paper. The battle developed over the way books are sold.

When Jeff Bezos launched his online business in 1995 he sold only books, and publishers welcomed Amazon as an easy way to sell lots of product. With the Kindle it became too easy—and too cheap, for publishers who preferred to set their own prices rather than the $9.99 (or less) that Amazon demanded for Kindle editions. Heated skirmishes led eventually to a pitched legal battle, with five of the six major U.S. publishers (Random House sat this one out) making a deal with Apple to determine their own prices for open-source iPad editions, in return for Apple’s 30 percent commission.

Amazon then filed a complaint with the Federal Trade Commission, and in 2012 the Department of Justice sued Apple and the five publishers for “monopolistic” practices. Amazon, the original monopoly, won. Many publishers say Jeff Bezos doesn’t care about books; selling them is merely an effective means of gathering customer data to sell everything else. Amazon now controls at least one-third of the bookselling business and has already flexed its considerable muscle over which publishers to promote or minimize. What if it exercises that same influence over what titles (and ideas) to encourage or ban?

But Amazon isn’t to blame for the third big cultural change, and that is in reading itself. Four years ago, Nicholas Carr penned The Shallows: What the Internet Is Doing to Our Brains, in which he claimed that online content had begun to erode the modern reader’s ability to concentrate on a printed text. The habits of distraction we learn online, such as clicking, scrolling, skimming, and jumping from one link to another, carry over to our reading of novels. Surveys indicate a continuing decline in reading among teens especially, making us wonder how younger generations will learn to process information.

Do books still influence culture? Culture obviously influences books, often for the worse, as we saw last year when Fifty Shades of Grey racked up record sales for soft-core porn. Still, those who love books on paper can take heart at three hopeful signs:

First, digital book sales have leveled off to about one-third of the market, suggesting that readers still like the feel of a book in their hands. This is true even among the screen-obsessed young: Some studies show they prefer physical textbooks for studying. If they read, they do so on the printed page at least as much as on iPads.

Second, while the number of independent bookstores has dropped by half since the mid-‘90s, those that remain are feisty and dedicated. At the American Booksellers Association Children’s Institute last spring—the first event of its kind—I met several brave individuals who are opening new stores to appeal to niche markets or local tastes. If their former nemesis Barnes & Noble goes the way of Borders, there may be room in its crumbling shadow for the old neighborhood bookseller to move back and build a loyal customer base.

Third, trashy books will always find a market, but Fifty Shades has spawned no equally successful imitators, and best-seller lists of the last few years offer a more balanced picture. Amazon’s Top 25 for 2013 included two Christian titles (Heaven Is for Real and Jesus Calling), one classic (The Great Gatsby, with its movie tie-in), and eight juvenile or Young Adult novels. The YA publishing division has enjoyed spectacular growth, while sales of children’s books, new titles as well as classics, remain reassuringly steady.

Books are still loved—how they look, how they feel, what they say for themselves, and what they say about us. That love may yet become as theoretical as Americans’ nostalgia for rail travel, which doesn’t convert to buying tickets. Trends indicate fewer readers in our future and perhaps fewer books of quality. But at WORLD, we remain hopeful.

Meaning, here’s our annual books issue, with over 200 quality titles. Be influenced.
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www.rts.edu
Excellence in popular theology, history, and analysis

BY JANIE B. CHEANEY & MARVIN OLASKY

Photo by Matt Rose

THIS YEAR, INSTEAD OF having one Book of the Year, our committee of five WORLD writers chose an outstanding title in each of three categories—popular theology, history, and analysis. Two more in each category are runners-up, and we’re also spotlighting a book that doesn’t fit in those categories but deserves special recognition.
TOPIC: • What’s Your Worldview? (Crossway)
• How to Talk to a Skeptic (Crossway)

THE ORIGINALITY and conciseness of James Anderson’s What’s Your Worldview? An Interactive Approach to Life’s Big Questions (Crossway) make it our Book of the Year in this category. Structured like a “Choose Your Own Adventure” interactive story, the outcome depends on the choices readers make.

What’s Your Worldview? should appeal especially to teens and college students.

For example, answering yes to a question about the existence of objective truth takes the reader to the Knowledge question: “Is it possible to know the truth?” A yes answer there leads to the Goodness question: “Is anything objectively good or bad?” That yes answer leads to the Religion question, “Is there more than one valid religion?” A no answer leads to “Is there a God?” followed by “Is God a personal being?” and “Is God a perfect being?” Answering yes to both leads to questions about God communicating with humans, then to questions about Jesus, and eventually to Christianity.

Other answers start the reader down paths to many other worldviews, including atheistic dualism or idealism, deism or finite godism, Islam or Judaism, materialism or monism, mysticism or nihilism, pantheism or polytheism, relativism or skepticism, Platonism or

THE TENSION BETWEEN law and grace (or works and faith, or legalism and antinomianism) is basic both to the Christian life and the Christian church. We all tend to fall on one side of the fence or the other, and given our basically unbalanced nature, perfect balance is impossible. In Extravagant Grace (P&R), Barbara R. Duguid attempts to sweep aside the dichotomy and frame the issue in terms of 2 Corinthians 12:9: “My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness.” “God thinks that you will actually come to know him better as a desperate and weak sinner in continual need of grace than you would as a triumphant Christian warrior who wins each and every battle against sin.”

This might be an especially timely reminder for a church wounded and bleeding in the culture wars. Over our failure rides the truth that God is in control and will work out all things for our good, both in the public arena and in our

WINNER:
What’s Your Worldview?
by James N. Anderson

RUNNERS-UP:
Extravagant Grace
by Barbara R. Duguid
How to Talk to a Skeptic
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Unitarianism, and so forth—21 options in all. When readers hit the end of the trail they have chances to think again: For example, those whose answers bring them to deism may reconsider the Communication question by going to page 34, the Perfection question by going to page 32, or the Personality question by going to page 29.

Some “Choose Your Own Adventure” storylines do not end happily—choose poorly and belligerent goblins await. What’s Your Worldview? demonstrates that most endings are self-contradictory or hard to live with. For example, Anderson asks readers who end up at pantheism, “Are you willing to say that ultimately everything is good and nothing is evil? Perhaps you are. But can you walk the talk as well? Can you live consistently with that result of your worldview?” –M.O.
hearts. A certain tension remains, and a single book can’t settle it once and for all, but Duguid reminds us where grace abounds, and that the greatest strength for a Christian lies in complete and utter dependence. —J.B.C.

DONALD JOHNSON’S How to Talk to a Skeptic (Bethany House) rightly criticizes the idea of marketing Christianity as a consumer product to be sold by means of an advertising pitch: It will meet your needs and desires. Instead, he understands that the important question regarding Christianity (or any other religion) is not “What can it do for me?” but “Is it true?” Reacting to each specific assault on Scripture keeps us playing whack-a-mole, so a comparative approach works better with today’s young people. “Talk about which story of the universe is more reasonable to believe: Christianity or something else.”

To make that case, we should show that “Christianity is the worldview that best accounts for the evidence. Compared to any other worldview an unbeliever cares to offer, Christianity most adequately and comprehensively makes sense of life as we experience it every day.” Johnson shows that defending the reliability of Scripture and the historicity of the resurrection of Christ is crucial, but other bulwarks to faith—such as personal experience of God, our intimate knowledge of being conscious and having a conscience, the overarching unfolding of history, and the way the world and the universe seem designed—may be more relevant to an unbeliever. —M.O.

Townsend’s thorough research brings us the story of Henry Gerecke, a German-speaking American Lutheran pastor who took on the task of ministering to the worst of sinners—21 Nazi leaders including Hermann Georing, Albert Speer, and Joachim von Ribbentrop—because he did not see them as beyond redemption. This conviction stemmed from Gerecke’s lifelong calling to reach not the rich and famous but the poor and infamous: the unemployed of the Depression, death row inmates in Illinois, and war criminals at Nuremberg.

Townsend keeps the central narrative moving but also refers to Simon Wiesenthal’s famous story, “The Sunflower,” in which Wiesenthal refuses to forgive an SS officer for his role in the massacre of the inhabitants of a Jewish town. Some critics contrast that refusal with a Christian willingness to forgive, but Gerecke knew that his task was neither to forgive nor to condemn. His role as he saw it was to help the Nazis understand the evil they had done; the rest was up to God. The criminal on a cross next to Christ made it to heaven, because Jesus said...
so, but who could absolve someone who has killed six people, or six hundred, or six million?

Gerecke knew the biblical answer: A Nazi murderer who comes to believe in Christ and rests on Him alone for salvation can go to heaven. That’s hard for some to accept. That’s one reason this book is so useful. —M.O.

WORLD: PLENDER equates “government” with “community” and castigates Republicans for dog-eat-dog individualism, he’s continuing (and twisting) a political discussion that began with two great champions of liberty, Thomas Paine and Edmund Burke. The Great Debate, by Yuval Levin (Basic Books), exposes the roots of ideologies that remain with us today.

Paine’s fundamental presupposition was that the basic unit of society is the sovereign individual, equal to all other sovereign individuals, who has the power to remake himself with every generation. Burke saw individuals in context, shaped by class, family, nation, and religion, with obligations to each. Men and societies could change, according to Burke, but never without due consideration of their context. The journalistic salvos between these two exposed the core of political thought for the next 300 years: “what makes a government legitimate, what the individual’s place is in the larger society, and how each generation should think about those who came before and those who will come after.”

Levin explores the 18th-century dialectic between Nature and History, Choice and Obligation, and other dilemmas in learned (some-times dry) prose. The reader is allowed to draw his own conclusions, but thoughtful 21st-century observers will find plenty of modern parallels. —J.B.C.

