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Editorial Introduction

by Major Stephen Court, Editor

FIVE BOOKS - volume 3

Greetings in Jesus' name. Welcome to JAC109, the 109th issue of Journal of Aggressive Christianity. The theme for '109 is FIVE BOOKS. Long time JAC readers will remember this old series starting in 2003 with JAC26 and contributions from (then) Major Janet Munn, Colonel Dennis Phillips, Commissioner Wesley Harris, (then) Captain Danielle Strickland, (then) Commissioner Shaw Clifton, and me. In 2008 – JAC57 – we picked up the 'series' with contributions from Commissioner Douglas Davis, (then) Major Willis Howell, (then) Captain Amy Reardon, Captain Genevieve Peterson, and Commissioner Joe Noland. You can read both issues, here:

http://www.armybarmy.com/pdf/JAC_Issue_026.pdf

http://www.armybarmy.com/pdf/JAC_Issue_057.pdf

And it's been almost a decade since. But the hits keep coming with our third installment of this popular series. This is the largest to date:

We've got eight contributors this time; And way more than the 40 titles you'd THINK would be generated for a 'FIVE books' theme by EIGHT writers!

We should clarify that contributors were expected to feature five books OTHER THAN the Bible. We believe that the Scriptures of the Old and New Testament are given by inspiration of God and that they only constitute the divine rule of Christian faith and practice. So, among many other things, they are the gold standard for how we are to live and fight. They provide the most comprehensive and trustworthy revelation of God's character and purposes. Don't misunderstand that we are suggesting that any of the titles named can hold a candle to the Bible.

That said, here are our contributors:

Major Stacy Birks is a USW training officer and pioneer of The Open Table cell (and network) We get a glimpse at the impact of her preaching way back in 2006's JAC44:

http://www.armybarmy.com/pdf/JAC_Issue_044.pdf

Debora Galeuchet is a candidate intern in Switzerland, Austria, and Hungary Territory with her husband. Her mom was interviewed four years ago in JAC84 here:

http://www.armybarmy.com/pdf/JAC_Issue_084.pdf

Envoy Roy Snapp-Kolas looks to help formerly homeless people help homeless people become formerly homeless people in corps that he has started or currently leads in USW.

Lieutenant Dawn Apuan (USW) is a graduate of The War College immersed in pastoral care in social services. Dawn has several entries in JAC, including JAC73/74/75 in 2011 as Cadet Dawn-Marie Paulson:

http://www.armybarmy.com/pdf/JAC_Issue_073.pdf

http://www.armybarmy.com/pdf/JAC_Issue_074.pdf

http://www.armybarmy.com/pdf/JAC_Issue_075.pdf

Lieutenant-Colonel Ian Barr is a 'retired' UKI officer who teaches, preaches, and writes from a theological perspective. He gets a nod in 2009's JAC64 editorial intro for his chapters in the BOSTON COMMON: Salvationist perspectives on holiness:

http://www.armybarmy.com/pdf/JAC_Issue_064.pdf

Lieutenant-Colonel Doug O'Brien is a 'retired' USW officer with a huge personal library currently helping develop large projects in Southern California. His daughter Claire O'Brien-Hawk contributed to JAC108:

http://www.armybarmy.com/pdf/JAC_Issue_108.pdf

Lieutenant Vanessa Coleman is a corps officer (of two at a time!) in UKI Territory pioneering in prayer and the prophetic. She has written in JAC92:

<http://www.armybarmy.com/JAC/jac92.html>

been interviewed in 2015's JAC95:

<http://www.armybarmy.com/JAC/jac95.html>

and which was repeated in the Interview issue, with every JAC interview, JAC100:

http://www.armybarmy.com/pdf/JAC_Issue_100.pdf

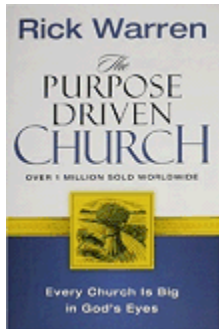
Major Peter McGuigan is an author (he has a new book called *The Leadership Of Jesus* coming out this year) and Communications and Public Relations Secretary in Sri Lanka Territory.

Enjoy. Be inspired and challenged. Read the Bible every day and memorise verses in it. But, also, maybe pick up a title or two from each contributor. Share the lists with your friends. Craft your own list? And if it isn't inspiring enough – maybe read some more excellent books and let them shape you in the image of our Sovereign Jesus Christ.

Five Books That Shaped My Life

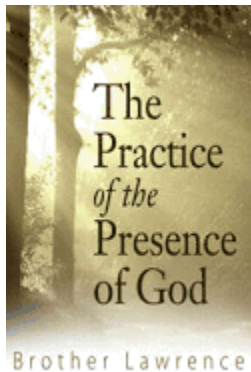
by Major Stacy Birks

1. The Purpose Driven Church, by Rick Warren



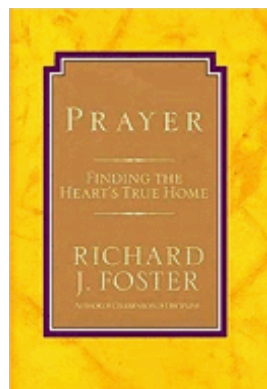
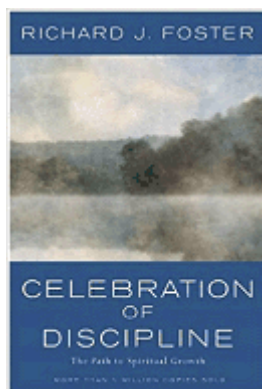
As a young Lieutenant in the second appointment as a Salvation Army Officer, as you can imagine, I still had a lot to learn about leading and growing a congregation. The Divisional Commander at the time most likely knew my husband, Rob, and I could use as much help as we could get, so she bought and gave to us Rick Warren's, The Purpose Driven Church. Knowledge is important in leadership, but what also comes in handy is experience and this book was written on just that. One phrase that was influential goes something to the effect of, "if you don't have a plan to bring your community to Jesus, then you really are telling them they can go to hell." Mind-blowing! Revolutionary! The book shares 5 areas to focus on in order to have a growing congregation, "warmer through fellowship; deeper through discipleship; stronger through worship; broader through ministry; larger through evangelism". This book isn't theory. It is practical help that already had been worked out and experienced by the congregation of the author.

