

The Church Jesus Is Building

By *Wayne Jacobsen*

“What do you think the church is going to look like ten years from now?”

I get asked that question almost everywhere I go. People assume that my travels and correspondence give me a wider view of God’s work in the world. And while it may be a bit broader than some, in the grand scheme of things, I interact with a very small slice of Jesus’ followers and even that is a very specific subset drawn by the content of my books and websites.

Nonetheless I find it a fascinating question mostly for what it says about us. Our religious training has put our focus in the wrong place, asking the wrong questions, and leaving people feeling adrift when they have no need to be. No one can answer it with any degree of certainty and the question itself assumes a standardized answer that ignores Jesus’ immense creativity in the world across differing cultures and local realities.

The question does admit, however, that we are in a time of transition, where the old congregational forms based on

centuries of worn-out methodologies and compromised hierarchies no longer work. People are leaving their congregations in droves. Certainly many of those have abandoned God either



believing he isn’t real, or not worth knowing if he’s the demanding busy-body religion often presents him to be. But a significant number are leaving because their congregations were having a negative influence on their desire to know God and find real community. The reasons are numerous—empty rituals, irrelevant programs, messages provoking guilt or demanding performance, misplaced priorities, authoritarian leadership, superficial relationships, or simply the inability to honest

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“Generally, what I find is that the ordinary people who come to church are basically running their lives on their own, utilizing ‘the arm of the flesh’—their natural abilities—to negotiate their way,” he says. “They believe there is a God and they need to check in with him. But they don’t have any sense that he is an active agent in their lives. As a result, they don’t become disciples of Jesus.” — Dallas Willard in *Christianity Today*

“Our religious training has put our focus in the wrong place, asking the wrong questions, and leaving people feeling adrift when they have no need to be.

friendships sharing a journey of spiritual growth.

It's easy to point fingers at those leaving. But even if you love the traditional congregation, you might want to look beyond it and ask why do we spend so much energy propping up a system that alienates so many wonderful people, instead of concluding that the people must not be wonderful because it no longer works for them.

Scattered?

For those who have given up on the congregation they were a part of, what do you do now? If you found your identity in a task you did for God or group you used to belong to, finding yourself outside of it can be incredibly disorienting. Even if your mind knows better, your emotions are still tied to the approval you received by being visible and active in a local fellowship. The same people who used to love and applaud you, now look down on you for “forsaking the assembly” and question your relationship with God.

Many feel like scattered sheep battling the guilt of their inactivity rather than using the time to deepen their own relationship with the Shepherd. Some seek another group of like-minded believers or try to start one of their own. If they do, they find themselves relapsing into that same feeling of superiority that comes from being in a group that is more committed to

Biblical principals than the one you left, or at least thinks they are. But soon you realize that even a house church or an organic group can be as empty, or as abusive, as the congregation you left.

All the while, the question that nags you is, “What should the church look like?” The underlying premise is that if you just knew what it is supposed to look like you would know where to look or how to form one. That's why so many end up in the unending struggle to find the right church model to copy. In doing so they never realize that their own pursuit is keeping them from the very reality they desire.

If your connection to Jesus is growing, you are not scattered at all. You are simply finding that the voices of religious performance no longer hold the same weight and you are no longer getting the same validation you became accustomed to. Your passion to live inside his affection is drawing you to a greater gathering of believers than you cannot yet see. Don't be afraid. You are not alone. Jesus is building a people in the earth who can live as his body in these days. You won't miss out. You are simply transitioning from religious obligation to a relational reality, and no one I've met on this journey has ever regretted the cost to do so.

So while I am not able to answer the question directly, I want us to look at how we can embrace the church Jesus

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by a gift, so we only need \$20,000.00 more. If you'd like to help, check the website or contact my office for details.

