

Additions to the Library

July - August 2011

The following list includes books that were added to your church library. Check the card catalog under author or title for call numbers. Books check out for one month at a time.

Our Personal Interactions

The Relationship Principles of Jesus. By Tom Holladay. Holladay, a teaching pastor at Saddleback Church, studies the ultimate relationship expert to see what He teaches about our interactions with other people. He finds six foundational truths that Jesus taught that will immeasurably enrich the lives anyone who practices them. Like *The Purpose Driven Life* by Rick Warren, this book is divided into 40 step-by-step lessons designed to cover 40 days.

How Unique is Jesus?

Jesus Among Other Gods. By Ravi Zacharias. We are living in a time when you can believe anything, as long as you do not claim it to be true. In a brilliant defense of the uniqueness of the Christian message, Zacharias considers six questions that Jesus answered in a way that no one else claiming divine or prophetic status would have answered in the same manner. Some may not like the answers, but Jesus stands apart as unique. Ravi Zacharias was born in India, has lectured in fifty plus countries and several of the world's most prominent universities.

Christianity and Culture

Our children and young people are bombarded every day with entertainment that flies in the face of Christian values. The following books evaluate just how certain popular books and movies measure up.

The Wisdom of Pixar: an Animated Look at Virtue. By Robert Velarde. Just about everyone is familiar with the animated movies of Pixar: *Toy Story; A Bug's Life; The Incredibles; Cars; Finding Nemo; WALL-E;* and *Ratatouille*. Besides the good, clean fun, clever humor and fantastic imagination, Velarde thinks they are also *good*. Each of these movies resonates with us because of their moral character, with themes of hope, courage, love and friendship that demonstrate classic Christian virtues. This guide includes movie-by-movie discussion guides for families and small groups.

Field Guide to Harry Potter. By Colin Duriez. J. K. Rowling's series of books are wildly popular with young people, causing a few parents to feel uneasy about the supernatural aspects of the stories. Nevertheless, Rowling, a Christian herself, has simply created a fantasy story with magic playing no more a part than it does in *Narnia* or *The Wizard of Oz*. The underlying themes are Christian ones, getting even more so near the end of the series. This handbook includes plot summaries, themes, a glossary and information on the author's life.

Touched by a Vampire: Discovering the Hidden Messages in the Twilight Saga. By Beth Felker Jones. This extremely popular four-book serial by Stephenie Meyer (and movies made from it) tells the story of a regular girl's relationship with a vampire who has chosen to follow his "good" side. Although some have praised the Christian values of premarital sexual abstinence illustrated in the stories, there is also much to be cautious about. Does the good outweigh the dark? A good discussion book for parents and teenagers.

The Day-to-day Walk

Keep one of the following books on your bedside table and read a chapter a day for a sharper spiritual focus in your life.

31 Days of Praise. By Ruth Myers. Short devotionals for 31 days that focus on our gratitude and joy in the Lord.

100 Days of Character for Men. Character-building devotions about walking with integrity to become the man God wants you to be.

Life's Ultimate To Be List: finding purpose, joy, and grace in a performance-driven world. Beginning with a daily 3-item "today I will" checklist followed by scripture and a short meditation to center you on the day's goals.

The Gift for all People: thoughts on God's great grace. By Max Lucado. Thirty-three short meditations on the unbelievable gift of our redemption through Christ.

Stories of Prayer for a Healthy Soul. A collection of brief stories by many Christian contributors, including Billy Graham, Max Lucado and Joni Eareckson Tada, that illustrate the power of prayer in our lives. Beautiful illustrations.

Christian Fiction

Contemporary

In the Company of Others. By Jan Karon. Father Tim Kavanagh from the Mitford series returns in a new adventure when he takes wife Cynthia to Ireland, the land of his ancestors, to enjoy a quiet vacation at an ancient country inn lodge. Quiet it isn't. He lands in the middle of a generational feud between two local Irish families, the theft of a priceless painting, the detoxification of a local dowager and the mysteries of the past uncovered in a centuries-old journal.

Mystery and Suspense

Blink of an Eye. By Ted Dekker. Cultures clash when a Saudi princess used as a political tool in a struggle that could shift power in the Middle East and Seth, a certified genius with a head full of numbers, find themselves fleeing together in a high-speed chase across California. As they search for answers, the manhunt steadily closes in.

In the Arms of Immortals. By Ginger Garrett. Mariskka, a time traveller, arrives in Sicily of 1347 just as a dark chapter in history begins. An old man falls ill...then a street urchin...then the baker's wife. By morning half the townspeople are dead and more are dying. Mariskka recognizes the Black Death that will soon decimate Europe, but she has no voice to speak and no way to help.

Historical Romance

Within My Heart. By Tamera Alexander. Determined to fulfill her late husband's dream, Rachel Boyd struggles to keep her ranch afloat with the help of her two young sons. Dr. Rand Brookston hopes to bring modern medicine to the wilds of the Colorado Rockies, but the townspeople have been slow to trust him. When a patient's life is in danger, Rand makes a choice that will affect both him and Rachel.

The Lightkeeper's Ball. By Colleen Coble. In early 1900s, Olivia's family is considered among the wealthiest in the nation. In reality, the money is nearly gone. After her sister's untimely death Olivia is expected to take her place as the bride of her sister's former fiancé. Never having met her future husband, Olivia decides to disguise herself as someone else and see just what kind of man he is before committing.

