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Volume 58 | Issue 1

Article 31

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2015

## Kendall's "Finding Your Heart's Desire" (Book Review)

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### Recommended Citation

Bessin, Amy (2015) "Kendall's "Finding Your Heart's Desire" (Book Review)," *The Christian Librarian*: Vol. 58 : Iss. 1 , Article 31.  
Available at: <http://digitalcommons.georgefox.edu/tcl/vol58/iss1/31>

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**Faith Is Like Skydiving: And Other Memorable Images for Dialogue  
with Seekers and Skeptics,**

by Rick Mattson. Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 2014. 231 pp.  
\$15.00. ISBN 9780830844111

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

*Faith Is Like Skydiving* is a handbook of metaphors and anecdotes that will help ordinary Christians dialogue better with skeptics, people curious about Christianity, and people of other faiths. Rick Mattson, based at Macalester College in St. Paul, Minnesota, works for InterVarsity Christian Fellowship and has an MA in the philosophy of religion. His area of interest is apologetics, and he brings extensive experience speaking at college campuses nationwide. Mattson emphasizes the fact that questions and criticism address many different facets of Christianity, so the book is divided into topical sections to address different facets. He covers questions of theodicy, heaven and hell, religious pluralism, origins of the universe and God's role in creation, historicity, and the divinity of Jesus, and other similar topics, all of which are common conversation pieces he has encountered in his work. Mattson also spends time discussing the difference between talking with people holding a modern or postmodern worldview, as well as talking with people who have a combination of both modern and postmodern views. He provides easy to remember metaphors that can be used to frame the conversation, and he includes personal stories about his conversations with skeptics and seekers. At the end of each chapter, he recaps the main points and provides resources for further reading. More than a mere book about apologetics and argumentation, *Faith Is Like Skydiving* emphasizes the relational aspect of dialogue: responding graciously to hostile questioning, acknowledging the ways in which people have done wrong things in the name of Christianity, and – above all – deeply *listening* to people rather than trying to come up with the next rejoinder in the argument. Recommended for universities with ministry programs and anyone interested in dialogue with others who do not hold the same beliefs.

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**Finding Your Heart's Desire,**

by R. T. Kendall. Minneapolis, MN: Chosen Books, 2013. 184 pp. \$14.99.  
ISBN 9780800795672

*Reviewed by Amy Bessin, Instructional Services Librarian, Asbury University, Wilmore, KY*

In his book *Finding Your Heart's Desire*, R. T. Kendall tackles the idea of what it means to have godly ambition. Kendall proposes that God can use ambition to motivate us toward what God has called us to do in life. The book covers a variety of areas related

to ambition, including biblical history, spiritual gifts, and the role of money to name just a few. Each chapter begins with a combination of Scripture verses and quotes from both religious and secular individuals, which sets the tone for his discussion of what might be considered a typically secular topic in a biblical context. Although the organization at times seems a bit haphazard, Kendall is thorough in his discussion of the topic at hand. Throughout the book Kendall includes both personal anecdotes and his own personal views on sometimes divisive spiritual issues. His honesty and personal insights provide readers with tangible examples to accompany the chapters. However, his transparent inclusion of his own personal stance on some issues (such as the gifts of the Holy Spirit) might make it challenging for some readers to look past a contentious issue to the overarching message of the book. This text would be a good addition for libraries providing Christian-based collections related to personal growth and development.

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**The Forgiveness Handbook: Spiritual Wisdom and Practice  
for the Journey to Freedom, Healing and Peace,**  
edited by SkyLight Paths. Woodstock, VT: Skylight Paths Publishing, 2015.  
242 pp. \$18.99. ISBN 9781594735776

*Reviewed by Deborah L. Denison, Medical Librarian,  
Madigan Army Medical Center, Tacoma, WA*

“Without forgiveness, there is no future.” (Archbishop Desmond Tutu)

With 67 contributions by 52 authors (primarily clergy and spiritual leaders from many faith traditions), *The Forgiveness Handbook: Spiritual Wisdom and Practice for the Journey to Freedom, Healing and Peace* presents selections intended to assist the reader with the often difficult practice of letting go of resentments and finding inner peace.

This journey of forgiveness contains excerpts from books previously published by SkyLight Paths and Jewish Lights. The short essays, prayers, meditations, practices and reflections in *The Forgiveness Handbook* are grouped under eight different aspects of forgiveness: Understanding Forgiveness; Letting Go; Reconciliation and Forgiveness in Relationships; Forgiveness and the Divine; Accepting Forgiveness; Love Your Enemies; Forgiveness, Justice, and Peace; and Cultivating a Forgiving Heart.

The strength of this book is in its recognition that “because we are human, we are in need of forgiveness – sometimes on a daily basis” (p. 71). The pride, fear, and