RAINBOWS IN YOUR EYES

When Sara and I were in the UK this summer we ran across a young poet, Jenny Rowbury, who contracted a virus at university that has caused severe M.E. (Myalgic Encephalomyelitis), which affects all bodily systems. For the past five years Jenny has been bed-bound as she fights this disease. Her book of poems is called *Rainbows In Your Eyes*, and contains wonderful insights about trusting God especially when we don't understand. We are making these books available for \$8.00. You can order on-line or phone our office. Here is a sample of her passion and playfulness:

Can't You Be A Magician, God?

Jean Rowbury

Can't you be a magician, God,
If only for one day?
Forget about being wise and good
And do exactly what I say.

Can't our prayers be spells, God,
If only for one day?
The right words in the right order
And bingo! We'll have our way.

Make me better now, Lord
Please no more delay.
I want to force your hand, Lord,
To make my illness go away.

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A special thanks to Dave Aldrich of Aldrich Design <aldrichdesign.com/> for our new look!

Books and CD Collections by Wayne



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selection and I want you to know how very much I am enjoying it. Chapter 4 (so far) is my epiphany chapter! I've been the older brother and the younger brother, I am a parent of 3 adult children who loves them so completely. Great book - I will read it every year.

Lifestream News

THE NIGHTMARE CONTINUES

My travel and writing has been significantly curtailed in recent years by first the phenomenon of *The Shack* and then the litigation that has followed. This has easily been the most grievous experience of my life. Though I have pursued many avenues for reconciliation and arbitration, they have all been refused by those who prefer litigation to resolving any differences consistent with I Corinthians 6. Thus I have been forced into litigation to defend the contracts Windblown made with other companies based on Paul's assurances to us. Your prayers are most welcome as we seek God for a greater healing and reconciliation. As soon as these legal issues are resolved I will be stepping away from Windblown to get back to the more important pursuits God has asked of me.

A MAN LIKE NO OTHER



I've just put the finishing touches on my latest book, subtitled *The Illustrated Life of Jesus* in collaboration with Brad Cummings and an amazing artist, Murry Whiteman, who for the past 15 years has been painting scenes from the Gospels. I've had a chance to work with these two to add words to the artwork that draw Jesus out of the distorted religious caricature so often forced on him by religion and recaptures the simple way he lived, loved and brought his Father's message into the world. This is a full-color book that will make an attractive conversation piece as well as a devotional experience in contemplating the life Jesus lived among us. It should be out later this year.

Wayne's Travels

Austin, TX

January 27-Jan 31:
Living Loved Retreat



Business complications and writing have prevented me from scheduling much this spring yet, but as that clears up I'm likely to be traveling to British Columbia, Indianapolis, Massachusetts, and Chicago in the near future. See website for details.

Stay tuned to Wayne's blog for more details.

EMAIL TRAVEL UPDATES

You can now sign up for a new email list for people who want to either subscribe to BodyLife, or be notified when something significant is happening at Lifestream, or to receive information if I plan a trip to their state. If you'd like any or all of these updates, you can go to lifestream.org and sign up for "Email notifications".

A STORY FOR THE AGES

Where does the Bible fit in learning to live in Father's affection? Many discard it as another religious book that has little meaning for them. How wrong they are! Read without the religious overlays human interpreters have added to it, this book is a powerful revelation of God's nature and wisdom. This Spring I will be recording an eight-part series on how to interpret the Bible inside the revelation of Jesus Christ. This is the greatest rescue never told, and a message all but lost by those who have distorted the Scriptures to serve their religious aims. If you'd like to join us in Indianapolis this spring for the taping, keep an eye on the website for those details or let our office know. And as soon as we get it produced, we will be making that series available as well.

ORPHANAGE IN KENYA

For the past few months we have been raising funds to help relocate 72 children from an orphanage in a slum in Eldoret. The kids were literally playing mere yards from open sewage. We have purchased land just outside of town and are refurbishing the buildings for their use. The entire project is going to cost \$100,000 and we have already raised \$60,000.00. Every dime is being matched

is building in the world. I won't pretend my observations are complete or authoritative. They are simply the way I see it at this vantage point of my journey. Admittedly these thoughts have also been shaped by insights I've gained over the past fifteen years by tasting real community at home and in distant countries, and sitting at the tables of brothers and sisters around the world who have wrestled with these same questions, many of whom have lived outside the distractions of religious performance longer than me.

