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David's "Day by Day Bible: Children's Bible Stories for Every Day" (Book Review)

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the Scripture that would teach otherwise, refusing exceptions on either canonical (Leviticus passages) or cultural (Romans passages) grounds. They object to a “revisionist” view of Jesus’ teaching and return to the arguments of creation and the gospel’s transformation as underlying support for their views, allowing no compromises in the church’s attitude toward homosexuality. Chapter ten examines the forty-year progress of the Gay Rights Agenda and its impact on the twenty-first century church.

But do not be mistaken. This is a gentle, gracious book that also strongly promotes a compassionate, welcoming attitude toward gays. The authors promote a loving, open, humble interaction with homosexuals, with the goal of healing and restoring hope. Citlau’s own experience with his same-sex attraction and sin give him unusual insight and great compassion in facing these issues.

This pastoral approach is accessible and very practical, especially in two chapters that use a question and answer format. Readers are pointed to the accompanying website (<http://compassionwithoutcompromise.com/>) for additional discussions on hot topics. Further resources are provided through the Restored Hope Network and a brief but current bibliography.

In all, this work accomplishes its stated purpose: “to be pastorally helpful” as an “accessible resource that gives clear biblical teaching, answers tough questions, and shares personal stories” to help “Christians in our changing world find balanced ways to respond to the issue of homosexuality” (p. 20).

Day by Day Bible: Children’s Bible Stories for Every Day

by Juliet David. Oxford: Candle Books, 2014. 400 pp. \$14.97. ISBN 978185985824

*Reviewed by Sandra Yaegle, Head of Public Services, Regent University Library,
Virginia Beach, VA*

The *Day by Day Bible: Children’s Bible Stories for Every Day* is a collection of three hundred and sixty-six Bible stories adapted for children and designed to be used as a devotional with a story provided for each day of the year. The Scripture passages depicted in each story are provided in the margins, and nine different Bible versions are utilized. For some stories, a comment is included to encourage the child to think about what will happen next; the book may be a stronger resource if this occurred throughout. The attention-getting pictures are vibrant from the use of primary colors and are done in a manner that complements the storyline.

Because the book does not give a recommended age level, this reviewer entered a sample of the text into a readability consensus calculator to determine the average grade level, reading age, and difficulty. The Text Readability Consensus Calculator used is available at: <http://www.readabilityformulas.com/freetests/six-readability-formulas.php>. The resulting score is a compilation of eight different readability formulas. The independent reading level was calculated to be at the sixth grade level; however, it is advertised by Amazon to be appropriate for five- to seven-year-olds. This younger age group will be interested in the stories, but will need assistance with biblical names and places, and also with some vocabulary words they will encounter, such as “descendants,” “covenant,” and “tabernacle.” The adaptations seem hampered at times by the attempt to mold them into a day by day format. Introductory material with suggestions to parents or teachers on how to use the book might have been helpful.

The *Day by Day Bible: Children’s Bible Stories for Every Day* is recommended for libraries with collections of children’s Bible stories; however, it seems better suited for personal collections since it is designed to be used as a children’s daily devotional book.

Dirty Faith: Bringing the Love of Christ to the Least of These,

by David Z. Nowell. Minneapolis: Bethany House, 2014. 188 pp. \$13.99.

ISBN 9780764212130

*Reviewed by Amy C. Rice, Access Services Librarian,
Northwest Nazarene University, Nampa, ID*

Dirty Faith is an impassioned challenge for American Christians to embrace Jesus’ call to minister to the “least of these,” specifically orphans. David Nowell, the president of Hope International for Children, tells stories of Hope International’s ministry to the orphans of Brazil. He challenges Christians to take care of orphans wherever they are, whether through fostering or adopting children individually, or as a larger project of an entire congregation. Lest one may conclude a community-wide effort to provide and care for the “least of these” among us is impossible, Nowell provides examples of real churches and communities doing this very thing. He also tells stories of those he has encountered in Brazil: orphans and victims of sex trafficking. He tells stories of heartbreak, hope, failure, and God’s provision. Ministering to orphans is putting into practice what Nowell calls “dirty faith”: a faith that goes beyond merely sitting in a clean church on Sundays, or only ministering to people who look and act the same as he does. Practicing dirty faith means finding those who are considered lost causes, unlovable, and even deserving of their lot in life, and loving them as Christ would; dirty faith means moving beyond pity to genuine, Christ-like love.