

**How To Find Your Mission In Life****Richard N. Bolles**

Richard Bolles, author of the job-hunting bible: *WHAT COLOR IS YOUR PARACHUTE?*, explores the spiritual aspects of finding one's place in the work world. For anyone who has ever wondered how to make the most of their unique natural gifts, or how to find a vocation that is both socially responsible and personally fulfilling, this enlightening and empowering little volume provides immeasurable guidance. Originally appearing as an appendix in *PARACHUTE*, this book has led countless people through life's most difficult passages and is sure to inspire anyone who is either new to the job market or reconsidering their place in it.

**Cost of Discipleship****Dietrich Bonhoeffer**

What can the call to discipleship, the adherence to the word of Jesus, mean today to the businessman, the soldier, the laborer, or the aristocrat? What did Jesus mean to say to us? What is his will for us today? Drawing on the Sermon on the Mount, Dietrich Bonhoeffer answers these timeless questions by providing a seminal reading of the dichotomy between "cheap grace" and "costly grace." "Cheap grace," Bonhoeffer wrote, "is the grace we bestow on ourselves...grace without discipleship....Costly grace is the gospel which must be sought again and again, the gift which must be asked for, the door at which a man must knock....It is costly because it costs a man his life, and it is grace because it gives a man the only true life."

**Christianity After Religion****Dr. Diana Butler Bass**

Diana Butler Bass, one of contemporary Christianity's leading trend-spotters, exposes how the failings of the church today are giving rise to a new "spiritual but not religious" movement. Using evidence from the latest national polls and from her own cutting-edge research, Bass, the visionary author of *A People's History of Christianity*, continues the conversation began in books like Brian D. McLaren's *A New Kind of Christianity* and Harvey Cox's *The Future of Faith*, examining the connections—and the divisions—between theology, practice, and community that Christians experience today. Bass's clearly worded, powerful, and probing *Christianity After Religion* is required reading for anyone invested in the future of Christianity.

**Grounded - Finding God in the World, A Spiritual Revolution****Dr. Diana Butler Bass**

The headlines are clear: religion is on the decline in America as many people leave behind traditional religious practices. Diana Butler Bass, leading commentator on religion, politics, and culture, follows up her acclaimed book *Christianity After Religion* by arguing that what appears to be a decline actually signals a major transformation in how people understand and experience God. The distant God of conventional religion has given way to a more intimate sense of the sacred that is with us in the world. This shift, from a vertical understanding of God to a God found on the horizons of nature and human community, is at the heart of a spiritual revolution that surrounds us – and that is challenging not only religious institutions but political and social ones as well.

**Choosing Change****Peter Coutts**

In *Choosing Change*, author Peter Coutts points out that leaders see the need for change in their congregation, and they earnestly want to help their congregation to change. But the approach to leadership they learned, which perhaps worked better in days gone by, is no longer working. Many leaders do not think about motivation. For them, encouraging change is about selling their congregation on a new idea, governed by the assumption that a better idea should win the day. Wide experience in the church demonstrates that this approach often doesn't work and leaves many congregational leaders demoralized. *Choosing Change* provides an overview of current thinking from the field of motivation psychology. In the first half of the book, Coutts explores theories, ideas, and terms that are most pertinent for leaders who desire to encourage congregational change. The second half of the book offers detailed guidance for congregational leaders who want to be motivational leaders.

**When “Spiritual But Not Religious” is Not Enough****Lillian Daniel**

The phrase "I'm spiritual but not religious" has become a cliché. It's easy to find God amid the convenience of self-styled spirituality--but is it possible (and more worthwhile) to search for God through religion? Minister and celebrated author Lillian Daniel gives a new spin on church with stories of what a life of faith can really be: weird, wondrous, and well worth trying. From a rock-and-roller sexton to a BB gun-toting grandma, a church service attended by animals to a group of unlikely theologians at Sing Sing, Daniel shows us a portrait of church that is flawed, fallible--and deeply faithful. With poignant reflections and sly wit, Daniel invites all of us to step out of ourselves, dare to become a community, and encounter a God greater than we could ever invent.