2. The Practice of the Presence of God, by Brother Lawrence



The Practice of the Presence of God, by Brother Lawrence, was a force for transformation in my prayer life. While reading this book, I discovered what the Bible means in 1 Thes. 5:17, where we are told to "pray continually." Brother Lawrence shared intimate details of his Spirit-lead and Spirit-filled life. The most influential is, "That we should establish ourselves in a sense of GOD's Presence, by continually conversing with Him." Prayer isn't only for morning devotions, grace at meals, Sunday morning Holiness Meetings, at the bedside of a sick soldier. Prayer can and should be constant, all through the day, even in the most undistinguished tasks in my daily routine, like washing pots and pans.

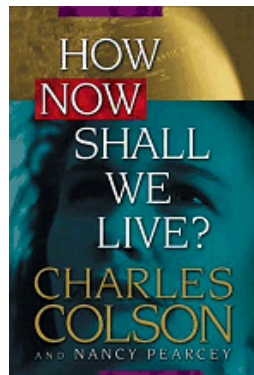
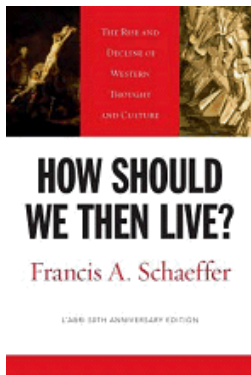
3. Celebration of Discipline & Prayer, by Richard Foster



Celebration of Discipline and Prayer, both by Richard Foster, are two books on my shelf that get read over and over. The first one was my introduction to spiritual disciplines. It gently guided me through meditation, prayer, fasting, study, simplicity, solitude,

submission, service, confession, worship, guidance, celebration. At the same time challenging me to grow deeper spiritually. Similarly, Prayer taught me more about this discipline. While reading it, for the first time I experienced God communicating to me in a vision. He brought my attention to Psalm 31:3, “Since you are my rock and my fortress, for the sake of your name lead and guide me.” That marked the first of many times God has spoken to me through His Word.

4. **How Should We Then Live?, by Francis Schaeffer & How Now Shall We Live?, by Charles Colson**

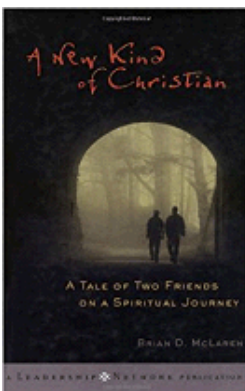


Francis Schaeffer’s writing is brilliant and influential in his book *How Should We Then Live?* (as well as the film series by the same name, that showed off his lederhosen). After reading it, I understood what is meant by “worldview” and I was convinced that the Gospel should inform my whole life, not just bits and pieces, or when I felt like it. The book points out that western culture is in moral decline and “To make no decision in

regard to the growth of authoritarian government is already a decision for it.” That is what finally convinced me I can and will live out my faith by being socially active in my city, state and country on issues that are important to me, such as objectivity of women and gun violence.

In a similar way, *How Now Shall We Live?* helped shape my life. The “worldview” thought continues as Chuck Colson writes, “Christians who understand biblical truth and have the courage to live it out can indeed redeem a culture, or even create one. This is the challenge facing all of us in the new millennium.” Through telling true stories, and teaching, this book “demonstrates how to expose the false views and values of modern culture, live a more fulfilling life the way God created us to live. Contend for the faith by understanding how nonbelievers think. Build a society that reflects biblical principals.” (back cover of the book)

5. **A New Kind of Christian, by Brian McClaren**



When I first read *A New Kind of Christian*, I was speechless. It was thought-provoking and challenging to what I had known a Christian to be and what my idea of church was. Brian McClaren was the first author that exposed me to the idea that the Kingdom of God is bigger than the church, denominations, and Christianity as I understood it.

“What if the Christian faith is to exist in a variety of forms rather than just one imperial one? What if it is both more stable and more agile- more responsive to the Holy Spirit- when it exists in these many forms? And what if, instead of arguing about which form is correct and legitimate, we were to honor, appreciate, and validate one another and see ourselves as servants of one grander mission, apostles of one greater message, seekers on one ultimate quest?”

Five Books That Impacted Me

by Debora Galeuchet

1. The Bible

I love the Bible! I love it because it is God's word to us. The Bible gives me answers to questions like: What is the meaning of life? How do I get to heaven? Why is there so much sin in the world? In addition to these 'great' questions, the Bible provides a lot of practical guidance like: What is important in a partnership? How can I be a good friend? What is true success? How do I please God? The Bible is absolutely reliable and without error. God does not change and so the Bible is as relevant to us (and me) as it was at the time when it was written. The Bible introduces me to God and equips me in his service. It is a living word and through the Holy Spirit it often speaks to me in a personal and powerful way.

2. If you want to walk on water, you've got to get out of the boat, by John Ortberg

In this book John Ortberg uses the example of Peter and invites us to get out of our comfort zone and to walk on the water. He writes that God's calling for all of us is to live a life on the waves where we are totally dependent on the presence of Jesus. Ortberg writes about failure with a new perspective by pointing not to the sinking Peter but to the disciples who stayed in the security of the boat and didn't step outside of their comfort zone. This book raised a new desire in me to experience more of God's presence and power in my life. It made me reflect on areas in my life where I need to step out of my "security boat" and walk on the water so that the impossible becomes possible - also in my life.