He Is Shaping A Bride

Jesus is building his church with the same passion that he has demonstrated through the ages. It may be hard for some to see, because they have used the term "church" to describe buildings and institutions, and thus have failed to recognize the church as she really is. Even if you attend a so-called church meeting, the church is not the meeting you attend or the organization that sponsors it; it is the network of Jesus-centered friendships that you enjoy in those institutions and beyond them.

He builds that church by first shaping people who can walk with him. I am thrilled with the stories I hear of people who are breaking out of religious molds and learning to live in the reality of the Father's affection. This draws them out of religious performance and obligation, which relies on human effort and ingenuity. They are learning to follow him instead of finding security in a specific group, doctrine, tradition, or ritual.

The words of Isaiah may even be more timely for the religious contrivances we have designed today:

"Who talked you into the pursuit of this nonsense, forgetting you ever knew me? Because I don't yell and make a scene do you think I

don't exist? I'll go over, detail by detail, all your 'righteous' attempts at religion, and expose the absurdity of it all.... They're smoke, nothing but smoke."

Isaiah 57:11-13, The Message.

There's no doubt Jesus is exposing the absurdity of our religious self-effort.

“As well intentioned as it may be, our work for him may be the greatest obstacle to actually knowing him.

None of our activities matter if they are not drawing us into a meaningful relationship with him, where each one learns to hear his voice and follow him. As well intentioned as it may be, our work for him may be the greatest obstacle to actually knowing him. The New Testament is clear: the only thing more dangerous than unrighteousness is self-righteousness.

And let's not blame the institutions. Religion is not something we get from them; it is what those institutions provide to satisfy our fleshy inclinations. I know many who have left religious systems but are still living in religious ways of thinking. And I also know those who attend a local congregation, but they are not caught in the performance trap. Instead they are learning to love God and the people around them. They may have to ignore the guilt-inducing messages, or the manipulative tactics of those who seek to lead, but because they are free on the inside they can still be there to love beyond it all.

The church Jesus is shaping is one not driven to performance by fear,

shame, or guilt. She doesn't respond to obligation or ritual or the absence of them. She is learning to live at the pleasure of the Head and that makes her radiant with his glory wherever she appears on the planet.

Living at Home

Our old religious inclinations tell us

“This is not as complicated as many fear. The reason people have trouble discovering this reality is because they don't believe it is as simple as it is.

that what we need for a vibrant spiritual life is “out there” somewhere. Find the right group, movement, author, plan, or revival or you're going to miss out on what God is doing in the last days. That simply isn't true. Jesus told us not to buy into the notion that the kingdom of God was somewhere else. “The kingdom is within you!”

We all know how to live in our fears or anxieties. We know how to conform to the world's demands or religion's dictates. What Jesus wants us to teach us is to live at home in his Father, the same way Jesus lived in him. This is not a theology to subscribe to, but a way to live all day, every day. Living in Christ has absolutely nothing to do with where you are on Sunday morning at 10:00 and everything to do with following him through each day. Jesus did not come to create sacred space for us in religious services, or even in our daily quiet times. He made all of life sacred by coming to live in us and becoming a part of every thing we do.

This is not as complicated as many fear. The reason people have trouble discovering this reality is because they don't believe it is as simple as it really is. Living in communion with him is what he shapes in a willing heart as we learn

to relax in his love. Right where you are he can show you how to live at home in the Father, confident in his love, and at peace even in times of trouble

The loneliness some feel when they find themselves outside religious systems is really not a cry for more people; it is a drawing to God that we have tried to fill with other people. If you are not at rest in God's love for you, no

amount of human contact will fill that void; it can only mask it. Let your loneliness draw you into a greater depth of relationship with him and then a new way of relating to others emerges.