**The Journey Back to Church****Gary Dorsey**

When a skeptical journalist decides to spend a year with one of New England's oldest mainline Protestant congregations, he unintentionally embarks on a strange pilgrimage. Burdened by bad memories of the fundamentalist religion of his southern upbringing, Dorsey begins to attend First Church in Hartford, Connecticut, not so much to learn spiritual truth about God as to explore the mysterious social connections among men and women in a church community. The connections between members of First Church--it turns out--are often tangled and strained by church budgets, pulpit politics, and private visions. But as he traces the connections between church members, Dorsey finds himself a participant in a complex narrative he had intended only to report. Often a narrative of illusion and ill will, of irreverence and farce, it is nonetheless also a narrative of compassion and hope.

**A Guide to Spiritual Success****Dr. Tony Evans**

Many Christians don't experience purpose, victory, or overcoming in their lives. Instead there is emptiness and defeat. Tony Evans, in a down-to-earth, amusing-yet thoughtful-style, insists that each of us has to gain-or regain the momentum necessary to sustain a lifelong drive toward triumphant spirituality.

Tony Evans is senior pastor of Oak Cliff Bible Fellowship in Dallas, Texas, and president

of The Urban Alternative, a ministry that promotes the application of Scripture to bring about spiritual change in the community through the church. The author of *The Kingdom Agenda* and featured speaker on the radio broadcast "The Alternative with Tony Evans," he is also a leading spokesperson for biblical radical reconciliation.

#### **Towards a Meaningful Life**

**Simon Jacobson**

*Toward a Meaningful Life* is a road map for living for Jews and non-Jews alike by one of the foremost religious leaders of our time. His message--that man is responsible for his fellow man--made him unique among other spiritual leaders. Head of the Lubavitcher movement for forty-four years, the Rebbe addressed aspects of everyday life with contemporary sensibility: birth, education, money, marriage, retirement, and death, as well as such significant issues as abortion, sex, and homosexuality.

Referred to simply as "the Rebbe" throughout the world, he was not just the leader of a Chasidic sect but a major political force--virtually every national and local candidate for office sought a meeting with the Rebbe. He was consulted on the Gulf War, the Arab-Israeli situation, the Soviet regime, and the fall of the Berlin Wall. Now, these inspirational ideas are presented as a blueprint for life in a materialistic world.

#### **Mere Christianity**

**C.S. Lewis**

In the classic *Mere Christianity*, C.S. Lewis, the most important writer of the 20th century, explores the common ground upon which all of those of Christian faith stand together. Bringing together Lewis' legendary broadcast talks during World War Two from his three previous books *The Case for Christianity*, *Christian Behavior*, and *Beyond Personality*, *Mere Christianity* provides an unequalled opportunity for believers and nonbelievers alike to hear this powerful apologetic for the Christian faith.

#### **A Gentle Thunder**

**Max Lucado**

How far do you want God to go in getting your attention? Don't answer too quickly. What if God moved you to another land? (As He did Abraham.) What if He called you out of retirement? (Remember Moses?) How about the voice of an angel or the bowel of a fish (Gideon and Jonah.) God does what it takes to get our attention. That's the message of this book: the relentless pursuit of God.

#### **Cure for the Common Life**

**Max Lucado**

Bestselling author Lucado (*Come Thirsty*) dedicates his latest book to helping readers discover their "sweet spot"—the job or life calling they were created for. He guides readers on their search to find the unique abilities God may have built into them. First step: "read your life backward" to see where you've been successful and what you've loved in the past. Readers are directed to find their personal "S.T.O.R.Y."—strengths, topic, optimal conditions, relationships and "Yes!" moments. This acronym originates with People Management Inc., whose theories helped Lucado find his own strengths and form much of the foundation for this book. For Lucado, discovering one's life purpose is really about honoring the God who gave the unique abilities in the first place, so he instructs readers not to make decisions based on greed. Instead, he exhorts them

to "make a big deal out of God" rather than worrying about their own reputation and to trust God to use their "small beginnings" in his overall purpose.