THE TITLE OF Larry Schweikart and Dave Dougherty’s A Patriot’s History of the Modern World, Vol. II (Sentinel) tips us a clue: This history from 1945-2012 leans toward a conservative view that sees the United States as exceptional. Four reasons, introduced in the first volume, are expanded here: “a Christian (mostly Protestant) religious foundation, free enterprise, common law, and private property with titles and deeds.” Sadly, these pillars are decaying. The narrative covers events all over the world, not just the United States, but as the unchallenged leader of the free world after Europe lay in ruins, the USA carried a weight and authority far beyond its considerable geographical size.

To paraphrase Flannery O’Connor, a good history is hard to find. In the vast middle ground between Howard Zinn and Lyndon LaRouche lies as many interpretations of history as there are historians, but Schweikart and Dougherty strike a reasonable balance between honest evaluation and traditional values. Since “Modern” is defined in decades rather than centuries, 583 pages (plus notes) is sufficient for due consideration of such events as the Korean War, the Berlin Wall (rise and fall), and the strengths as well as weaknesses of Harry Truman and Ronald Reagan. —J.B.C.

ANALYSIS

WINNER: The Tyranny of Experts by William Easterly

RUNNERS-UP: Mission Drift by Peter Greer & Chris Horst
Darwin’s Doubt by Stephen C. Meyer

THE WINNER IN THIS category is William Easterly’s The Tyranny of Experts: Economists, Dictators, and the Forgotten Rights of the Poor (Basic Books), which shows the folly of a technocratic approach to poverty-fighting. The economic “experts” whom Easterly lambasts demonstrate “a terrible naiveté about power—that as restraints on power are loosened or even removed, that same power will remain beneficent of its own accord.”
Easterly sees this naïveté as tragic because “the real cause of poverty [is] the unchecked power of the state against poor people without rights.”

Easterly eviscerates top-down, government-centric approaches that treat people as blank slates. He’s long been at war with Jeffrey Sachs and others who tend to “see each poor society as infinitely malleable for the development expert to apply his technical solutions.” Easterly regards local people without Ph.D’s as more knowledgeable about how to use funds effectively: “Major gains in well-being would be possible by moving funds from problems with low benefit-cost ratios to high benefit-cost ratios, but these gains will never happen when the goals are set inflexibly from the beginning.” Easterly could go deeper by looking at the theological roots of unchecked, centralized power: When we don’t worship God and in desperation turn instead to human gods, government power grows. But he does point out the complicity of journalists who don’t worry about a leader with “unconstrained power” because “his intentions concerning what to do with that power are presumed to be good.”

Easterly notes that while dictators kept their nations poor for decade after decade, “the New York Times was four times more likely to mention successful autocratic countries than failed ones over 1960 to 2008.” Nevertheless, hope remains: James Madison saw states as laboratories, and Easterly says progress comes when we “have many independent individuals trying lots of different things. ... Just as important as the science beloved by technocrats is the individual’s knowledge of constantly changing details of other people, places, and opportunities. More important than how to build a machine is where and when and for what group of people a machine will really pay off.” —M.O.

Peter Greer and Chris Horst, co-authors of Mission Drift: The Unspoken Crisis Facing Leaders, Charities, and Churches (Bethany House), have seen firsthand how good works that begin on solid foundations often lose their grip on Christ and become ensnared in scandal, financial problems, or outright secularism. Greer (the president) and Horst (the development director) of HOPE International describe problems in their own organization and the steps they took to correct them. Other organizations, such as Christian Children’s Fund, neither heeded nor corrected, and in time dropped “Christian” from their label entirely.

The authors are correct about an “unspoken crisis,” which makes this little book both prophetic and practical. They sketch the clear contrasts between Mission Drift and Mission True organizations, the latter distinguished by humility and faith: “Seeing God for who He is clarifies our role: We are stewards.” Both established organizations and hopeful organizers should take note of potential red flags, such as “Death by Minnows,” “Functional Atheism,” and “Follow[ing] the Money.” The chapters on measurement and corporate culture seem especially helpful for new charities struggling to define their mission and set their goals. —J.B.C.

Stephen Meyer’s Darwin’s Doubt: The Explosive Origin of Animal Life and the Case for Intelligent Design (HarperOne) starts with Charles Darwin’s confession: “The difficulty of understanding the absence of vast piles of fossiliferous strata, which on my theory were no doubt somewhere accumulated before the [Cambrian] epoch, is very great.” Darwin admitted that the lack of intermediary forms in the fossil record undermined the key element of his theory, incremental change over long periods of time. He expected the missing links would turn
up eventually, but to this day the fossil record has revealed no valid prototypes for the “Cambrian explosion” of new animal forms. Meyer was WORLD’s Daniel of the Year in 2009, shortly after he published his previous big book, Signature in the Cell, which unravels the incredibly complex structure of the single living cell and demonstrates the unlikeliness of its evolving by chance. Darwin’s Doubt expands that picture with an examination of what the Cambrian explosion reveals and what sort of hypothesis might best fit the evidence. Using anecdote, analogy, drawings, and diagrams, he makes a highly technical subject accessible for a dedicated layman. Along the way he explores the nature of science itself, and how unexamined assumptions can keep scientists from seeing what is right under their noses. —J.B.C.

IN THE SPOTLIGHT
Systematic Theology
by John M. Frame

John Calvin wrote one. Charles Hodge wrote one, and so did Louis Berkhof, Wayne Grudem, and Robert Reymond, among others. Now Reformed Theological Seminary professor John Frame has written Systematic Theology: An Introduction to Christian Belief (P&R). All systematic theologies might be considered “marginal” in some sense, because the whole point is to unify all scriptural teaching. But some focus on obscure interpretations or cutting-edge scholarship, to the detriment of plain truth. Not Frame’s: “Our theological problems, he writes, “usually arise from our failure to note what is obvious.”

Frame’s theology is Bible-centered, readable, and devout. Following a chapter on what theology is (“the application of Scripture, by persons, to every area of life”), he launches his major theme: “The Centrality of Divine Lordship,” or the Lord himself as the main character and driving force of history. From there we survey the overarching narrative of the Bible, then move on to specific doctrines: of God, the Word, Knowledge, Angels and Demons, Man, Christ, the Holy Spirit, the Church, Last Things, and Christian Ethics. That last chapter seems surprisingly short, but our ethical choices stem from our theology, and Frame has already spent the previous 1,100 pages getting our theology straight. To facilitate individual or group study, he includes key terms, study questions, memory verses, and resources at the end of each chapter.

Frame is known for his “per- perspectival” view of knowledge: “We will see that often in the Bible a subject is discussed not according to different parts, but according to different perspectives,” which relate ultimately to God’s Trinitarian nature. The Lordship attributes of God, for example, consist of His authority, His control, and His presence. Man, as the image of God, also exercises authority, control, and presence to a limited degree.

Triangle diagrams are scattered throughout the text, providing a novel way to think about doctrinal matters like salvation, saving faith, revelation, and providence. In a time when clear exposi- tory preaching is on the decline and standards—both doctrinal and ethical—are slipping, Systematic Theology is a great addition to Christianity’s library. —J.B.C.
An *eligible* option under the Affordable Care Act, Christian Healthcare Ministries is part of the health care *solution* and has shared more than $1 billion in the last 20 years.
WHAT ARE YOU DOING TO MATURE YOUR PEOPLE?

Is it working?

Highlighting the successful “life-on-life missional discipleship” practices that his church has refined for over twenty years, Randy Pope inspires pastors and church leaders to leave behind ineffective programs and to stop “outsourcing” the task of discipleship by moving it from the margins of the church back into the mainstream.

“From this book you will learn both principles and practices for shaping people into Christlikeness by the Spirit’s power”
Tim Keller, Redeemer Presbyterian Church, New York City

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SEVEN MORE FAT YEARS

160 reading recommendations, 2007-2014

BY MARVIN OLASKY

In 2007, WORLD’s books issue included an annotated list of the top 100 books I had reviewed during seven fat years for publishing. Those familiar with Joseph’s saga in Genesis knew the question to ask: Would seven lean years come next? Happily, no: While some Christian publishers now controlled by secular publishers have seen a decline in quality, good books still run the gauntlet and gain readers.

The following pages recall 140 of the best books (out of about 800 I’ve reviewed during that period), mostly by reading them during my hour a day on the treadmill, and the names of 20 novelists worth checking out. This time I’ve organized them in eight categories. Three sets of 20 books each are on friction-filled subjects: Christianity vs. atheism, Darwinism, and Islam. Then come four broader sets—history, biography, current events, and poverty-fighting—followed by the list of fiction writers. I’ve asterisked several that made our Book of the Year short list and receive more coverage in the article beginning on page 40.

CHRISTIANITY VS. ATHEISM

Standing for Christ against atheism: James Anderson’s What’s Your Worldview? allows readers to identify their own theological leanings. Gregory Koukl’s Tactics: A Game Plan for Discussing Your Christian Convictions shows how to deal with self-destructive philosophical arguments (pointing out, for example, that the statement “There are no absolutes” is an absolute). Evidence for God: 50 Arguments for Faith from the Bible, History, Philosophy, and Science, edited by William Dembski and Michael Licona, offers brief, handy apologetic essays.

Looking for good responses to criticisms of the Bible? Jeffrey Russell’s Exposing Myths About Christianity answers 145 viral lies and legends such as, “The New Testament was composed long after the death of Jesus.” Donald Johnson’s How to Talk to a Skeptic helps us compare the reasonability of stories about the universe. Christopher Wright’s The God I Don’t Understand: Reflections on Tough Questions of Faith will help Christians flummoxed by events such as Joshua’s invasion of Canaan.

