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## Gainor's "Eye witness to a savior: Experience the life of Jesus Christ" (Book Review)

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Gainor, N.E. (2015). *Eye witness to a savior: Experience the life of Jesus Christ*. Bloomington, IN: West Bow Press. 160 pp. ISBN 9781512700060

This is a collection of seventy-one vignettes, one to two pages each, in poetic prose, describing events from the life of Jesus. Themes, such as childhood, initiate, ministry, miracles, teaching, through to resurrection organize life events. A scripture reference accompanies each event.

As the book title hints, “eye witness” means that the author has interpreted the stories, imagining what scenes might look like, and adding colour, texture, and detailed descriptions, as a story teller would. Therefore, her vignettes are imaginative, but considerable narrative liberty has been taken, if compared to original scripture.

The Bible verses accompanying each story may facilitate a new believer’s exploration of the Bible, but there is a simplicity and succinctness to each story that makes this collection closer to a devotional application, than a library resource. I see no evidence of research.

These snapshot stories may appeal to the beginner reader, or the new Christian seeking a simple place to begin learning about who Jesus is and discover the key events in His life and ministry. They are unlikely to be useful in a Bible college library setting.

Not recommended for college learning commons purchase, unless the library has a mandate to develop storytelling, devotional style resources or targeted bible-based literacy resources. However, some church library collection buyers may wish to consider the title for use at family devotional table talks. Often a life application question is included.

In conclusion, Gainor is a gifted story teller, and her imaginative aim, which is to ‘be a light and bring out the God-colors in the world’ is evident.

## **Reviewer**

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