Stephakoff's "One God" (Book Review)

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Written by a Messianic Jewish Rabbi, this book details how we need to make communication with God and develop a personal relationship with Him that goes beyond the salvation experience. His perspective is based on the Jewish tradition that there is one God and this is the witness of the nation of Israel to the world. Although this perspective can be mistaken for amillennialism, Messianic Jewish belief in the Messiah does not deny or reject the belief that Jesus will have a literal, thousand-year-long, physical reign on the earth. It simply focuses on Jesus’ message that the kingdom of God is “at hand” or “within us.” The Jewish teaching is that God has placed eternal life within us. We need to become conscious of the living God, the one invisible God whose presence is living and breathing right before our spiritual eyes, and has been from the beginning. Every generation needs to personally know the one true God to bring us into a personal witness of the Messiah. As a result of the fall, all of mankind is under a state of delusion in which we do not know God. We are born into this state of unconsciously which we cannot see the kingdom of God. How we find a God we have not known is the calling of Messianic Jews. The true secret which man must unravel is the “mystery” of the one, invisible God who is right here, right now – and always has been. The book would have been improved by a careful editing of spellings and specific citations to the Scriptures quoted. It is self-published but is nonetheless of high quality.

One-Hundred and One Tips for the Smart Stepmom:
Expert Advice from One Stepmom to Another,
$12.99. ISBN 9780764212215

Reviewed by Lisa Fuller, E-Learning & Instruction Librarian, Brackett Library,
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Although many books address the role of marriage within the Christian community, there are few that offer assistance to people of faith who are navigating the often murky waters of creating a stepfamily. Laura Petherbridge works to fill that void. As a frequent speaker for Smart Stepfamilies, Petherbridge brings wisdom and personal experience to those who are new to the role of stepmom. Her previous work, The Smart Stepmom, was co-authored with Ron Deal and provides an in-depth look