#### **Just Like Jesus**

**Max Lucado**

*"What if for 24 hours Jesus wakes up in your bed, walks in your shoes, lives in your house, assumes your schedule?... What if for one day Jesus lives your life with his heart?"* Within these opening lines lies the premise of Max Lucado's book about the possibility of becoming "just like Jesus." In recounting the biblical stories of Jesus' life and deeds, Lucado then explains how Jesus' acts of compassion, forgiveness, honesty, and faith can be reflected in anyone's everyday life. Lucado's concrete analogy of "just like Jesus" helps many readers grasp the fundamentals of Christianity in a new and inspiring way. Furthermore, in taking on the values, heart and deeds of Jesus, Lucado believes, Christians can expect a richer, more accessible relationship with God. "Jesus had unbroken communion with his father," writes Lucado. "Do you suppose the Father desires the same for us? Absolutely ... God has the same abiding intimacy with you that he had with his son."

#### **Who Stole My Church**

**Gordon MacDonald**

With himself as narrator, MacDonald creates a cast of church members in their 50s, 60s and 70s who meet each week to discuss where their church has been, is now and should go in the future. All I know is that someone stole my church and I'd like to get it back, says one. MacDonald delves into the feelings of the older generation as they watch new leadership take over, see changes in music and use of technology, and begin to wonder how they will fit in. He challenges their understanding of what the church is, then looks at the early church and the modern church and the many cultural influences that transform Christian spirituality. This is a challenging, innovative approach to a delicate subject. It's sure to benefit church leaders and members of all ages who dream of a reinvented church.

#### **The Present Future. Six Tough Questions for the Church**

**Reggie McNeal**

In this provocative book, author, consultant, and church leadership developer Reggie McNeal provides an overall strategy to help church leaders move forward in an entirely different and much more effective way. In *The Present Future*, McNeal identifies the six most important realities that church leaders must address including: recapturing the spirit of Christianity and replacing "church growth" with a wider vision of kingdom growth; developing disciples instead of church members; fostering the rise of a new apostolic leadership; focusing on spiritual formation rather than church programs; and shifting from prediction and planning to preparation for the challenges of an uncertain world. McNeal contends that by changing the questions church leaders ask themselves about their congregations and their plans, they can frame the core issues and approach the future with new eyes, new purpose, and new ideas.

**Missional Renaissance. Changing the Scorecard for the Church****Reggie McNeal**

In *Missional Renaissance*, Reggie McNeal shows the church members the three significant shifts in their thinking and behavior that they need to make that will allow leaders to chart a course toward being missional: (1) from an internal to an external focus, ending the church as exclusive social club model; (2) from running programs and ministries to developing people as its core activity; and (3) from professional leadership to leadership that is shared by everyone in the community. With in-depth discussions of the "what" and the "how" of transitioning to being a missional church, readers will be equipped to move into what McNeal sees as the most viable future for Christianity.

**Get Off Your Donkey: Help Others and Help Yourself****Reggie McNeal**

In one of his most famous parables, Jesus points us to a man who gets down off his donkey and helps someone in dire need. Now, with energy and enthusiasm, Reggie McNeal calls you to dismount, get messy, and live a life that makes a real difference. He reveals two mutually reinforcing truths: First, helping others is often the best path for our own personal development. And second, as you become more the person you were designed to be, you increase your capacity to serve others. It all starts with a decision to get off your donkey--today!

**Do Something, Make Your Life Count****Miles McPherson**

With powerful true stories, illustrations from the life of Christ, and specific activities for readers to engage, *DO Something!* is a hopeful and practical book that shows how to live out faith in a way that improves people's lives. With transparency and humility, Miles McPherson stresses the importance of hurting with people before you can do something for them. He takes readers through the 5 P's of making their lives count--preparation, purpose, pain, power, and passion--principles upon which his successful and growing church was founded. By putting into practice the principles found in this book, readers will experience spiritual fulfillment as they see that they can make a real difference in the lives of those around them.