Those who exalt our own reason should read John Wilkinson’s No Argument for God: Going Beyond Reason in Conversations About Faith. Mitch Stokes’ A Shot of Faith (to the Head) vigorously and rightly criticizes evidentialism by showing that facts of any kind assume a certain faith. Anthony Selvaggio’s 7 Toxic Ideas Polluting Your Mind provides succinct critiques from a Christian perspective of ideologies such as egalitarianism, consumerism, and relativism. Richard Sherlock’s Nature’s End: The Theological Meaning of...
the New Genetics lays out the limitations of natural law and rationalistic apologetics. If we ourselves are prideful, William Farley’s Gospel-Powered Humility shows how essential it is to accept God’s wisdom over our own. Barbara Duguid’s Extravagant Grace* shows (as its subtitle states) God’s Glory Displayed in Our Weakness. Darrow Miller’s LifeWork: A Biblical Theology for What You Do Every Day effectively unites truth and practical application. Ann Voskamp’s One Thousand Gifts beautifully emphasizes the importance of thankfulness.

Going deeper: Ellis Potter’s 3 Theories of Everything is a brief, brilliant look at the three basic theological choices before us—Monism, Dualism, and Trinitarianism. Randy Alcorn’s If God Is Good: Faith in the Midst of Suffering and Evil explodes the atheistic claim that the existence of evil negates the Christian proclamation of God’s total sovereignty and total goodness. Michael Reeves’ Delighting in the Trinity: An Introduction to the Christian Faith readable and delightfully shows how the Trinity is the basis for love and true communication.

I’ll conclude this section with three books from the New York pastor who has helped to change the thinking of many young Manhattan sophisticated. Tim Keller’s The Reason for God provides such a solid defense of Christian belief in an age of skepticism that it was WORLD’s 2008 Book of the Year. Keller’s The Prodigal God shows how the Father saves both younger brothers and elder brothers, while Counterfeit Gods is a pastoral look at the idols—money, power, sex, moral excellence—we come to worship if we turn good things into ultimate things.

DARWINISM

Atheism’s scientific veneer gives it intellectual standing, and that’s why discussing origins is so important. Starting with Charles Darwin himself, Paul Johnson’s Darwin: Portrait of a Genius is a useful short biography, and David Herbert’s Charles Darwin’s Religious Views: From Creationist to Evolutionist serves up fascinating detail. Nickell John Romjue’s I, Charles Darwin imagines Darwin returning to earth to be confounded by the DNA revolution and the complexity of cells. Stephen Meyer’s Signature in the Cell and Darwin’s Doubt: The Explosive Origin of Animal Life and the Case for Intelligent Design* tie together the discoveries that suggest Darwinism is scientifically outmoded.

What’s the alternative? The Holman QuickSource Guide to Understanding Creation, by Mark Whorton and Hill Roberts, is a useful introduction to contending positions. Why the Universe Is the Way It Is, by Hugh Ross, offers a strong old-earth perspective. Davis A. Young and Ralph F. Stearley’s The Bible, Rocks and Time lays out geological evidence for an old earth, while Coming to Grips with Genesis, edited by Terry Mortenson and Thane Ury, makes a young-earth case for reading Genesis 1-2 as they were historically understood.

Also, William Dembski’s The Design Inference mathematically destroys Darwinism. Dembski collaborated with Jonathan Wells in How To Be an Intellectually Fulfilled Atheist (or Not) to show how intelligent design succeeds, and materialism fails, at accounting for the high-tech engineering of the cell. Dembski teamed with Jonathan Witt to produce Intelligent Design Uncensored, an easy-to-understand introduction to the debate. God and Evolution, edited by Jay Richards, includes penetrating essays that, among other things, undercut Francis Collins’ beef with intelligent design.

Should Christians Embrace Evolution?, edited by Norman


**ISLAM**

Islam is on the march. In Darrow Miller’s Emancipating the World: A Christian Response to Radical Islam and Fundamentalist Atheism, Christians are fighting a war for souls within Islam and America itself. Rick Richter’s Comparing the Qur’an and the Bible accomplishes its promise, and William Kilpatrick’s Christianity, Islam, and Atheism examines the reasons for Christian reticence toward criticizing Islam. Robert Scott’s Questions Muslims Ask gives good answers to questions like, What sort of God can be murdered? What sort of God can be born as a baby? and Why do you worship three Gods?


Andrew G. Bostom’s Sharia Versus Freedom warns of the threat posed by Islamic totalitarianism toward Western liberty. Patrick Sookhdeo’s Islam in Our Midst: The Challenge to Our Christian Heritage is an excellent brief introduction to belligerent Muslims allied with hard secularists against their common enemy, Christ. Sookhdeo offers one way to fight back in his Freedom to Believe: Challenging Islam’s Apostasy Law.

Meanwhile, Theodore Dalrymple indicts Europe’s unwillingness to fight back in The New Vichy Syndrome: Why European Intellectuals Surrender to Barbarism.


From letters to the editor I know that many WORLD readers love history books—and Rodney Stark’s The Triumph of Christianity: How the Jesus Movement Came to Power in the Roman Empire is a wonderfully evocative memoir of moving from childhood Islam in Gambia to a faith in Christ that many churches feared to recognize.
Movement Became the World’s Largest Religion tells the most important story of the past 2,000 years. If you’re looking for broad overviews, A Patriot’s History of the United States: by Larry Schweikart and Michael Allen, and A Patriot’s History of the Modern World by Schweikart and Dave Dougherty, read smoothly without political correctness.

Victor Davis Hanson’s The Father of Us All: War and History shows why some wars are worth fighting. Jay Rubenstein’s Armies of Heaven: The First Crusade and the Quest for Apocalypse sheds light on the Western Europeans who fought their way to Jerusalem more than 900 years ago. Stark’s God’s Battalions and Jonathan Phillips’ Holy Warriors help polish the tarnished reputation of the crusaders.

Philipp Blom’s The Vertigo Years: Europe, 1900-1914 is great storytelling, and Holger Herwig’s The Marne, 1914 shows how the great war descended quickly into horror previously unimaginable. David Faber’s Munich, 1938 and Giles MacDonogh’s 1938: Hitler’s Gamble show what happened when English and French leaders desperately tried to avoid another horror. And when appeasement failed? Deborah Dwork and Robert Jan Van Pelt’s Flight from the Reich (about Jewish refugees from Hitler), Timothy Snyder’s Bloodlands (about the nations ground between the twin millstones of Hitler and Stalin), and Michael Jones’ Leningrad: State of Siege tell the grim tales.

The Whisperers by Orlando Figes uses a vast array of previously hidden family archives to expose how Stalin turned the hearts of children against parents. Anne Applebaum’s Iron Curtain: The Crushing of Eastern Europe, 1944–1956 shows how Stalin and his sycophants extended the realm of hatred.

Marci Shore’s The Taste of Ashes is a personal recollection of Soviet Communism’s lingering bitter effect, even after its political fall.


BIOGRAPHY

Turning to biographies, Herman Selderhuis has given us John Calvin: A Pilgrim’s Life, and Phillip Simpson’s A Life of Gospel Peace spotlights Jeremiah Burroughs, the 17th-century author of a timeless guide to “the rare jewel of Christian contentment.” W. Andrew Hoffecker’s Charles Hodge and John Muether’s Cornelius Van Til: Reformed Apologist and Churchman reacquaint us with these important theologians of the 19th and 20th centuries.

Ira Stoll’s Samuel Adams: A Life shows how Adams’ biblical faith helped him to foment a unique revolution that did not end in dictatorship. Thomas Kidd’s Patrick Henry: First Among Patriots profiles Adams’ Virginia counterpart. Other countries weren’t so blessed in their founding fathers, as demonstrated by Marie Arana’s Bolivar and Jonathan Steinberg’s Bismarck: A Life. Stephen Mansfield’s Lincoln’s Battle with God lucidly examines whether and when the Greatest Emancipator freed Lincoln from fatalism and moved him to faith.

Eric Metaxas’ Bonhoeffer: Pastor, Martyr, Prophet, Spy hit bestseller lists and Tim Townsend’s Mission at Nuremberg: An American Army Chaplain and the Trial of the Nazis did not, but both raise issues about “cheap grace” and what happens when we have nothing left to offer. Edward E. Ericson Jr. and Alexis Klimoff’s The Soul and Barbed Wire: An Introduction to Solzhenitsyn demystifies the greatly misunderstood 20th-century icon.

Fans of 19th-century political and social history will like Benjamin Disraeli, Adam Kirsch’s look at the Jewish Christian who became Britain’s scintillating prime minister. Walter Stahr’s Seward takes Lincoln’s secretary of state out of the Alaskan icebox into which he’s often
placed (and forgotten). Robert J. Norrell’s Up from History: The Life of Booker T. Washington evaluates common views of this pivotal figure that ignore the twisting course he had to run throughout his eventful life. Tim Jeal’s Stanley: The Impossible Life of Africa’s Greatest Explorer shows how Britain-born Henry Stanley recreated himself as an American journalist and gutsy adventurer.


CURRENT EVENTS

I’ll list books on current events by topic, starting with A for this past year’s best book on abortion, Clarke Forsythe’s Abuse of Discretion: The Inside Story of Roe v. Wade. B is for birth dearth, the subject of Jonathan Last’s What to Expect When No One’s Expecting. C is for capitalism, resourcefully defended by Jay Richards’ Money, Greed, and God: Why Capitalism Is the Solution and Not the Problem, and Thomas Woods’ Back on the Road to Serfdom. D is the grade most distinguished professors should get for propagandizing rather than telling the truth, as Yale’s David Gelernter passionately points out in America-Lite: How Imperial Academia Dismantled Our Culture (and Ushered in the Obamacrats). E is for Peter Schweizer’s Extortion: How Politicians Extract Your Money, Buy Votes, and Line Their Own Pockets, which backs up its slashing title with specific detail. Provocative foreign policy/international books include Angelo Codevilla’s Advice to War Presidents, Melanie Kirkpatrick’s Escape from North Korea, Jean-François Revel’s Last Exit to Utopia, and Caroline Glick’s The Israeli Solution.