3. The Great Omission, by Dallas Willard

In this book Dallas Willard writes that many Christians never live a fulfilled life because they live a Christian life without discipleship. Jesus called us to follow him in a very practical way. We are not disciples if we are not continually being changed in our heart and in our everyday life. Real obedience towards Christ –Willard writes – will turn our lives upside down. This obedience can be learnt by spiritual exercises such as solitude and silence, prayer and fasting, study of the Bible and worship, fellowship and service as well as confession of sins. These spiritual exercises create a "fertile environment" in which our inner being can be transformed. If you are not satisfied with your poor spiritual life this book can challenge you (as it challenged me) to walk in the footsteps of Jesus who takes you by his hand and leads you into a life of true fulfillment.

4. William Booth - The General next to God, by Richard Collier

This book tells the story of how William and Catherine became the founder of The Salvation Army. It describes not only the life of William Booth but also the emergence and growth of The Salvation Army. In the book there are also numerous drawings and black-and-white photos. The explanations are very lively and vivid so I could imagine

the situation directly before my mind's eye. In this book many details are given which are not mentioned in other biographies - for example, the emergence of The Salvation Army in Germany and Switzerland (including the struggle of the Confederation against this new movement) or the work of Bramwell Booth, the son and successor of William Booth. This book challenged me to be courageous and to dare to go new ways. It is also a strong testimony of God's faithfulness towards his people and what is possible when his people follow him without compromise.

5. Devotional Classics, by *Richard Foster and James Smith*

As a follower of Jesus I don't want to hold back, I want to walk in his ways without any fear. I want to be transformed into the person God meant me to be. In this book, Richard Foster and James Smith show that a life of devotion to God can be a feast. It explores texts of significant spiritual authors of different centuries for our personal devotional time. People such as Augustine, Luther, Kierkegaard, Brother Lorenz and Henri Nouwen write about their own journey into a deeper level of intimacy with God. This whole book was/is an invitation to me to deepen my dedication to Jesus Christ and to grow in my friendship with him.

Five (or so) Books That Helped Shape My Life

by Envoy Roy Snapp-Kolas

I was raised in a Pentecostal/ Fundamentalist environment that included a strong emphasis on Dispensational theology with a focus on the imminent rapture of the Church. This belief (along with the “fire” that would come with the baptism of the Holy Spirit accompanied by speaking in tongues) was to fuel a desire to witness to the lost and wait for the soon return of Christ. In the 1960’s Chicago area where I grew up, I was interested in baseball (the Cubs) and girls, so I was pretty convinced on at least a few occasions that the rapture had come and I had been left behind. Most of my neighborhood friends were either Catholics (definitely not rapture material) or mainline Protestants (did not believe the Bible) so I was for sure hanging with the wrong crowd if I wanted to be raptured.

In high school I was still interested in baseball and girls, but for some reason was not as worried about the rapture. After high school I enrolled at Oral Roberts University in Tulsa, Oklahoma, a Pentecostal/Evangelical school that, while still quite conservative, was more liberal than the church in which I had been raised. I majored in psychology with a plan to pursue a career in the behavioral sciences. I went through a period of agnosticism/atheism as I wrestled with why the Christian faith (or what little I knew of it) had little to say about contemporary problems of the 1970’s like racism, poverty, the Viet Nam War, etc. Towards the end of my undergraduate program it was recommended I read **Ronald J. Sider’s** book, **Rick Christians in an Age of Hunger** (Intervarsity Press 1977). Dr. Sider walked through the biblical text to reveal how much of scripture is devoted to the issues of wealth and poverty. I basically knew bible stories from Sunday School: Old Testament heroes, the life of Christ (but mostly from the Gospel of John), something about the rest of the New Testament (particularly the Pentecost account in Acts 2) and possible End Times’ scenarios. Dr. Sider laid out how much of the prophetic tradition concerns social issues and that the call of Christ is directed towards material as well as spiritual poverty:

The mission of the Incarnate One was to free the oppressed and heal the blind....The poor are the only group specifically singled out as recipients of Jesus’ gospel. Certainly the gospel he proclaimed was for all, but he was particularly concerned that the poor realize that his good news was for them. (pg. 66)

Ron Sider’s book, as well as other readings in the area of social concern, motivated me to consider pursuing a different career path than the behavioral sciences. While I graduated with a BA in psychology, my interest was now in biblical and theological perspectives on social justice, so I enrolled at Fuller Theological Seminary in the Fall of 1980. Fuller was still in the evangelical camp at the time but was more open to discussion from differing theological traditions. I used most of my electives to take courses in Social Ethics, Ethics of Bonhoeffer, Sociology of Religion, Philosophy of Religion, etc. I read much from Anabaptist writers, including **John Howard Yoder’s** **The Politics of Jesus** (Wm. B. Eerdmans Publishing 1972). Yoder attempted to show the teachings of Jesus are rooted in nonviolence and that nonviolent resistance is a

legitimate expression of a Christian approach to social justice. True believers are called to resist nonviolently those “powers” that seek to usurp the authority of Christ and undermine the advance of the Kingdom of God:

The believer’s cross is no longer any and every kind of suffering, sickness, or tension, the bearing of which is demanded. The believer’s cross must be, like his Lord’s, the price of his social nonconformity. It is not, like sickness or catastrophe, an inexplicable, unpredictable suffering; it is the end of a path freely chosen after counting the cost. (pg. 97)

I now thought of myself as a pacifist, began to volunteer at a homeless shelter near the Seminary, and did an internship with an interfaith organization that was interested in the repressive violence going on at the time in Central America. This internship motivated me to read more widely in the then popular field of Liberation Theology. Liberation Theology attempted to provide some biblical warrant for the revolutionary movements taking place in Central America (definitely not pacifistic). From this perspective, the overall message of the bible was liberation and Jesus provides the seed for all true revolutions. Liberation theology was heavily dependent upon Marxist sociology to provide a “hermeneutics of suspicion” to the biblical text (i.e. suspicious of any biblical interpretation that was personal [and thus supportive of the power status quo] rather than political/revolutionary). Through this internship I was also able to travel to Nicaragua to observe the Sandinista revolution up close (or so I was told). We were able to travel as far north as Jalapa near the Honduran border, staying with peasant families where running water and electricity had only recently been made available. Interestingly, the church that was best attended (and not sympathetic to Liberation Theology) in Jalapa was Pentecostal.

