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Vetere's "By the power of God: Living the true Christian life" (Book Review)

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Cook draws the reader through the historical events leading up to the British invasion and destruction of Washington City. Direct quotations of letters and written records support the emotions and suppositions she uses to connect the reader to the situations. After reading the book, one has the feeling that these historical people are more than facts and figures; they are individuals who did the best they could in the situations that occurred.

This book is not a textbook, but it provides readers with a bibliography and numerous footnotes to chase if one desires to further research the events. Cook, additionally, uses the current vernacular to describe the circumstances, but incorporates the language of that time, with explanations. This work is best for one interested in history and a quick read. It does provide well-documented research that a reader could pursue independently.

Reviewer

Jennifer A. Rich, Hope International University

Vetere, V. (2015). *By the power of God: Living the true Christian life*. Bloomington, IN: WestBow Press. 59 pp. \$9.95. ISBN 9781490890685

Vicent Vetere, a retired correction officer, magician/illusionist, and evangelist, guides the reader through his journey of his life to live for Christ. Vetere takes the reader on his life's journey weaving his arm wrestling, magic, and correction officer experiences to show how to be a true follower of Christ no matter a person's occupation. Vetere's succinct style of writing entices the reader to draw into his life's journey and evaluate the reader's life journey. Even though, the reader may be missing any knowledge of arm wrestling or magic, Vetere uses his occupational experiences to encourage the reader to a deeper devoted life for Christ. The visual image of correlating arm wrestling and the power of God is compelling throughout the book. Confusion arises, by the reader, when Vetere displays step by step techniques in arm wrestling. However, it becomes more clear when the author discusses how faith integrates into his arm wrestling experiences, especially during interviews. Vetere, during interviews with media, gives the Lord the glory.

This book would be advantageous for an undergraduate spiritual formation class. Vetere encourages the reader by living his or her life for Christ no matter the occupation. Even though, there are no discussion questions at the end of the chapters, questions arise from each chapter in the reader's mind, which would lead to an outstanding group discussion. The book would be beneficial to spiritual formation

students because it would lure them to begin to contemplate telling their story as a testimony to others. The reader begins to ponder what characteristic of the Lord illustrates with his or her own life. An evangelism class would benefit from reading this book because it helps the reader think of sharing the gospel through their life story. The question that the reader left pondering after reading this book: How is your life being lived out for the Lord?

Reviewer

Craig Rosenbeck, University of North Texas

Barratt, A., Bell, A., Christner, D., Harris, L. F., Hickey, C., Hillman, P., ... Wright, J. J. (2016). *The California gold rush romance collection*. Uhrichsville, OH: Barbour Books. 444 pp. \$14.99. ISBN 9781634099127

The California Gold Rush Romance Collection gathers nine talented authors each with a unique tale of the time of the California gold rush. In each novella a treasure is found, though it may not be glittering gold.

In *The Price of Love* by Amanda Barratt, a headstrong, talented newspaper journalist, Lorena Quinn, is sent to California to cover the exciting news on the gold fields. Unused to the harsh realities she encounters, Lorena finds herself in need of rescue from her newspaper contact Caleb Maddox while she is searching for both story material and the mother of a baby.

The Best Man in Brookside by Angela Bell tells the story of valet, Donovan Gallagher, who after being falsely accused of theft, leaves England and finds gold in America. Returning to care for his invalid sister, he pursues revenge on the accuser. However, the closer he gets to his goal, the more the facts are revealed that illustrate plainly the apparent misunderstanding of both parties.

The hilarious adventure *Civilizing Clementine*, is Dianne Christner's playfully written story of the roughly masculine daughter of a gold miner, Clementine Cahill. Trying to tame her into a refined lady, her father hires the services of two lady teachers of etiquette. A reporter friend, Samuel Whitburn, is asked to partner in her practice sessions making for a satisfying outcome.

There is a certain unlikelihood of joining these forces, but the adventures in Anne Greene's *The Marriage Broker and the Mortician* lead to just such an unlikely alliance.