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Spurlock and Windles' "All saints: The surprising true story of how refugees from Burma brought life to a dying church" (book review)

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Book Reviews



Spurlock, M., & Windle, J. (2017). *All saints: The surprising true story of how refugees from Burma brought life to a dying church*. Minneapolis, MN: Bethany House Publishers, 207 pp. \$14.99. ISBN 9780764230271

Michael Spurlock's bishop sent him to Smyrna, TN, to close All Saints Episcopal Church. Once a vibrant church, it had suffered a severe split, so that when he arrived it had a huge mortgage and only about 25 members. Somehow money came in to keep the church open until some strangers appeared at a Sunday morning service: three Karen refugees from the war-torn country of Myanmar, also known as Burma. Led by God to put the church's seventeen acres of good farmland to use, the church and Karen refugees established a farm that not only assisted in keeping the church open, but also provided help for the refugees in the process.

All Saints not only chronicles the saga of the church and the refugees, but also delves into the history behind the war in Burma and the persecution of its Christians. Author Jeanette Windle has written numerous children's books, as well as adult Christian fiction. They are so well-researched that United States governmental authorities have questioned her about where she got her information. Her talent is evident in this book, which was released at the same time as the movie by the same title, and includes information about the making of the movie. Well-written and difficult to put down, this book demonstrates that with God's help amazing things can happen. For that reason, it would be useful in any library.

Reviewer

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