After I graduated from Fuller in 1985 I got married, joined the United Church of Christ (the most liberal Christian church in the United States) and went on staff at the soup kitchen/homeless shelter where I had been a volunteer. The church became a sanctuary for Central American refugees and housed the homeless shelter where I worked. This church was very active in most politically progressive causes of the time. The church also struggled with the usual issues that face churches: attendance, budget shortfalls and pastoral strife.

In the late 1980’s I read **Resident Aliens** by **Stanley Hauerwas** and **William Willimon** (Abingdon Press 1989). This book argued that Christians were not so much to be involved in politics but to witness to the new politic of the Kingdom of God inaugurated through the life, death and resurrection of Jesus through the local church:

We argue that the political task of Christians is to be the church rather than to transform the world. One reason why it is not enough to say that our first task is to make the world better is that we Christians have no other means of accurately understanding the world and rightly interpreting the world except by way of the church. Big words like “peace” and “justice,” slogans the church adopts under the presumption that, even if people do not know what “Jesus Christ is Lord” means, they will know what peace and

justice means, are words awaiting content. The church really does not know what these words mean apart from the life and death of Jesus of Nazareth... It is Jesus' story that gives content to our faith, judges any institutional embodiment of our faith, and teaches us to be suspicious of any political slogan that does not need God to make itself credible. (pg. 38)

Hauerwas and Willimon advocated for a "confessing church":

The confessing church... calls people to conversion, but it depicts that conversion as a long process of being baptismally engrafted into a new people, an alternative polis, a countercultural social structure called church. It seeks to influence the world by being the church, that is, by being something the world is not and can never be, lacking the gift of faith and vision, which is ours in Christ. The confessing church seeks the visible church, a place, clearly visible to the world, in which people are faithful to their promises, love their enemies, tell the truth, honor the poor, suffer for righteousness, and thereby testify to the amazing community-creating power of God. (pg. 46)

I continued to work with the homeless/marginalized in a variety of secular settings through the early 1990's, having two sons and moving on from the United Church of Christ to the somewhat less liberal United Methodist Church (where my wife is an ordained elder). Eventually, I was laid off from one of these secular agencies and began again to look for work in the field of social services. After many months I was hired to start a program for homeless veterans by...The Salvation Army.

The Salvation Army encouraged incorporating spiritual programming into social services ministries, something that had been discouraged at the secular programs of which I had been a part of previously. So, I tried to offer spiritual programming on a voluntary basis at my government-funded residential program for veterans. Since I was the one with the seminary degree it seemed natural that I would be the one to offer this programming. I quickly found out, however, that the liberal theological perspective that I had adopted was far removed from the experiences of the men and women that would attend a bible study I tried to facilitate. This resulted in a two/three year re-exploration of my theological perspective. I was invited to take the men to a **Promise Keepers** event in Los Angeles and became convicted of how I was living as a husband and father. In July 1997 I was asked to find out about something from England called the **Alpha Course** by attending a training at a local church. At that training I had a powerful Charismatic experience. I thought I had put all of that behind me in becoming seminary trained and focusing more on the social implications of scripture.

Six months later I started a ministry (that would later become an Outpost and then a Corps of The Salvation Army) that would attempt to integrate recovering men and women veterans from my homeless program into a worshipping community. The model for this would eventually come from the inner city missions organization, World Impact, and a book written by **Keith Phillips** entitled **Out of Ashes** (World Impact Press 1996). World Impact argued for a multiplication of churches planted in the inner cities of the world that could be cross-cultural, multi-racial and committed to developing "indigenous

leaders.” (pg. 101) I became convinced that I was called to plant a Salvation Army ministry for recovering people that would train up indigenous leaders (i.e. recovering people) to influence the next generation of recovering people for the growth of God’s kingdom in the inner city area of greater Los Angeles. This ministry would definitely incorporate addressing the social situations of the people (poverty, oppression, racism, etc.) but not neglect the call that individual salvation comes by “grace alone, through faith alone, in Christ alone.”

I initially struggled somewhat to find a examples for this type of ministry within my own organization. The Salvation Army’s Mission Statement includes the words “preach the gospel of Jesus Christ and meet human needs in His name...” but I had discovered that something had evolved over time that could be called the “Corps side” and the “social services side.” The Corps’ focus could be spiritual ministry and the “social services” would be more focused on the material issues of poor persons seeking our help. This divide could be even more pronounced in government-funded residential programs run by The Salvation Army, including my own. I became convinced it was possible to integrate the worshipping and serving aspects of The Salvation Army and decided to be dedicated to making that happen in my program and Outpost.

I did much reading in Salvation Army history etc. and talking to long-time Salvationists that had a similar interest to help understand this tension between the “social” and the “evangelistic” and how it might be bridged. I was assisted in this by reading ***Phil Needham’s Community in Mission: A Salvationist Ecclesiology*** (The Salvation Army 1987). I asterisked the following statement from Commissioner Needham as I read it in his book:

The Church gives witness to the gospel primarily in two ways. These can be described as evangelism and social action. Both are concerned with facilitating the transformations which the reality of the Kingdom makes possible. Evangelism is concerned with transformation on the personal level. Evangelism is an announcement of the Kingdom’s presence and an invitation to accept citizen status. Social action is also an announcement of the Kingdom’s presence, but in this case by supporting and participating in the social change for which that presence calls. Without both ways to witness, the proclamation of the gospel is hindered. Evangelism without social action is a flight from the world and refusal to accept the reality of the Kingdom’s transforming presence in the midst of this world which God loves. Social action without evangelism is a flight from the personal depth of the gospel and refusal to take seriously Jesus’ unmistakable command to his followers to become “fishers of men.” (pg. 62)

But if that was not challenging enough, there was also this I asterisked:

It should be clearly understood, however, that evangelism and social action are more than the ways in which the Church carries out its mission in the world. They are also expressions of what is taking place within the fellowship of believers-in-the-peace. They are not merely charitable acts toward those who are outside the fellowship. Rather, they are the “overflow” of Christian caring within the fellowship...The mission is the

external expression and sharing of what is happening internally. Otherwise it is merely charitable works on behalf of outsiders. Evangelism and social action are the refreshing and renewing overflow of the life of the Church. In carrying out its mission, the Church is actually embodying not so much what it thinks it should do, but what it is. (pgs. 63-64)

My time with The Salvation Army since reading this has been to somehow bring these words into reality in my ministry context.

