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Moran's "Making Marion: Where's Robin Hood When You Need Him?" (Book Review)

Mary Ann Buhler
Manhattan Christian College

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Making Grateful Kids: The Science of Building Character,

by Jeffrey J. Froh and Giacomo Bono. West Conshohocken, PA: Templeton Press, 2014. 274 pp. \$15.95. ISBN: 9781599474168

Reviewed by Carol Reid, Librarian, Welch College, Nashville, TN

Amid a generation of entitled young people, gratitude seems to be a lost – but much missed – character quality. School psychologist Jeffrey Froh and social science professor Giacomo Bono have conducted dozens of psychological studies to identify the components which help to build gratitude into children and young adults. They encourage parents, teachers, and mentors to deliberately guide young people into the development of gratitude both for their own life satisfaction and for the positive impact that it makes on the broader community. Thirty-two strategies for doing this are detailed in the book's nine chapters, backed by quantitative and qualitative research and often illustrated with personal examples. Attachment and role models provide a basis for the character trait of gratitude. Self-control and autonomy play a major part in developing it. Connections with community and the development of intrinsic goals reinforce it. Generosity, resilience, coping skills, and concern for others demonstrate it. A chapter on consumerism and its relationship to gratitude is of particular interest.

This book would be especially useful in supplementing studies on child and adolescent development (whether in psychology or education), Christian education of children (youth and family ministry), and family studies. Though it is not written from a faith-based point of view, there are direct and scholarly connections with Christian values and disciplines that provide easy application for believers. Questionnaires, extensive notes, and a strong index continue the scholarly approach to the topic. However, the book is both readable and inspirational.

Making Marion: Where's Robin Hood When You Need Him?,

by Beth Moran, Oxford: Lion Hudson PLC, 2014. 320 pp. \$14.99.
ISBN 9781782640998

*Reviewed by Mary Ann Buhler, Director of Library Services,
Manhattan Christian College, Manhattan, KS*

As a lover of mysteries I was not disappointed by *Making Marion*. During the first half of the book, though, I wondered why *The Christian Librarian* had offered this book to be reviewed. Then the author returned Marion to her faith. It *is* Christian fiction, but not one of those books that hits you over the head with religion.

The protagonist is a young Irish woman who gets a job working in a British camp near Nottingham while searching for information about her father, who had died when she was a young girl. When she starts showing people a picture of him dressed as Robin Hood, her trailer and car begin to be vandalized. Eventually she discovers why a person feels threatened and learns the truth about her father. In the process she not only gains self-esteem, but also learns about forgiveness, with some romance thrown in.

Beth Moran lives near Nottingham, so she uses a lot of British terms. In spite of that, it is usually pretty easy to determine to what she is referring. I would recommend this book to anyone who wants some light reading with a good moral and romance thrown in. Unless an academic library has a Christian fiction section, *Making Marion* would probably be better for a church library.

**Mapping Christian Rhetorics:
Connecting Conversations, Charting New Territories,**

edited by Michael-John DePalma and Jeffrey M. Ringer. New York: Routledge, 2015. (Routledge Studies in Rhetoric and Communication; 21). 305 pp. \$140.00.
ISBN 9781138781412

Reviewed by Grace Veach, Dean of Library Services, Southeastern University, Lakeland, FL

DePalma and Ringer have edited a collection of articles that touch in different ways on the intersection of the field of rhetoric and composition with Christianity. They claim the metaphor of mapping as the overarching framework of the book; this allows them to identify three purposes: acknowledging “territory” that has not yet been sufficiently explored, connecting domains that are already firmly in the field, and charting new areas of inquiry (pp. 3-4). The editors refer to this framework in the introduction and return to it in the last article (a coauthored bibliographic essay that surveys the current status of the relationship between Christianity and rhetoric and composition), but the assembled selections do not really dwell on this mapping trope.

The book is comprised of five sections: Christianity and Rhetorical Theory, which contains three essays on thinking rhetorically as a Christian (or as Christians might); Christianity and Rhetorical Education, two essays on Christian students in writing classes; Christianity and Rhetorical Methodology, three essays exploring possible methodologies for studying Christian rhetorical concerns; Christianity and Civic Engagement, four essays on the operation of rhetoric in areas within or relating to Christianity; and a final section with two essays on (Re)Mapping Religious Rhetorics. As this enumeration indicates, the topics vary widely; rarely in the field