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David, Chelsea, & Sarah Simon's "Spring: Connecting with God" (Book Review)

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Spring: Connecting with God,

by David, Chelsea & Sarah Simon. CreateSpace Independent Publishing Platform, 2011. 151 pp. \$7.99. ISBN 9781468009903

Reviewed by Patricia A. Conrad, Librarian, Clearwater Christian College, Clearwater, FL

This short, compact book metaphorically reads like a gentle spring rain, as it softly reminds us that God desires us to have a committed relationship with Him. Spring represents renewal, and author David Simon follows that theme throughout the book by offering examples and parallels between the seasonal rhythms of spring with the wisdom of Scripture, especially pertaining to Passover. It was in spring when God told Noah to begin again. When Jesus was twelve, he began his public ministry during Passover. Jesus, a Torah-reading Jew, would become the blood of the lamb for us at Passover.

Simon's book would make an excellent choice for a Bible group seeking an introduction to the Passover Seder. It takes on a Bible study format, with poignant questions posed throughout the chapters. Intended as a guide, this book does not offer depth or scope on the study of the Passover; it does, however, contain a readable explanation of Passover and Seder practices, such as rules regarding cleanliness, cooking, children's roles, and the taking of wine. Simon's book is not an academic or scholarly work; it is more of a group experience meant for sharing.

Although the book contains a handful of cosmetic/presentation flaws, (likewordsrunningtogether), it is forgivable and does not detract from the text.

Bible study groups could read this book and be encouraged to sponsor a Haggadah under the leadership of a Messianic Jew who understands the tradition of the Seder symbolisms. Simon's book is a reminder that as Christians, we should consider the significance of Passover, reflect on its meanings, and study in Scripture how it connects us to God year-round, not just during spring.

Tending to Eden: Environmental Stewardship for God's People,

by Scott C. Sabin. Valley Forge, PA: Judson Press, 2010. 174 pp. \$18.00.
ISBN 9780817015725

*Reviewed by Tami Echavarría Robinson, Coordinator of Instructional Services,
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God entrusted stewardship of earth's environment to Adam in Genesis 1:28-30, a topic insufficiently discussed in Christian community. Seldom does the church explore the topic of the symphony of creation, created to sing praise to the Creator.