I have been aided in this by thinking through my Charismatic experience and how it informs my ministry. I read **Glory on Your House** by **Jack Hayford** (Chosen Books 2002). The Charismatic experience is foremost about increasing passion for worship:

It began to well up in my soul. Chabod—the Hebrew word for “glory...” The weight, worth, value and splendor of God—that is, of His Person, nature and being—are of inestimable worth. (pgs. 170-171)

The weight of God’s glory is the only worth that can bring true self-worth. The weight of God’s glory is the only wealth that can bring true abundance. The weight of God’s glory is the only force that can tip the scales and turn the tide of human circumstance from emptiness to fulfillment. (pg. 175)

I have also been aided in my ministry by returning to, and reclaiming, Christian doctrine as the necessary boundary for living out the Christian faith in this increasingly pluralistic and relativistic culture. Not everything the culture calls loving is actually so, nor is every belief that supposedly puts one on the “right side of history” necessarily consistent with scripture or orthodox Christian belief. As a Wesleyan-Arminian, I have been helped on doctrine by **Arminian Theology: Myths and Realities** by **Roger E. Olson** (Intervarsity Press 2006). Olsen argues that Arminian theology is a consistent Protestant expression of scriptural teaching on sin and salvation and that nothing in Arminian theology mitigates against upholding the pre-eminent Protestant understanding of Christ’s work on the cross as **substitutionary atonement**.

Salvation Army officers and ministry leaders are more than pastors, but pastoring is an important aspect of our calling. After years of evangelizing, discipling, doing pastoral care, etc. in my ministry contexts, and sometimes concluding that not much headway had been made, I was encouraged when I read **Eugene Peterson’s** memoir **The Pastor** (Harper One 2011). This book can be a Spirit-fueled shot in the arm to remain faithful to one’s calling, do the regular tasks of praying, studying, counseling, preaching, etc. and realize that this is holy and noble with a longer history than our short lives. And, on the subject of preaching, of all the books I have read on preaching, none describes the preaching task better than **Timothy Keller’s** book, **Preaching** (Viking 2015). I wish I had been able to read that 20 years ago when I was just starting on this preaching journey.

Worship the Father extravagantly, through the Son, in the power of the Holy Spirit. Evangelize the lost. Proclaim the good news to the poor and oppressed. Establish outposts of the Kingdom that incarnate the love of Christ. Uphold the authority of scripture and sound doctrine. Preach Christ and Him crucified for the salvation of the world.

Five Books That Shaped Me

by Lieutenant Dawn Apuan

1. Hinds Feet on High Places, by Hannah Hurnard

I couldn't count the number of times I've read this book. It's a quick read, easily done in one sitting if you have a couple hours. I love the allegory and have found that every time I've read it, a different portion of the book speaks to my heart depending on what kind of season of life I am in. I can easily relate to Much Afraid, but also love the tenderness of the Shepherd, His patience, His persistence to not leave us where we're at, and His ability to make beauty from ashes.

2. Out of Solitude, by Henri Nouwen

This book changed my life. Super simple at first glance—three short meditations—but if you allow them to penetrate your heart and your life, they can be transformational. These meditations challenged how I thought of myself, how I related to others, and how I viewed God. If you allow God to search your heart through the words of Nouwen, I guarantee you won't be the same. Henri Nouwen has written about 40 books; I've read at least 20 of them and many of them are very, very good, but none has had quite the same impact as *Out of Solitude*.

3. To Kill a Mockingbird, by Harper Lee

Throughout school I loved English and I loved reading the classics—*The Scarlet Letter*, *Lord of the Flies*, *Billy Budd*, *To Kill a Mockingbird*, and so many more, but I chose TKAM as a representation of classic literature and how it shapes who we are. *To Kill a Mockingbird* was one of my favorites in my early years, although as an adult *Les Misérables* has likely eclipsed it, but I still love them both. I love when authors can create stories and characters who struggle with the same themes we find in Scripture and in our own lives—grace and redemption and justice and love. I like to have a book that challenges my worldview and causes me to think deeply, but I also love a good story, so it's a bonus when the two are wedded together.

4. Bonhoeffer: Pastor, Martyr, Prophet, Spy, by Eric Metaxas

Dietrich Bonhoeffer's life is inspirational. Eric Metaxas' tome chronicling his life and faith and ministry is exceptional. Bonhoeffer was a brilliant theologian and I love that by reading about his life and reading some of his writings, you can be inspired to live a more holy life, one that is closely connected with Jesus. I'm attracted to how deep of a thinker Bonhoeffer was, and how he struggled with navigating through the grayer areas of life.

5. For the Love of God: A Daily Companion for Discovering the Riches of God's Word, Vol. 1 & 2, by D.A. Carson

Carson has compiled two volumes of short daily devotions based on the M'Cheyne Bible reading plan, which includes approximately four chapters per day. By following the reading plan, you will read the entire Old Testament once and the New Testament and Psalms twice over the course of a year. There are profound connections to be made when reading the different portions of Scripture side by side like this. And Carson is a theologian providing deep commentary that challenges you to think critically about Scripture and to think critically about your own life and holy walk with the Lord. This is a wonderful devotion if you want more than just a few fluffy, feel-good thoughts to start your day.

Five Books That Shaped My life

by Lieutenant-Colonel Ian Barr

These challenges are always interesting, not least because one's choices are fairly fluid depending on where we are at any given time. Sitting in the comfort of my home after three years of retirement I have a fair swath of history to review, so here are some books that I think have helped shape my life.