Charles Murray’s Coming Apart reveals how the economically rich are getting socially richer as they stay married, and how the poor become poorer when they fall into social anarchy. Brandon Garrett’s Convicting the Innocent: Where Criminal Prosecutions Go Wrong indicts pressured confessions, jailhouse informants, and lazy lawyers for contributing to injustice. Thomas Sowell’s The Housing Boom and Bust explains how government became a large part of the problem. Samuel Rodriguez’s The Lamb’s Agenda shows how Hispanics and others can unite on biblical principles. Finally, Obama staffers would not have wasted billions had they absorbed the lessons of Josh Lerner’s Boulevard of Broken Dreams: Why Public Efforts to Boost Entrepreneurship and Venture Capital Have Failed—and What to Do About It.
SEVEN MORE FAT YEARS

POVERTY-FIGHTING

During the past seven years, several books have demonstrated what Steve Corbett and Brian Fikkert point out in the title of their essential work: When Helping Hurts: How to Alleviate Poverty Without Hurting the Poor ... and Yourself. Dambisa Moyo’s Dead Aid: Why Aid Is Not Working and How There Is a Better Way for Africa offers damning evidence, and Robert Lupton criticizes domestic good intentions in Toxic Charity: How Churches and Charities Hurt Those They Help—and How to Reverse It. Ted Boers and Tim Stoner’s Demons of Poverty attacks progress-resistant religion, dysfunctional government, and class-based societies.

It’s counterintuitive to say this, but the main factor in helping the poor is often not money. James Tooley’s The Beautiful Tree shows how slum-based, low-cost private schools in India and other countries provide a much better education than public schools. Dean Karlan and Jacob Appel’s More Than Good Intentions proves that inexpensive initiatives, such as deworming children, save more lives than many costlier projects. Wayne Grudem and Barry Asmus’ Christianity Versus Fatalistic Religions in the War Against Poverty, and Darrow Miller’s Nurturing the Nations: Reclaiming the Dignity of Women in Building Healthy Cultures, all show how worldview and custom hurt more than lack of cash.

Peter Greer has co-authored three important books. The Poor Will Be Glad: Joining the Revolution to Lift the World Out of Poverty, with Phil Smith, is both thoughtful and beautiful. The Spiritual Danger of Doing Good, with Anna Haggard, and Mission Drift, with Chris Horst, show how philanthropy can easily skimp on love while swelling with pride. Relentless: Pursuing a Life That Matters, by Dave Donaldson and Terry Glauspey, advise on how to help the poor while strengthening churches and holding charities accountable. Katherine Boo’s Behind the Beautiful Forevers grippingly portrays enterprise and exploitation in Mumbai, India.

Peter Brown’s scholarly Through the Eye of a Needle: Wealth, the Fall of Rome, and the Making of Christianity in the West, 350-550 AD illuminates the development of church attitudes toward helping the poor. Kevin DeYoung and Greg Gilbert’s What Is the Mission of the Church? Making Sense of Social Justice, Shalom, and the Great Commission, and Tim Chester’s Good News to the Poor show what the church should be doing to alleviate suffering. Steven Mosher’s Population Control: Real Costs, Illusory Benefits details how poverty-fighting through contraception is contra to what really works. In The Tyranny of Experts’, William Easterly documents what happens when first world nations, ignoring the importance of personal beliefs and personal help, believe massive manipulations will make the crucial difference in the third world. Lawrence Mead’s From Prophecy to Charity: How to Help the Poor lays out a domestic road map.

20 AUTHORS WORTH EXPLORING

Some of the books just listed are not light reading, so that’s where fiction comes in for me. Mesomorphic action heroes and philosophical tomes disguised as novels bore me, so please judge my recommendations accordingly. Most of my favorite detective or spy novel authors have written series of books. As it’s hard to declare one particular book in a series to be best of show, I’ll simply list 10 secular and 10 Christian authors.

On the secular side, David Downing, Alan Furst, and Philip Kerr have produced superb novels largely set in Europe of the 1930s, usually with Nazi villains. Alex Dryden, William Ryan, Tom Rob Smith, and Martin Cruz Smith have done similarly well with Soviet agents and officials as the heavies. In Daniel Silva’s novels centered on Israeli spy Gabriel Allon, almost everyone is or can be an enemy. Readers who prefer more literary novels may like Adam Johnson’s The Orphan Master’s Son and Christopher Beha’s What Happened to Sophie Wilder.

Warning: Almost all of those books may include sex, violence, and foul language. Christian novelists tend to produce detective, spy, lawyer, or action stories that are cleaner: I’ve enjoyed at least two novels each by (in alphabetical order) Randy Alcorn, Don Brown, Tim Downs, Brian Godawa, Steven James, Ray Keating, John K. Reed, Randy Singer, and Dave Swavely. Readers with more literary tastes might prefer Bret Lott.
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TOPICAL PARADISE

The best books on subjects ranging from the Earth’s beginning to internet innovation

BY JANIE B. CHEANEY

His year we’ve thrown two questions at 13 Christians who are known and knowledgeable in their fields. First: What’s the best overall book you would recommend for a layman who wants to understand your area of expertise? Second, What’s an outstanding book on your subject published within the last few years? Here are their answers.

MIKE ADAMS [HIGHER EDUCATION]

Those wishing to understand how American universities have lost their way should read William F. Buckley’s God and Man at Yale (1951). The university shift toward secularism began long before political correctness, and Buckley documents that transformation like no one else. Those interested in recent campus cultural wars need to read Unlearning Liberty (2012) by Greg Lukianoff. Although Lukianoff is a liberal and an atheist, he is astounded by the level of hostility toward evangelical Christians on college campuses. More importantly, he explains how campus speech codes and “anti-discrimination” clauses undermine free speech and religious liberty. — Mike Adams, a professor at UNC-Wilmington, writes columns at townhall.com

ROBERT F. DAVIS [MUSIC]

I continue to appreciate The Enjoyment of Music (latest edition: 2012), by Forney, Dell’Antonio, and Machlis, especially the “essential listening edition” from Norton. It’s easy to use, with interactive listening features and downloads. Reading it alongside Music Through the Eyes of Faith (1993), by Harold M. Best, will give Christians a solid education in and understanding of music. Although it’s not about music, Paul Tripp’s Dangerous Calling (2012) will help music ministers, directors, and performers to be aware of institutional politics and pitfalls, and his encouragements will help musicians who desire to put their gifts to godly use. — Robert F. Davis is a freelance musician in New York City

DANIEL JAMES DEVINE [DIGITAL TECHNOLOGY]

The hair-tousling speed of internet innovation is hard to follow, especially if you didn’t grow up using a smartphone. Born Digital (2008), by John Palfrey and Urs Gasser, explains how social networks, wikis, blogs, online activism, photo tagging, file sharing, etc., have shaped the minds and habits of people born after 1980. The generation-wide analysis of privacy, online identities, cyberbullying, and information overload remains timely. For a Christian look at online movers and shakers, try
iGods (2013) by Craig Detweiler.
He affectionately traces the short histories of companies like Apple, Google, Amazon, and Facebook, pondering which of our problems they solved, and whether we’ve given them too much reverence in return. —Daniel James Devine writes on science and technology for WORLD

MAKOTO FUJIMURA
MODERN ART
Sister Wendy is a great resource for art in general: See her Story of Painting (1997).
For modern art in particular, Daniel Siedell’s God in the Gallery (2008) uses Paul’s encounter with the Athenians on Mars Hill as a springboard for challenging the church to engage with the secular art world—and provide a means of bringing order out of chaos. More recently, Golden Sea is a retrospective of my “Golden Sea” series of paintings that seeks to relate modern art to Christian thought, with essays by noted Christian thinkers. It comes with a documentary that makes contemporary Japanese art accessible to the layman. —Makoto Fujimura is an artist and founder of the Fujimura Institute

DAVID GREUSEL
ARCHITECTURE
Eric O. Jacobsen has written two books I would recommend for any Christian who wants to think carefully about the built environment. The first and more accessible is Sidewalks in the Kingdom (2003). This wonderfully written book considers from a Christian and pastoral perspective how we make our cities, and introduces some very orthodox ideas that may startle even longtime believers. The second book, The Space Between (2012), could be seen as a sequel to Sidewalks, although both books stand on their own. It is a deeper and more theological take on the same subject: how we make our cities today and how we could make them better. —David Greusel is founder of Convergence Design, a Kansas City architectural firm

MAX MCLEAN
THEATER
Being an Actor (1984) immediately engaged me. It’s Simon Callow’s generous account of his early years in the London theater, including technical analysis of roles, plays, and the state of the profession. He writes with eloquence and a genuine love for acting. Theatre, by David Mamet (2011) is a delightful read covering five decades. Mamet writes with great wit and slays sacred cows, such as Constantin Stanislavski’s three volumes on acting. Mamet also explains how and why Broadway has deteriorated from producing thoughtful dramas to offering spectacles that cater primarily to tourists. I also recommend it for preachers, to help them understand what it takes to engage an audience. —Max McLean is a professional actor and artistic director at Fellowship for the Performing Arts