**The Life You've Always Wanted****John Ortberg**

The heart of Christianity is about transformation—about a God who isn't just concerned with our "spiritual lives," but who wants to impact every aspect of living. It's realizing that God meets us not in a monastery but on Main Street, and that all of ordinary, daily life has the potential to be lived as if Jesus himself were the one living it. Offering modern perspectives on the ancient path of the spiritual disciplines, *The Life You've Always Wanted* guides us on a journey beyond performance and externalism to a life marked by joy, peace, kindness, and all the signs of a faith that's vital and growing. Ortberg offers an encouraging and challenging approach to a Christian life that's worth living—life on the edge that fills our ordinary world with meaning, hope, change, and growing closeness with Christ.

**Your Call Is Waiting****Terry-Anne Preston**

Each of us is called. Follow the method outlined in *Your Call is Waiting* to discern your own call within God's plan. Questions, charts, lists, and contemplation of biblical examples of calling will lead you to your answer. Written in a very practical, accessible style with many examples and anecdotes (biblical and otherwise), *Your Call is Waiting* is useful for both individual and small group exploration. To enhance this process, the author includes a 30-day Bible study that will focus your mind and spirit on your calling.

**Discovering God's Unique Purpose For You****Dick Purnell**

This insightful experiment will give readers biblical answers to overcoming personal doubts and weaknesses. Purnell shows how God views each individual as an unique creation of His with a divine purpose. Readers will learn how to; discover and develop their spiritual gifts, conquer doubts and fears, enjoy true happiness, love like God loves, rejoice in difficulties, build a precious heritage, and focus on their ultimate future. As readers unlock the treasure of God's Word, they'll develop a positive perspective on themselves and their ability to live a fulfilled life.

**The Missional Leader. Equipping Your Church to Reach A Changing World****Alan Roxburgh and Fred Romanuk**

In *The Missional Leader*, consultants Alan Roxburgh and Fred Romanuk give church and denominational leaders, pastors, and clergy a clear model for leading the change necessary to create and foster a missional church focused outward to spread the message of the Gospel into the surrounding community. *The Missional Leader* emphasizes principles rather than institutional forms, shows readers how to move away from "church as usual," and demonstrates what capacities, environments, and mindsets are required to lead a missional church.

**Don't Throw Away Tomorrow****Robert Schuller**

Fifty years ago **Robert H. Schuller** founded a church on the idea that with faith, focus, and follow-through all of our dreams can become realities. A tireless advocate of this positive message, he built the Crystal Cathedral into one of America's most popular and beloved centers of worship. A gifted and moving storyteller, he now offers the wisdom he's gained over a lifetime of optimism and devotion. In this personal and inspirational book, Schuller shows us how the universal principles that have formed his life and his work can guide ours as well. Starting with the message of "Don't Throw Away Tomorrow!" this landmark book discusses powerful and universal ideals such as starting with optimism, choosing positive values, keeping focused, clearing the channels of communication, and -- most important -- looking to the Ultimate Authority.

**Following Christ****Joseph Stowell**

What happens when an ordinary man or woman pursues not the trappings of Christianity, but Christ himself? In *Following Christ*, Joseph Stowell shows why Christ's command to Follow Me isn't merely the starting point of Christianity. It s the very heartbeat of vibrant, effective faith. This inspiring book cuts through the side issues of

Christianity to reveal its true, compelling object: Jesus Christ. Those who choose to become his fully devoted followers discover a dynamic and refreshing way of living--Christianity the way God intended it, marked by a vigorous faith. Purpose and direction. Soul-winning impact. And above all, a joyous, growing closeness with Christ.