When I was 14 years old I fell seriously ill in a Corps Cadet house party. It was so long ago the ambulance had a bell rather than the blaring klaxon we would hear today. After a day or two my mother brought me some of my collection of Agatha Christie's murder mysteries. Our captain came to visit daily, and when he saw the detective novels he decided these were not suitable reading for a corps cadet and he took them away. He returned the next day with **General Albert Orsborn's** autobiography '**The House of My Pilgrimage.**'

Now I have to admit I was not best pleased, but I read Orsborn nevertheless. His story was influential in my early realisation that God was calling me to be an officer. It touched me in a deep place and I just knew that I would one day be an officer. As a divisional commander, I used to visit the house he had lived in when he retired from active service, the corps officers who lived there still had some of his furniture. I often reflected on the fact that this was where Albert Orsborn wrote 'The House of my Pilgrimage' and here I was serving as an officer fifty years later.

A single line can sometimes change your outlook on things. As a new lieutenant in my first appointment I was interested to read in **Lady Longford's** excellent **biography of Queen Victoria** that the Queen was well aware of the Army, but 'thought that Salvation Army lasses were no better than they ought to be.' So also with Salvation Army lads, I concluded!

I have never believed my own officership to be a great sacrifice, and I cannot get excited by the supposed 'drama' of officership. If I have served God faithfully over the years then I have done no more than I ought to do, been no better than I ought to be, and served God no better than anyone else. Obviously I never met Queen Victoria but she has kept me grounded over the years.

In terms of my theological outlook I have been greatly influenced by **DM Baillie's 'God was in Christ'**, and in particular his chapter on the Paradox of Grace. He says that inherent in every commandment or divine requirement there is a promise. He demonstrates this by reference to the 'yet not I' in Christian life: 'I laboured more than they all yet not I, but the grace of God that was with me' (1 Corinthians 15:10); 'It is not I (you) who speak but the spirit of my father' (Matthew 10:20) ; 'I live, yet not I but Christ lives in me.' (Galatians 2:20)

This 'yet not I' paradox works out in almost every area of Christian life and experience. Therefore in my teaching I have always maintained that the call to holiness is not a seemingly impossible command but a promise. 'You shall be holy, for I am holy.'

A couple of years ago I read the **Lewis trilogy** by **Peter May**. These three connected stories are set on the Isle of Lewis and they gave me a new perspective on how my life might have been.

I was fostered by a family in Saltcoats, a little holiday town in South West Scotland, when I was 14 months old. When I was almost 40 I discovered almost by accident that I was actually one of three half-siblings and it was both exciting and nerve-wracking to meet my brother and sister for the first time. However, twenty five years later, Peter May's trilogy was a forceful reminder of something a social worker said to me at the time of discovery: 'You were lucky not to be sent to the Western Isles as an extra pair of hands in some croft or smallholding.'

May tells the story of a number of children 'fostered' by the local authorities in Scotland's larger cities – the actual phrase used was 'boarded out' – to tough situations in the harsh climate, subsistence farming and working life of the Western Isles. Some suffered a miserable childhood, while many others made a good home and life for themselves in the island communities.

It was not so much that I was 'lucky' not to have been sent to such a situation, but rather I finished the trilogy convinced more than ever that God's hand had been on my life since infancy and childhood. He had given me good parents, a loving family, a happy childhood, a spiritual home in The Salvation Army and a sense that my life belonged to God. I do not believe in 'providence at the expense of others' or even 'divine favour in comparison with others', but rather May's book confirmed my sense that God's hand was, and is, upon my life however imperfectly I have lived it.

Five Books That Shaped My life

by Lieutenant-Colonel Doug O'Brien

I have hundreds of books in my personal library – all of which are important to me. Usually it is not a book, but a line or a thought, a chapter or concept in that book that has impacted me. This is true for the selection I am sharing with you today.

1. “Echoes and Memories,” *Bramwell Booth*

I have always sensed that “Echoes and Memories,” was a great eye-witness account of The Salvation Army’s early days. The chapter titled, “Signs and Wonders” was remarkable to me for its shock value. I grew up in the San Francisco Citadel Corps, the various rooms of the corps were physically located in the territorial headquarters building. I thought my corps was the standard expression for Salvation Army life. Corps that were not like my corps should be working to become like my corps. So Bramwell Booth’s description of meetings in the early Army were eye-opening and startling. I learned that Salvation Army meetings may have been a whole lot more Pentecostal than anything I might have imagined. Some would say that The Salvation Army – and many other Protestant denominations – intentionally stepped away from these kinds of experiences, preferring to emphasize Christian character. This chapter taught me that I should be open to an Army that might be very different from my own experience.

2. “Miracles,” *CS Lewis*

Few books have reassured me as much as this one. The phrase from the book that stuck with me over the years was: God was doing “what he has always been doing.” In the book, CS Lewis explained that God is always multiplying the wheat in the field and the fish of the seas. This provided context for Jesus’ miracles of the feeding of the multitudes and the multiplication of the loaves and fish. God was simply doing what he had always been doing – this time he did it a little more quickly. The book helped me to contextualize what I knew about God. When I need to explain or understand God’s role in some incident or experience in my life I think about who God is – what is his nature? What is God always doing? In what ways can we depend on God to act?

3. “We need Saints,” *Chick Yuill*

When I was in high school, my dad had helped me get a part time job at The Salvation Army’s San Francisco Evangeline Residence. During some moments when I just needed to be available, I picked up a War Cry and read an article about holiness. I didn’t have a clue about holiness – but the article peaked my interest. Why had I sat in a thousand Holiness Meetings and still didn’t understand what this was all about? After many conversations, after reading many books, and after both a seminary education and training college experience I picked up “We need saints.” In a series of simple illustrations, Chick outlined perspectives of holiness in a way that anyone could understand and retain. Of course those illustrations and the book’s narrative don’t

answer every question. But the book provided a helpful foundation from which to discuss holiness and to encourage people to live like saints.