ELLIS POTTER
WORLDVIEW AND WORLD RELIGIONS
Three Ways of Asian Wisdom: Hinduism, Buddhism, and Zen and Their Significance for the West (1966), by Nancy Wilson Ross, is very well researched, beautifully illustrated, and neutrally written. It will make Christians informed enough to give an answer “with gentleness and respect” (1 Peter 3:15). Zen and Japanese Culture, by D.T. Suzuki (2010) is a masterful and definitive book on the subject. Many people are interested in Zen, and you can love them by knowing more than they do! My 3 Theories of Everything (2008) briefly compares Monism, Dualism, and Trinitarianism and will equip you to ask loving questions that will open up windows of perception for your neighbors—and yourself. —Ellis Potter is a pastor in Lausanne, Switzerland, as well as a traveling teacher and preacher

RUSS PULLIAM
JOURNALISM
A tie for all-time best between The Autobiography of William Allen White (1946) and Central Ideas in the Development of American Journalism by Marvin Olasky (1990). White captures the romance of small-town news reporting and offers discerning character sketches of other national figures from 1880 to 1925. Olasky captures the worldviews behind the news in a way that no other historian has come close to grasping. More recently, The Bully Pulpit: Theodore Roosevelt, William Howard Taft, and the Golden Age of Journalism, by Doris Kearns Goodwin (2013), puts journalism history in a larger context. She is not so strong on political philosophy but has a gift for portraying the colorful personalities of newsmakers. —Russ Pulliam is a columnist for the Indianapolis Star
FAZALE RANA
[CHEMISTRY AND BIOCHEMISTRY]

Travels to the Nanoworld (2001), by Michael Gross, provides an accessible description of the amazing molecular machines found in the cell and shows how the cell’s machinery inspires nanotechnology. Though an unbeliever, Gross provides plenty of fodder for those seeking to make the case for intelligent design. Adam Rutherford’s Creation: How Science Is Reinventing Life Itself (2013) describes the latest in origin-of-life research that is indispensable for those who follow the creation/evolution controversy. Rutherford also reviews the remarkable progress made by scientists in their quest to create artificial cells, making an unintentional case for intelligent agency. (My books The Cell’s Design and Creating Life in the Lab offer a Christian perspective on these topics.) —Faz Rana is a biochemist and executive vice president of Reasons to Believe

JOHN MARK REYNOLDS
[PHILOSOPHY]

The most important book for someone starting philosophy from a Christian perspective is Richard Swinburne’s Faith and Reason (1994). It is deep enough that it will not let you down later, but accessible enough that with care, any college graduate can draw from its depths. For those who think Christians are intellectual lightweight, Swinburne is a solid corrective. More recently, The Great Books Reader, which I edited (2011), introduces laymen to the indispensable texts. Old books have been winnowed by the only place Darwinism works: culture. The classics were the fittest, for good and bad in a fallen world, and so they survived. Most of us need help to get started reading the classics, so this book puts some treats on the bottom shelf. —John Mark Reynolds is the provost of Houston Baptist University

HUGH ROSS
[ORIGINS]

Rare Earth (2000) by Peter Ward and Donald Brownlee, explains how precariously balanced the characteristics of the sun, moon, and Earth must be to allow for advanced life. For example, the complex and delicate fine-tuning required for the operation of plate tectonics is highly unlikely to have arisen in this manner anywhere else in the universe. Similarly, Lucky Planet (2014), by David Waltham, argues that all the physical, chemical, and biological factors needed to sustain Earth’s remarkable climate stability make the odds of it happening elsewhere extremely remote. Waltham chalks up our existence to exceptional luck. The precise timing of the many complex events he describes indicates otherwise. —Hugh Ross is an astrophysicist and founder and president of Reasons to Believe

KAREN SWALLOW PRIOR
[LITERATURE]

Invitation to the Classics, edited by Louise Cowan and Os Guinness (2006), and How to Read Literature Like a Professor, by Thomas C. Foster (2002), are two helpful guides to reading. A more recent work is my own literary and spiritual memoir. Booked: Literature in the Soul of Me (2012). It examines spiritual truths revealed in a variety of masterpieces (from Charlotte’s Web to Great Expectations to Death of a Salesman) and shows how, ultimately, reading great books drew me back to God. —Karen Swallow Prior, Ph.D., is professor of English at Liberty University

LARRY WOIWODE
[FICTION]

Rather than recommending books about fiction, here’s my best example of fiction itself: War and Peace, by Leo Tolstoy. It’s a long haul, but the prose is simple, straightforward, and engaging, and the characters and historical figures are as well-rounded as any you’ll find, except perhaps in Shakespeare. The newest and best translation is by Pevear and Volokhonsky. War and Peace accomplishes everything fiction is supposed to do, and as a bonus the reader gets Tolstoy’s theory of history, which runs counter to both the Marxist view and the idea that “history is biography.” —Larry Woiwode is writer-in-residence at Jamestown College, Jamestown, N.D.
Two Institutions for the Glory of God

At this conference we will consider the work of rebuilding the most powerful of God’s earthly discipleship and evangelism engines—the church and the family. How is this possible? Only when church and family are joyfully watered “from the wells of salvation,” (Isaiah 12:3). We will explain the role of the Gospel, Repentance, Faith, the Holy Spirit and the Power of the Word of God—the interior realities that bring forth the right outward appearances of church and family life.

Other speakers include: Don Hart, Jason Dohm, Dan Horn, Geoff Botkin, Steve Gruitzius, Marcus Serven, Steve Hopkins

NCFIC.ORG/CF14
UNEQUALLY YOKED?

Can Christian publishers owned by secular companies maintain their Christian distinctives?

BY WARREN COLE SMITH  Illustration by Krieg Barrie


Johnson is the new president of National Religious Broadcasters (NRB), and WaterBrook Multnomah was an associate member. The ethics statement of the NRB is clear: Members must adhere to a broadly evangelical statement of faith that applies to the material the members produce.

Johnson later wrote in a memo to his board that WaterBrook Multnomah had a “good record of publishing ... evangelicals that share the doctrinal commitments of NRB. While acknowledging that positive track record, the question remains, ‘What role, if any, did Waterbrook Multnomah have in this pro-homosexuality publication?’”

After conversations with Waterbrook Multnomah’s leadership, Johnson presented the publisher with a choice: “I told them that if they wanted to remain NRB associate members, I would have to refer the matter to our Ethics Committee for review, or they could agree to resign their membership. They agreed to resign immediately.”

The story of Waterbrook Multnomah’s resignation from NRB is a case study in the complicated issues facing the Christian publishing industry. To begin with, consider this: Neither Waterbrook nor Multnomah published Vines’ controversial book. The newly formed Convergent Books published God and the Gay Christian. However, for Jerry Johnson this distinction made no difference.

“Steven W. Cobb serves as the chief publishing executive for both groups. This issue comes down to NRB members producing unbiblical material, regardless of the label under which they do it.”

Was the issue further complicated by the fact that Multnomah, Waterbrook, and Convergent are all a part of Crown Publishing Group, which is a part of the publishing giant Penguin Random House? And that Penguin Random House, which had revenue of more than $3 billion last year, is owned by the privately held German company Bertelsman, which did more than $20 billion in revenue last year, with more than $1 billion in profit?

Whatever the answer to those questions, they could easily apply to almost the entire Christian publishing industry. The consolidation began in 1988, when Zondervan was bought by HarperCollins, which is itself owned by Rupert Murdoch’s News Corporation. HarperCollins also bought the largest bookseller in Christian publishing, Thomas Nelson, in 2012.

Marvin Padgett is a longtime Christian publishing insider. From 1997 to 2005 he was editorial vice president at Crossway...
Books and then filled a similar position at P&R until his retirement in 2012. He came out of retirement to lead Great Commission Publishers, which is a non-profit publishing venture of the Presbyterian Church in America and the Orthodox Presbyterian Church.

“I attended the Christian Booksellers Association convention in 1988 when the hot news on the floor was the acquisition of Zondervan,” he said. “We were asking the same questions then, so this is not new.”

But—especially given the Multnomah Waterbrook situation—are the answers different? “No place I’ve ever worked would have dared do anything remotely like what Multnomah did,” Padgett said. “We had bedrock principles that governed what we published.” All three of Padgett’s employers are nonprofit organizations governed by a board of directors and a Christian mission. “A nonprofit company is responsible to the Lord,” Padgett said. “A for-profit company is responsible to shareholders.”

Padgett admitted, though, that the gloomiest predictions about Zondervan have not come to pass. “I think Zondervan had the sense to put safeguards in place that allowed them to control their own fate,” Padgett said. “And Rupert Murdoch had the sense not to tamper with the goose that is laying a golden egg.”

Padgett noted that “profit” is not a dirty word even to so-called “nonprofit” publishers. Padgett says that while the mission comes first for a nonprofit organization, “getting at least to break-even is what allows us to keep doing what we do.”

Bob Fryling of InterVarsity Press (IVP) said the biggest changes the large publishers have had on the industry has been the “greater competition for [brand name] evangelical authors and agents who are being wooed by the greater resources of these companies.” Fryling said that also means “it is getting harder to publish either first-time authors or those who don’t have a large public platform but have important things to say.”

Such innovations as self-publishing and print-on-demand have theoretically made it easier for first-time authors to get into print, but the proliferation of books that these technologies enable makes it all the harder to break through. The Shack sold 1 million self-published copies before publishing giant Hachette picked it up and sold 10 million more.

But such well-publicized self-publishing success stories hide the fact that lottery wins and lightning strikes are more likely than landing a self-published book on The New York Times best-seller list. In 2013, more than 1 million self-published titles came out.

According to self-publishing guru Robert Kroese, the overwhelming majority of these books sold fewer than 100 copies. Indeed, about the only people making money are the publishers themselves. In 2012, Penguin acquired self-publisher Author Solutions for $116 million. At the time of the acquisition, Penguin reported Author Solutions had generated more than $100 million in revenue the year before and was growing at 12 percent per year.