### **The Case for Faith**

**Lee Strobel**

Many people grapple with serious concerns about faith in God. They say, "If God is love, then what about all the suffering in our world?" Or, "If Jesus is the door to heaven, then what about the millions who have never heard of him?" Or, "If God cares for everyone, then why does he eternally torture some in hell?" In *The Case for Faith*, Strobel turns his tenacious investigative skills to the most persistent emotional objections to belief--the eight "heart" barriers to faith. The *Case for Faith* is for those who may be feeling attracted to Jesus but who are faced with formidable intellectual barriers standing squarely in their path. For Christians, it will deepen their convictions and give them fresh confidence in discussing Christianity with even their most skeptical friends.

### **The Great Emergence**

**Dr. Phyllis Tickle**

Every five hundred years, the church cleans out its attic and has a giant rummage sale. Well, not exactly. But according to Phyllis Tickle, this is an accurate summary of the church's massive transitions over time. According to the pattern, we are living in such a time of change right now. Tickle calls it 'the Great Emergence'-a time of dizzying upheaval and hopeful promise during which various sectors of today's church swirl into a great confluence at the center. As an internationally renowned expert on religion, Phyllis Tickle has incisive perspective on the trends and transformations of our time. Here, she invites us into a conversation as she shares her reflections stemming from not only personal faith but also decades of observation and analysis. The result is a work that meets the challenge of chronicling a pivotal time in the church's history so we might better understand where we have been and what the future holds.

### **Community & Growth**

**Jean Vanier**

The profound wisdom in this book is born out of a lifetime of growth in the context of Christian community with the poor that Jean Vanier has been immersed in for almost 40 years. This book is not only interested in giving structural and personal tips for creating a healthy and God-centered community; it actually is like Jean Vanier's manifesto in terms of his paradigm of why community life is important and how God teaches special and beautiful things in the context of communities. He is able to exhort the reader to want to pursue community life, but without being overly idealistic and ignoring the many complex difficulties that arise. Jean exhorts the reader to pursue community life not because it will be easy and always meet all our needs, but because it brings tremendous growth and because God's love and calling are bigger than the problems that come up in community.



**Purpose Driven Life****Rick Warren**

Translated into over 50 languages, *The Purpose Driven Life* is far more than just a book; it is a guide to a spiritual journey that has transformed millions of lives. Once you take this journey, you'll never be the same again. Living out the purpose you were created for moves you beyond mere survival and success to a life of significance-the life you were meant to live. On your journey you'll find the answers to 3 of life's most important questions:

The Question of Existence: Why am I alive?

The Question of Significance: Does my life matter?

The Question of Purpose: What on earth am I here for?

Transform your life. Start your journey today.

**Purpose Driven Church: Growth Without Compromising Your Message and Mission****Rick Warren**

Every church is driven by something. Tradition, finances, programs, personalities, events, seekers, and even buildings can each be the controlling force in a church. But Rick Warren believes that in order for a church to be healthy it must become a purpose driven church by Jesus. The founding pastor of Saddleback Church shares a proven five-part strategy that will enable your church to grow: warmer through fellowship; deeper through discipleship; stronger through worship; broader through ministry; and larger through evangelism. Discover the same practical insights and principles for growing a healthy church that Rick has taught in seminars to over 22,000 pastors and church leaders from sixty denominations and forty-two countries. *The Purpose Driven Church* shifts the focus away from church building programs to emphasizing a people-building process. Warren says, "If you will concentrate on building people, God will build the church."

**Having a Mary Heart in a Martha World****Johanna Weaver**

The life of a woman today isn't really all that different from that of Mary and Martha in the New Testament. Like Mary, you long to sit at the Lord's feet...but the daily demands of a busy world just won't leave you alone. Like Martha, you love Jesus and really want to serve him...yet you struggle with weariness, resentment, and feelings of inadequacy. Then comes Jesus, right into the midst of your busy Mary/Martha life-and he extends the same invitation he issued long ago to the two sisters of Bethany. Tenderly he invites you to choose "the better part"-a joyful life of "living-room" intimacy with him that flows naturally into "kitchen service" for him. With her fresh approach to the familiar Bible story and its creative, practical strategies, Joanna shows how all of us -Marys and Marthas alike- can draw closer to our Lord, deepening our devotion, strengthening our service, and doing both with less stress and greater joy.