4. “Churches and the Working Classes in Victorian England,” K. S. Inglis

This book is probably unknown to most people. I would never have discovered it except for Commissioner Denis Hunter who was visiting Diane and me in Colorado Springs, CO. After the Commissioner’s return to England, he sent me this book because he felt it provided insight into the Army’s early growth and development. In the book, Inglis referenced an 1891 survey published in the “Political Science Quarterly” that analyzed the experience of the Army in its first 25 years.

“Its arrival creates a great ferment; during the first few months it gains a band of adherents, and there are some wonderful instances which cannot be gainsaid, of moral reform. But then the progress of the Army in this particular place comes to an end. Its services are still held; but adherents are now added one by one at long intervals, and the ‘Corps’ is as little likely to affect the regeneration of the ‘residuum’ in that district as any of the surrounding religious bodies. Hence the growth of the Army in numbers has not been a steady and sustained growth in their earlier fields of labour: it is the result of constant establishment of fresh corps in new places.”

During my lifetime, the period of most dramatic growth in the USA Western Territory came as a result of the Mission 2000 effort. Many new corps were opened and many new people attracted to Christ through the Army. Several years into the Mission 2000 initiative I remember seeing some challenging territorial statistics. The stats confirmed that the growth of the territory had been directly and entirely related to new corps openings. What had been described in 1891 proved to be true a hundred years later – and that experience may provide insight for our next hundred years.

5. “The Celtic Way of Prayer,” Esther de Waal

I sort of fell into collecting books about Celtic Christianity and Celtic life while I was at the International College for Officers. This book – the first of many others I have collected - introduced me to a group of Christians who really seemed to infuse their daily lives with the presence of God.

Here’s a prayer offered by a dairyman:

*Bless, O God, my little cow,
Bless, O God, my desire;
Bless Thou my partnership
And the milking of my hands, O God.
Bless, O God, each teat,
Bless, O God, each finger;
Bless Thou each drop
That goes into my pitcher, O God!*

Here's a prayer that any of us could offer:

*God with me lying down,
God with me rising up,
God with me in each ray of light,
Nor I a ray of joy without Him,
Nor one ray without him*

*Christ with me sleeping
Christ with me waking,
Christ with me watching,
Every day and night,
Every day and night.*

*God with me protecting,
The Lord with me directing,
The Spirit with me strengthening,
For ever and for evermore,
Ever and evermore, Amen.*

Understanding that God wills to be part of every activity and believing that God is beside me everywhere – is a message well received.

Five Books That Shaped My life

by Lieutenant Vanessa Coleman

1. The Hiding Place, *Corrie Ten Boom*

As a kid I loved reading biographies of missionaries and martyrs of the persecuted church. Maybe it was a morbid fascination, but they gave me a perspective outside of my comfortable Western 1990s one, that following Jesus is costly but precious, that I need to be prepared to pray hard, to know the Word, to count the cost, and preferably speak lots of languages.

But if I had to pick one out of them all, then it would be *The Hiding Place*. I read this over and over and over again as a kid. The stories of her life, her faith and resilience, the sheer sassiness of her righteous response to evil had me hooked, and sold me a picture of the kind of faith life I aspire to.

2. Make My Life a Prayer to You, *Keith Green*

When I was 16 a friend, who was really into Keith Green's music gave this to me as a Christmas present. It was in a season where I was pushing myself to read through the whole Bible, and I'd got to the book of Romans, and for the first time found the Holy Spirit interpreting the long, confusing theological sentences to my hungry heart. I soaked up the stories of radical mission and worship like a sponge. Reading this took me to deeper intimacy in my relationship with God, and made me dream of how I could live out a calling to love and serve the Lord where I was now, at school, in my normal life, rather than waiting until I was old enough to lead like I thought leadership was supposed to look like.

3. Red Moon Rising, *Pete Greig*

I caught the 24/7 prayer bug when I was 14, and led my first prayer week then, and have been hooked ever since. By the time I was in my early 20s I'd been invested in regular non-stop prayer weeks, and was living in a community that 'got' the stuff that I'd dreamt of and longed for as a teenager. Reading *Red Moon Rising* gave me some of the bigger picture of what God was doing in and through this wild movement. It got me fired up, inspired me to press in, to pray harder, longer, more passionately, deeply and consistently. (If I can cheat and add a couple to the Pete Greig train, I also love *The Vision* and *The Vow* for the most compelling call to discipleship in one place that I know with some fun teaching on covenant from a non-Army perspective, and the lesser known *Awakening Cry*, which is brilliant if you're looking for some history and energy to pour into praying for revival).

4. Ordinary Mum, Extraordinary Mission, *Anna France-Williams, Joy French*

When I had my eldest son Isaac I took 6 weeks maternity leave (in the UK as officers we get to pick between taking 6 weeks or 6 months), and when I started back at work with a 4 week old baby this book saved my life. Or my sanity, or something. It's really

down to earth, written by women who understand my paradigm, who get the women in ministry thing, who want to change the world and not be limited in that by kids, not relegated to the kids corner. It's full of practical tips, spiritual wisdom, guest chapters from mums who are a few steps ahead on the journey (including none other than Danielle Strickland). It was an accessible read, I managed to gorge my way through it during middle of the night feedings with my eyes held open with match sticks. It continues to shape how I juggle 2 corps and 2 kids, and help me hold a healthy balance between the things I love most and also feel the most guilt about. I've bought this heaps of times because I keep giving it away and needing it again before it is returned. It's a great baby shower gift too!

5. Pioneering Movements, *Steve Addison*

When I was appointed to replant a dying corps last summer I had a lot of passion and enthusiasm but not a lot of idea as to how I should go about it. I stumbled across Steve and Michelle Addison, and their organisation Move, who manage to articulate in really helpful ways some practical steps for building missional communities in ways that equips disciples to make disciples who make disciples. So far so standard, but what I really love about this book is the scope of their vision is ridiculously, passionately faith-filled. It's the first place I've seen (outside this notable journal), since the early days of the Army, that truly has not just a dream but an action plan to win the world for Jesus. I experience a culture of pendulum swing back in cringe against how unrealistic and naïve that dream was for our spiritual ancestors, but Pioneering Movements is full of stories, from the developing world and the west, about how disciples of Jesus are replicating movements to leave no place unreached with the gospel. It's full of diagrams, encouragement, challenges and the voice of the Holy Spirit spurring us on to dream, to dare, to do and to die. I'm sure this will continue to shape my ministry in the years to come. This is a vision that I had already sold my heart to, and I'm convinced this book is a helpful tool as we live out what it means to be The Salvation Army in the 21st century.