And for the reader, self-publishing provides even fewer safeguards of theological orthodoxy. Most of the major Christian publishers had an opportunity to publish The Shack but turned it down in part because of its theological problems. Such evangelical luminaries as Al Mohler, Chuck Colson, and Norman Geisler warned evangelical readers away from The Shack—but only after it became a publishing phenomenon.

All of this points to an unsettled future for the book publishing industry, especially for Christian publishers who maintain fidelity to Scripture. That’s nothing new. The English printer and publisher John Day endured prison from 1554 to 1558 for refusing to “cease and desist” his printing of Protestant material, including what we know today as Foxe’s Book of Martyrs.

Also not new is the practice of Christian publishers being “unequally yoked” to secular business partners and products. In the 19th century, for example, Thomas Nelson published all manner of non-Christian material, including some of the works of Sir Arthur Conan Doyle and Sherlock Holmes’ fame.

Here’s what is new: Today, in the modern era of publicly traded companies, maximizing shareholder value now, rather than down the road, minimizes long-term thinking. In such an environment, as Marvin Padgett noted, there is an “inescapable disconnect” between a company “whose sole end is profit and that of a Christian ministry.”

‘A nonprofit company is responsible to the Lord. A for-profit company is responsible to shareholders.’
—MARVIN PADGETT
Proof through the Night

“Oh Say, Can You See...?” In the 200 years since Francis Scott Key first wrote those words on the back of a letter, they have inspired millions. The hope and joy expressed in the American National Anthem are so moving that more than five million people signed petitions for its official adoption. Yet within those words is an expression of a Christian’s faith and gratitude for deliverance.

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The Great Awakening

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True compassion’s social and political effects are on display in Indianapolis.

**BY RUSS PULLIAM**

**REDIRECTING LIVES:** Wheeler Mission Ministries.

**Midwest models**

Small government works best in partnership with big hearts in the private sector. That’s important practically when helping those in need, and it also has a political dimension: Conservative drives to reduce the welfare state sound callous without some appeal to church-related efforts to tackle poverty problems.

Indianapolis, where Gov. Mike Pence is contemplating a run for the presidency, has many examples of robust, biblically driven attempts to help those in need. Wheeler Rescue Mission helps homeless men, sometimes several hundred on freezing cold nights, and also sees men come to salvation and discipleship. Eric Gardner was addicted to heroin at 21. “You’re self-centered and only think of...
yourself,” was the message he heard at the mission, after he burned bridges with family and friends. Now he’s on the mission staff and is married, freed from addictions.

Another example: Shepherd Community Center attempts to rebuild families in a low-income area of the city. Curtis Adkins came to the center as a troublemaking teen, a school dropout. “He was obnoxious back then,” says center director Jay Height—but a lot of love helped expose Curtis to the love of Christ. He was first in his family to go to college and now runs the student ministry at the center and has his own family.

Healthcare examples: Several faith-based efforts offer medical care to the uninsured and homeless in Indianapolis, in the name of Christ. The Gennesaret Clinic matches volunteer doctors and nurses with the homeless for treatment at various locations and provides a transitional housing facility for homeless men coming out of hospital care. In another low-income neighborhood, Neighborhood Fellowship provides a Saturday medical clinic for the needy, staffed by Indiana University medical school students.

Jim Strietelmeier, an elder for the fellowship, sees the clinic as a way to offer the gospel and help people grow in faith in the midst of suffering. “We look at financial poverty as an enhancement to the preaching of the gospel rather than a problem that should take center stage,” says Strietelmeier: “Poverty is an opportunity to see the first priority, God and His righteousness, placed as it should be. We aim to change all society by a race of humility to the bottom.” Medical students, meanwhile, have an opportunity to practice their skills.

This kind of salt and light is independent from politics, but without it conservative principles will falter both politically and practically. For example, strong families are the key to early childhood learning and a crucial antidote to teen pregnancies. Without them, more people become dependent and government grows. Most people who work at a crisis pregnancy center or a rescue mission are not making a political statement. They just want to see people come to salvation in Christ and become committed to His kingdom. But faithfulness to that task has an indirect political impact, as well as a direct impact on changing lives and pointing people heavenward.

**GOING PUBLIC**

At WORLD we tend to emphasize the work of teachers in Christian schools and parents who homeschool, but we don’t want to ignore dedicated Christians who are public school teachers. Andy Goetz is one of the public school teachers who strive to show students love within institutions that often impart information without addressing students’ hearts and souls.

Goetz over two decades has taught English at Ohio inner-city and suburban high schools. In one urban school police sometimes released kids from handcuffs as they dropped them off at school. Goetz learned he would never teach students anything if he didn’t love them first: “Because the kids were not filled up with love at home there were walls, walls, walls all over the place.” In a suburban school the setting is more comfortable, but the students’ need for love is “as desperate if not more because it’s not easily apparent.”

Goetz knows that his human love can only begin to introduce students to God’s love, and he also knows that public schools often teach ideas opposing Christianity, but in his classes he helps students understand the importance of family and other concepts based in the Bible, and he leads a weekly, after-school Bible study called The Good Book Club.

Goetz is also frustrated by ever-changing educational fads and how hard it is to deal with students’ individual needs. But he wants to show falling kids that someone still cares about them. His favorite course, “Words from the Wild,” focuses on literature about nature: He tries to get kids to enjoy the world, which he sees as God’s gift to us. —Emily Scheie
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Autonomous autos

Google and carmakers want to bring self-driving cars to a road near you

BY DANIEL JAMES DEVINE

Google revved up its secret plans for the world’s future last month when it unveiled a self-driving car prototype with no steering wheel or brake pedal. The electric vehicle has two seats, a “start” button, and a red emergency “stop” button, and is made to navigate public roads with no help from the rider. Google plans to build about 100 of the miniature, space-age taxis. With a max speed of 25 mph, they seem most likely to debut at theme parks.

The prototype comes just as the California Department of Motor Vehicles is formally legalizing the technology. The agency issued guidelines in May for manufacturers who want to test autonomous vehicles on public roads, and plans to publish similar rules for citizen drivers (that is, riders) by year-end.

California law often becomes a model for other states, so the DMV rules are a signal: Regulators are taking autonomous vehicles seriously. The technology is moving from geek daydreams to highways.

Nevada, Michigan, Florida, and the District of Columbia have also legalized testing of self-driving cars. The cars might be considered legal by default elsewhere, if no explicit bans exist. Google, based in Mountain View, Calif., has already been testing self-driving technology in its home state for several years.

In a video on the company’s website, a legally blind man plops behind the wheel of a self-driving car and takes a ride—hands-free and feet-free—to a Taco Bell drive-thru. The car, a modified blue Toyota Prius, is jiggered with wires, radars, and a spinning laser system on the roof that constantly scans surroundings.

Google has logged 700,000 miles of autonomous driving.

Despite the progress, fully autonomous cars still have trouble navigating scenarios that seem simple to humans but complex to computers: Although Google’s cars can recognize cyclist hand signals and slow down when approaching potholes, they get confused in snow and can’t spot a squirrel on the pavement.

Most manufacturers have been adding semiautonomous features to new cars gradually. New vehicles from Volvo, BMW, and others can parallel park themselves, adjust steering if the car drifts out of lane, or detect if a pedestrian steps into the road. These cars aren’t fully autonomous because they rely on a driver in normal conditions, but their safety features could soon become standard. Nissan hopes to sell fully autonomous cars by 2020.

With around 90 percent of traffic accidents caused by human error, the investment in autonomous technology makes sense. Human drivers don’t always stop in time when a child runs into the street. A laser-guided car might.

Hacking back

The best way to avoid prison time for hacking may be to help catch other hackers. Hector Xavier Monsegur had faced up to 26 years in prison for working with the hackers group Anonymous and posting a fake story about rapper Tupac Shakur to the PBS NewsHour website. But after FBI agents confronted him three years ago, the 30-year-old New Yorker became a prolific informant for the agency. On May 27 he walked free, ultimately serving only seven months’ jail time after a federal judge praised his “truly extraordinary cooperation.” A fellow hacker Monsegur helped bag, Jeremy Hammond, is serving 10 years. –D.J.D.


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The newest emergency in the emergency room may not be a health ailment. It may be the number of patients. In May the American College of Emergency Physicians published a poll indicating nearly half of ER workers—46 percent—had seen an increase in patients since Jan. 1, when the Affordable Care Act went into full effect. Another quarter said their patient load had remained about the same.

Nearly nine out of 10 said they expected the number of ER patients to increase over the next three years, and eight out of 10 believe their department isn’t equipped to handle the surge.

“When emergency visits will increase in large part because more people will have health insurance and therefore will be seeking medical care,” said Alex Rosenau, the president of ACEP. But he also pointed to a nationwide shortage of primary care doctors. “When people can’t get appointments with physicians, they will seek care in emergency departments.”

The Obama administration says it’s too early to draw conclusions. It may be early, but the poll is consistent with a January study in Oregon that found patients newly enrolled in Medicaid became 20 percent more likely to use the ER.

By the numbers

**27 percent:** Increase in euthanasia deaths in Belgium last year, where it has been legal to end the lives of patients with incurable and “unbearable physical or mental suffering” since 2002. The western European nation tallied 1,816 euthanasia cases in 2013, up from 1,432 in 2012. Belgian lawmakers voted to allow euthanasia for children under 12 earlier this year.

**26.6 births:** Per 1,000 U.S. teenage girls, according to preliminary government data for 2013. The birthrate for teens ages 15 to 19 dropped 10 percent last year to the lowest since record keeping began in 1940 (when teen marriages were more common). The country’s general fertility rate for all ages dropped to a record low of 62.9 births per 1,000 women—but four out of 10 babies are still born to unmarried mothers. Happily, the abortion rate is declining as well. (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention)

**2.1 billion:** Number of “overweight” or “obese” people around the world—29 percent of the global population—according to a study said to be the most comprehensive to date. Researchers said the prevalence of obesity has increased since 1980, including in developing countries. In Tonga, for example, more than half of men and women are obese. Some have criticized the standard measurement, the body mass index, as simplistic. (The Lancet) —DJD.
The ceiling of Thistle Chapel in St. Giles’ Cathedral in Edinburgh, Scotland. The cathedral is a leading place of worship in the Church of Scotland.
Run for the children

Drew Burnett will race through the Appalachian Trail to raise money for orphans in Uganda  
BY ANDREW BRANCH

Specifically, he plans to raise $100,000 for the Village of Eden, an orphanage and school, through Helping Hands Foreign Missions. Executive director Stan Bell told me the school houses 18 children, but Saturday events are drawing 1,400. Drew and his support team have termed his adventure “Running for Eden.”

From Maine to Georgia, he has to travel 54 miles a day to break the 46-day record. If you checked the math and found something off, you’re right. He’s taking Sundays off. He made the decision to remind himself and others “it was God’s power all along.” He kept that conviction even as he trained more than 100 miles a week. “My body could be forever changed,” he said. “I’m confident that this is worth it.”

The fundraising hasn’t been quite as organized as Drew’s training regimen. Kinks and specifics of where to donate and what the money will be used for are still a bit fuzzy. But what the Burnetts’ organization lacks in grace, it makes up for in commitment. The family plans to spend three years in Uganda starting in 2015.

By human standards, Drew has almost no chance of beating the record. But if he succeeds—and Drew says he’s going to finish regardless—the Burnetts would reach home in Georgia near the end of July. “I have the confidence that God spoke to me,” Burnett said. “And whatever He wants to do with this journey, I’m good with.”

GROUP OF DEATH AND GROUPS OF LIFE

When Team USA starts World Cup play June 16, it faces what is termed the “Group of Death.” Considered the tournament’s toughest, Group G has a title contender in Germany, a historical U.S. nemesis in Ghana, and the world’s best player in Portugal’s Cristiano Ronaldo. But off the field, Americans are teaming up with Brazil’s churches to be groups of life. Dozens of believers have planned street evangelism and random acts of kindness. Others are praying at brothels to combat one of the world’s most pervasive human trafficking and sex industries. Go to wng.org for more on the church’s international teamwork. —A.B.
DURING THE RECENT financial crisis, former Treasury Secretary Timothy Geithner was dubbed “the bailout king” by a prominent New York Times columnist. Now he has released a new book, Stress Test, that tells his side of the story. He doesn’t deny he was the biggest cheerleader for the $700 billion TARP legislation and the string of taxpayer-funded bailouts. Far from it. According to Geithner, history has proven him right.

In addition to saying the bailouts saved the financial system, Geithner has been making several other claims on his book tour. The first is that bailouts are inevitable. Trying to end them is “like Moby-Dick for economists or regulators,” he says. “It’s not just quixotic, it’s misguided.” Geithner also says the bailouts have proven to be a money-maker for American taxpayers, earning $32 billion from TARP alone so far, and perhaps as much as $100 billion in the end.

I do think our former Treasury secretary is right about one thing: Bailouts will continue in some form. If regulators are worried that failure of a key bank will jeopardize the financial system, they’ll figure out a way to bail out the bank. But this doesn’t mean, as Geithner seems to suggest, we should stop worrying about bailouts.

Although Captain Ahab might have been better off letting the whale go, we aren’t. Even if we can’t end bailouts, we can make them as rare as possible. Perhaps we should force a few of the largest and most unwieldy banks to downsize a bit. We certainly should tinker with our bankruptcy laws (a pet project of mine) so that regulators will be more willing to allow big banks to fail in the future.

What about all that money the government is raking in? Even apart from the oddity of treating bailouts as a growth opportunity—would lots more bailouts have been even better?—if the goal was earning money for taxpayers, the government should have insisted on much tougher terms. Any ordinary lender that lent money to the big banks at the height of the crisis would have charged a very steep interest rate. From this perspective, the government shouldn’t have made a lot more from its bailout loans than it did.

But the real problem is the insidious costs of bailouts. Because creditors of the biggest banks still expect to be protected if the banks fail, Citigroup or JPMorgan Chase can raise money much more cheaply than small and middle-sized banks, making it hard for the small banks to compete. Ask any community banker you know if he or she thinks the bailouts have made us all better off. And don’t get me started on Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac, the government mortgage giants. If they had been shut down after their collapse, as they should have been, Fannie and Freddie wouldn’t have paid back their bailouts, but the housing markets would be much healthier and less prone to politicization.

If it weren’t for the massive bailouts—if regulators had allowed the investment bank Bear Stearns to fail at the outset of the crisis, for instance—the U.S. economy surely would have recovered from the Great Recession much faster than it has. One economist recently estimated that the unusually slow recovery has cost between $5 trillion and $7 trillion in lost Gross Domestic Product since 2008. The bailouts aren’t the only reason for the slow recovery of course, but they deserve a large dollop of the blame.

A $32 billion profit sounds like a really nice outcome. But there’s a lot less to brag about if we compare it to a $5 trillion to $7 trillion cost. —David Skeel teaches corporate law at the University of Pennsylvania
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Mailbag

‘The edge of extinction’

May 17 Your cover story on the persecution of Christians in Iraq was excellent. According to the World Christian Encyclopedia, over 70 million Christians have been martyred since Christ walked the earth, and 45 million were martyred in the 20th century alone. Finally, the war against Christians is receiving the press it deserves.

—Jerry Bergman, Archbold, Ohio

‘Life in the shadows’

May 17 I was very disappointed by your report on the deportation of illegal immigrants. You suggest that such heartrending stories are common and Maria’s family is “one of millions” separated by the Obama administration’s program of increased deportations. However, Sen. Jeff Sessions reported recently that 98 percent of those deported in recent years were either convicted criminals, caught attempting to cross the border illegally, or fugitives.

—Galen Zollman, Cleveland, Ohio

We live in a time when there is respect for neither this country’s laws nor its sovereign borders. People here illegally should go back to their home countries with their children and return through proper legal channels. Then they would no longer be “in the shadows.”

—Grant Zimmerman, Cleveland, Ohio

Maria and Angel “decided to stay” beyond their visa. They made a decision that was illegal and unethical. When assigning blame for their current predicament they need look no further than their bathroom mirror.

—Gayle Robinson, Raleigh, N.C.

While we all agree our immigration system needs to be fixed, badly, we cannot start off pardoning those who knowingly break our laws.


‘Water resistance’

May 17 The plight of drought-ravaged California farmers reminded me of the bumper sticker that reads, “NO FARMS, NO FOOD.” I see that and say to myself, “No fooling!”

—Peter Kushkowski, Portland, Conn.

I appreciate many things about WORLD, such as Mindy Belz’s fearless reporting, but this article presents only the views of those who are opposed to the federal and state restrictions on water use. Couldn’t you have quoted a government official or Christian environmentalist who supports those restrictions?

—Kevin J. Kennedy, Haslett, Mich.

‘To train up a Pharisee’

May 3 The main tenets of the Pearls’ teaching are love, respect, relationship, and affection. They emphasize that training in an atmosphere of parent-child fellowship eliminates the need for much discipline. If this is their prescription, and yet the parents administered abuse, how can we blame the doctors?

—Elizabeth Tesone, Poughkeepsie, N.Y.

The ominous tone of this article is unjustified. I’ve examined To Train Up a Child, and it advocates nothing like what those criminals did. And allegations from unnamed “critics” and “media voices” are hardly convincing.

—Hannah Malone, Austin, Texas

I am very familiar with Michael Pearl’s materials, and he seems to assume that if people just do what he does they will get the same results. But he is a rare breed, both strict and adoring of his children, and he has underestimated the impact the parents’ personalities have on parenting.

—Sandi Dallara, Verton, Pa.

Christian parents know that, bottom line, parenting is about their child’s heart, not how obedient he is. You cannot reason with a 2-year-old, so gradually parents shift from chastisement to counseling their children about heart issues, grace, and everyday gospel living. The Pearls’ book helped us develop a Christ-centered home instead of a child-centered home.

—Richard Driggers, Fort Worth, Texas

‘Silent submission’

May 3 The silence concerning creation in the Christian community is astounding, for the creation account is critical to our Christian faith. Churches should put this issue on the front burner and Christian parents should expose their children to the powerful evidence of a Creator.

—Oscar Thorsland, Liberty, S.C.

The statement that “others who are so restrained that they publicly commit to nothing more specific than intelligent...”
design” seemed off to me. WORLD has reported on scientists and others in academia who have lost their jobs because of such a commitment. It is no small thing.

—MEGHAN BOWKER, Wasilla, Alaska

I believe Christians are scared of the doctrine of creation because they don’t know what the evidence for creation is or that it’s overwhelming. Secularists have done a great job suppressing it.

—JIM SCROBKO, Glastonbury, Conn.

‘Coat of many dollars’

May 3 I appreciate the financial struggles Christian colleges are facing, but you didn’t answer whether their programs are worth the high costs. Although there is an element of sticker shock when it’s time to pay the bills, for our four children the benefits of a Christian education—from good friendships to dedicated faculty and staff to opportunities for growth and ministry—make the price one we and our kids are willing to pay. It’s about so much more than money.

—SARA MCKAY, Fulton, N.Y.

‘Sexual propaganda’

May 3 Consider how so much of students’ debt goes to pay for classes promoting sexual propaganda that have nothing to do with preparing for a career. Given the high cost of college, perhaps it is time to reconsider the whole concept of a liberal arts education.

—RUSSELL GUETSCHOW, Vicksburg, Mich.

‘A pox on Mother’s Day?’