Five Books

by Major Peter McGuigan

By what one might consider a confluence of complementarity and destiny, I was born with a passion to write and a curiosity about nuance in language. From a young age, the meaning of words and how they fit together has intrigued me. My mother puts it down to a literary gene in her great-grandfather resurfacing five generations later in her Salvation Army officer son! Herman Windolf was a Baptist minister who migrated from Germany to Australia in 1878 and settled with his family in a rural community in the state of Queensland. There he wrote many books, some of which can still be found in the Queensland state library.

Twelve of my now 56 years have been spent in formal editorial/literary work, and more in the wider field of communications. Writing and reading during these years became more than a passion. They were elevated to the level of discipline and responsibility, such were the demands upon a religious editor and communications practitioner to know the state of affairs in both church and world, and, subsequently, to publish material that would inform, challenge and inspire readers. It was never about filling column inches on pages (only) or devising clever communications strategies (only)! Throughout my adult life I've written for one journal or another, have been editor for projects large and small; and have written and been a contributing writer for several books. All along, my reading has influenced my writing and, of course, my life.

Categories of books I've been interested in have varied according to my personal journey at the time. As a 26-year-old, fresh out of The Salvation Army Officer Training College in 1987, my interest was almost exclusively in growing my corps with people experiencing new life and hope in Jesus. My writing and reading reflected this focus. I devoured books by church growth practitioners who had become prolific authors. The big three were **Donald McGavran, C. Peter Wagner and Paul Yonggi Cho. Understanding Church Growth, Leading Your Church to Growth, Your Spiritual Gifts Can Help Your Church Grow, More Than Numbers and Prayer: Key to Revival** are five books from that period that still find space on my bookshelves. Their content flamed my mission and shaped my vision profoundly.

Today, through the lens of hindsight, we question the Church Growth movement and how it morphed into a science with a focus on formulae that burdened the Church. But the pure water of Church Growth – that the life-transforming love of God in Christ is most effectively communicated through relationships and along cultural pathways, underpinned by powerful prayer – was deeply birthed in me and is still a part of what drives my personal Christianity and my passion for The Salvation Army to be a world-transforming movement of God.

Later, spiritual renewal became a major focus and continues to be an intrinsic part of what I believe is necessary both for my own life, daily, and for the Church of God as a whole. My writing has reflected this focus too – again, shaped not only by personal experience and by observing the experience of others, but also by my reading. **Henri**

Nouwen comes to mind with his profound and beautifully written book **In the Name of Jesus**. **John Larsson's The Man Perfectly Filled with the Spirit** has been a constant reference, not to mention the more recent **Emotionally Healthy Spirituality** by **Peter Scazzero**, **Fresh Wind Fresh Fire** by **Jim Cymbala** and **Other Voices** by **Major Christine Faragher**. The latter helps Salvationists particularly as it explores contemplative spirituality in the context of The Salvation Army. Five excellent books!

Throughout the span of my ministry, I've also had a focus on leadership. This has intensified in recent years, as we have increasingly realised the critical place of leadership in the Church of God, pushed by the global development of leadership as an academic field of study. Five books that have helped shape both my leadership practice, and, therefore, my writing on leadership, are: **Spiritual Leadership** by **J. Oswald Sanders**, **Leading Change** by **John Kotter**, **Authentic Leadership** by **William W. George**, **Focus** by **Daniel Goleman** and **Courageous Leadership** by **Bill Hybels**.

I must confess to being increasingly drawn to biographical writing over the years. With biography, including autobiography, the reader is influenced by the power of story that weaves together the progression of a woman's or a man's life and the principles and priorities that drove them through both adversity and triumph. I find this inspires me more than any other kind of writing. The reading leaves its imprint upon me; principally, to be a better and more faithful steward of my life and my ministry, my relationships and my contribution to humanity.

So you can imagine that I have devoured Salvation Army biographies and autobiographies such as **Arnold Brown's The Gate and the Light**, a superbly written book that tells the story of a man with tremendous gifts, a humble heart and a deep love for his Lord who as a cadet never would have dreamt of being General of The Salvation Army. Like a well-written biography should, the book has significant historical value. Brown discusses critical periods in the life of The Salvation Army with great statesmanship and sensitivity.

Other biographies that have impacted my life include **A Very Private General** by **Ronald Thomlinson**, about the life of General Frederick Coutts; **If Two Shall Agree** by **Carroll Ferguson Hunt**, about the lives of General Paul A. Rader and Commissioner Kay F. Rader; **Saying Yes to Life**, the autobiography by **General John Larsson**; **Truman** by **David McCullough**, about the life of former US President Harry Truman; and **Long Walk to Freedom**, the autobiography by **Nelson Mandela**.

Finally, when I became a Christian after going my own way for a while as a teenager, **John Pollock's Billy Graham** came into my hands. The writer somehow seemed to see what was happening in and through Graham's life from a heavenly perspective and conveyed this with great profundity in print. There was an aura around Billy Graham and the crusades that developed around his preaching. One could only describe this as an immense anointing of the Holy Spirit on the great evangelist's life and the power of Christ within to keep him and his ministry in a place of full integrity – a state of mind and

heart and practice that continued despite the challenges to integrity that world renown must have brought with it.

I always felt there was no guile in Billy Graham, and Pollock's book inspired me at the very beginning of my Christian journey to follow the evangelist's example of a life totally dependent on God's power and given fully to God's saving purposes in Christ.

All of these outstanding books are still available for purchase.