May 3 Initially, I was disgusted and outraged by the pro-abortion showcase at the University of Michigan and Amanda Marcotte’s article, but the last paragraph reminded me that “such were some of us, but we were washed.” So I didn’t stop at outrage, but I stopped to pray for these women who have been taken captive by this present darkness.

—RAENEL MATHIEWS, Payson, Ariz.

Human Race

May 3 Your obituary for Mickey Rooney accurately recounts his fail- ures but ignores his later conversion, which he credited with freeing him from his addictions. Even mainstream media acknowledged the redemptive impact of evangelical Christianity on his life. His story is a reminder of God’s rich grace.

—ALAN AMAVISCA, Yorba Linda, Calif.
‘Publisher changes’
May 3 I help choose books to review for a church librarian’s newsletter. Thank you for the news clip about WaterBrook Multnomah’s new imprint, Convergent Books. I won’t be recommending books from Convergent.
—June Ruyle, Sun City West, Ariz.

‘Talking around the problem’
April 5 Very well done column, and to expand a point from Dr. David Powlison: If love cannot hate anything, He cannot protect us from evil, and what kind of love is that? To suggest love cannot hate at all is the world’s vapid wisdom.
—Donald Woolery, Rockford, Ill.

‘From gay to joyous’
Feb. 8 Out of a Far Country by Christopher and Angela Yuan is one of the best nonfiction books I have ever read. It wasn’t just a thoughtful account of dealing with homosexuality, but a beautiful prodigal son story, a book full of miracles!
—Anne S. Johnson, Fort Myers, Fla.

I am a 14-year-old boy who has read WORLD for many years with my parents. I have recently been learning how to see the Christian worldview in your articles. They have blessed me and my family in so many ways and influenced my thinking for the better.
—Hudson Sheets, Frisco, Texas

Correction
An electromagnetic railgun can launch projectiles with the energy of 32 megajoules (“Sound and fury,” May 17, p. 61).
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Dr. Mark Shaw is Founder of Truth in Love Ministries. He has extensive experience in biblically counseling men and women caught in various “addictions,” and travels internationally training biblical counselors. He is currently Associate Pastor at Faith Baptist Church in Lafayette, Indiana.

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Now that we’re heading toward the All-Star game, here’s a quick quiz: Who wrote the unofficial anthem of America’s favorite pastime, “Take Me Out to the Ballgame”? (A) A 1920s Brooklyn Dodgers fan; (B) Cole Porter; (C) a Jewish guy named Albert Von Tilzer who had never been inside a baseball stadium.

If you guessed “C,” you have a clue to the fascination of “Chasing Dreams,” this spring’s exhibit at the National Museum of American Jewish History (NMAJH) on 5th and Market Streets in Philadelphia. An installation featuring Jews in baseball is not an oxymoron but, honestly, baseball has to be 45th or 50th on the list of things Jews excel at—not because they’re bad at it but because they’re so good at so many things (if one may say this without being censured for reverse racism). Even boxing and basketball would have been richer veins to mine.

You want to talk about Nobel Prizes? Jews have garnered 22 percent of them. (They make up less than 0.2 percent of the global population.) A “Greatest Jewish Ballplayer” bracket on one wall, designed by father of fantasy ball Daniel Okrent—a Jew—diagrams “great, good, decent, or barely adequate major league Jews,” and in parenthesis Okrent notes, “it’s not as if there were thousands to choose from.” (This nimble blend of chutzpah and humility marks the NMAJH presentation.)

In the late 19th century Cubans passionately took to baseball, but the love of Jews and the sport was more like the Hapsburg marriages of royal mutual advantage. The YMHA (Young Men’s Hebrew Association), started in 1854 to help Jewish immigrants, took a decidedly practical and cerebral approach to Americanizing their children through athletics. It’s great fun to read in the Aug. 27, 1909, Yiddish language daily newspaper, The Jewish Daily Forward, excerpts of “The Fundamentals of the Baseball Game Described for Non-Sports Fans”:

“To us immigrants, this all seems crazy, however ... if an entire nation is crazy over something, it’s not too much to ask to try to understand what it means. ... two parties participate in the game. Each party is comprised of nine people. ... One party takes the field and the other party takes the role of the enemy. ... One of the team’s nine members stands between the pitcher and the catcher (quite close to the catcher) with a thick stick (‘bat’) and, as the ball flies from the pitcher’s hand, tries to hit it back with the stick before the catcher catches it.”

Everything in the Jewish museum was in minor key. Like a mixed media artwork, the experience of “Chasing Dreams” was made poignant for me by the tour of a South Florida Jewish day school whose fresh-faced fifth graders got a soft-peddled introduction not only to baseball but to unspeakable brutalities of life. Museum guide: “Do you think Lipman Pike [third baseman for the Philadelphia Athletics in the 1860s] had a hard time?” Students: “Yes.” Guide: “Why?” Students: “Because he was Jewish.” Guide: “But if you’re chasing a dream you just keep going.” The children listened politely, but then one was distracted by a life-sized poster of Jackie Robinson, and they gaily moved on.

Anti-Semitism still reared its head half a century later when the much-lamented sale of Babe Ruth to the Yankees by Red Sox owner Harry Frazee in 1921 unleashed a tirade against Jews in the Dearborn Independent. It was supposed that Frazee was Jewish because of his involvement in the New York theater scene as agent, director, and producer. In fact, Frazee was Episcopalian.

Five Cohens preceded Andy Cohen in professional baseball, but they all changed their names till the New York Giants’ second baseman decided he “had done pretty well up to then as Andrew Jackson Cohen and ... would continue under that name.”

Time fails us to tell of Hall of Famers “Hammerin’ Hank” Greenberg (in 1934 he refused to play in a pennant race on Yom Kippur) and Sandy Koufax (in 1965 he declined to pitch on Game 1 of the series on Yom Kippur) and a certain third-rate catcher named Moe Berg who in 1934 accompanied Babe Ruth and Lou Gehrig to Japan as an undercover spy for the U.S. government. (See Marvin Olasky’s column on Berg in WORLD, Feb. 23, 2002.) Which, whatever else you want to say, ain’t chopped liver. @

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Andrée Seu Peterson
COMPLETELY PERSONAL

The assassination that destroyed a century

THIS ISSUE’S COVER DATE IS JUNE 28, A DATE THAT should live in infamy. On June 28, 1914, an assassin killed Austrian Archduke Franz Ferdinand in the Balkan city of Sarajevo. That incident touched off World War I, which ended with 18 million dead bodies and led to a Communist takeover of Russia (millions more) and, eventually, World War II (tens of millions more).

Recently I read in Christopher Clark’s The Sleepwalkers (see p. 28) how one false step among the leaders of England, France, Germany, Russia, and Austria-Hungary led to another. While turning the pages, I watched on the AMC network The Godfather (second greatest American movie of all time, according to the American Film Institute) and its sequel, The Godfather Part II (32nd greatest).

The regular refrain in The Godfather, as its characters plan murders, is, “Nothing personal. It’s just business.” Europe’s leaders had the same rationale as they slouched into war during post-assassination July. The two Godfather films form the tragic story of how, in director Francis Ford Coppola’s words, “a good man becomes evil.” A theologically deeper assessment might note that it’s about sinners becoming even more sinful. World War I’s beginning one century ago had a similar arc.

Here’s one more famous Godfather line: “Keep your friends close, but your enemies closer.” Europe’s warring monarchs in 1914 were close (three of them were cousins)—and this spring I looked back with wonder and dismay at the arrogance and miscalculation that (nothing personal) slaughtered so many people.

At that point I almost went thoroughly astray. The assassination of Franz Ferdinand took place because of a thoroughly unlikely set of circumstances. The assassin with a handgun, Gavrilo Princip, was a bad shot, but Ferdinand’s driver made a wrong turn and backed up, then stopped, in a way that left Ferdinand several feet from Princip, who at that distance couldn’t miss. And that got me thinking: Why didn’t God (acting as He usually does, in ways subtle enough to give atheists deniability) keep Ferdinand from being shot?

Think about it: No assassination, no war, no Communist coup, no German hyper-inflation and depression that paved the way for Hitler, no World War II, no Holocaust … One small flick of the wrist for God, one large leap for mankind to the century of peaceful progress that postmillenialists expected in 1900, rather than the century of disaster that fueled much premillennialist thought.

Then I thought: No, our merciful God must have had His reasons for allowing the assassination and the subsequent slaughter. Musing that God makes all things work together for good, I starting writing a playful counterfactual column: What could have happened had Ferdinand’s driver not made the wrong turn, and if war had never come?

In my fanciful column I wrote that Germany became Europe’s economic, scientific, and technological power. It expanded its leadership in science and did not make life so miserable for Jews that leading physicists ended up in America. The result: Germany developed nuclear weapons and, given German arrogance, used them to get its way through much of the world. I was planning to end the column with German nuclear bombs dropping in August 1945, on Hiroshima and Nagasaki—and dozens of other cities.

Well. Halfway through writing I picked up my copy of J.I. Packer’s Knowing God, in which the theologian notes that Christians err by thinking that “if they were really walking close to God, so that he could impart wisdom to them freely, then they would … discern the real purpose of everything that happened to them, and it would be clear to them every moment how God was making all things work together for good.”

Packer continued, “Such people spend much time poring over the book of providence, wondering why God should have allowed this or that to take place.” His recommendation: Don’t do it. We do not and cannot have “inside information as to the why and wherefore of God’s doings.” Packer is right. Trash my counterfactual. Not the Godfather but God makes us an offer we cannot and should not refuse: Trust me.

Massive killing is, of course, fodder for atheists who can gibe that for God it’s nothing personal, just business. But the brilliance of Christ is that it couldn’t get more personal: We die, He died—so all who trust in Him can live forever.
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