Resist the Urge

It's often been said that the greatest enemy of the best is the good. It often is. The greatest distraction to being a part of what God is doing in the world is to be focused on human efforts, especially what we try to do for him. Nothing disrupts God's work around us more than when the arm of flesh asserts itself to try to do for God what we think God cannot do for himself.

When we feel unattached, unproductive, or insignificant this growing urge will prod us to “at least do something,” as if misguided activity is preferable to a quiet, listening heart. If that doesn't spring from our own flesh, then it will from someone's near us. Many of our fellowship groups, Bible studies, and outreach efforts have begun with the perceived guilt that we are not doing enough for God. More time-consuming and irrelevant religious activities have been generated from that distorted impulse than any other. Authors manipulate it to sell books,

out the doors of the building and forget one another exists. My attitude had been one of “Well, if Brother So-And-So would just have the right attitude, church could be a better place.” All the while, God was telling me very clearly that others felt the loneliness I was feeling and that it was just as much for me to reach out in love than it was for anyone else. Thank you for daring to step out of the box...

Camilla by Email

Thank you for writing such an honest, thought provoking book about how God might view our religious practices. Like Jake, I've been on a journey... a year ago, my church was my whole life and then slowly I felt God drawing me away from it as I hungered for more of Him. It has been an unexpected journey to say the least and nothing I would have ever dreamed would happen to me. But I'm loving every moment of it. This is a book that is well worth sharing with.

Joshua in Virginia

Wayne, thanks for writing *How Do I...?* It was a delicious piece of humble pie, served at just the right moment. It's particularly applicable to creative believers like me who are part of a media culture, which creates microwave celebrities overnight. With seemingly easy access to potentially large audiences, we end up confusing our callings with shameless self-promotion.

Theresa in Tennessee

I don't know if it's because of the writer in me but I tell you, you really knocked it out of the park with the *How Do I* article. I can so relate to your earlier struggles of the “audience” issues. And you got me on the self-deifying self-help stuff. So we plan, we plot, we set out goals, and crap still happens. Rinse, lather, grow more exhausted and cynical... and repeat. And the treadmill continues. No wait....I'm getting off.

Patty by email

I am the wife of a wonderful pastor who was publicly and falsely accused of being a liar and deceiver. We still live in the small town where my husband's good name, ability to earn a living, most friends, and all the rest were suddenly

stripped away. Yet, we are finding life as we've never known it before. I simply wanted you to know how deeply Jesus has used your book, *So You Don't Want to Go to Church Anymore*, in my life. The week after we left our former church, a friend came to my door and handed me enough money to buy your book. I ordered it but that night decided to look it up on the web to see what it was about. I found your web site and the PDF version, downloaded it, and the next thing I knew it was 2:00 AM and I was reading the last page! I gave it to my husband the next day, and he also devoured it. He went on to discover your podcasts and listens every week. We are at peace, enjoying each day as he provides for us and loves us.

Kevin by email

Wayne, I wanted you to know that *He Loves Me* is the best book (outside of the Bible) I have ever read - and I have read quite a few great ones! I read it twice last year and gave about 30 copies away as gifts. I hope our small group will study it this coming year.

Sarah in Canada

I've been listening to *The God Journey* for a couple of years now, initially at the gentle nudging (read: she told me I had to) of a friend in Australia. I don't want to overstate but I will say this - it's changed my life. I want to thank you and Brad and the others that you have had on the podcast for helping me process this. I really resonate with what you say about “our hearts always knew this.” I feel like I have known this, in my heart of hearts, for years. And it's a joy to reconnect with Him in a true and meaningful way. I'm learning and feel like I have so far to go but I appreciate it. I am just finishing the *Transition* series and I actually bawled like a baby on 16th Ave while driving home from work. And then I cried again, just telling my husband and my family about it later on.

Ty from Nigeria

You have blessed me beyond words and put into words the music that's been resounding in my spirit. The grace of God is real.

Susan by email

Our book club is reading *He Loves Me* for our winter

I saw *So You Don't Want To Go To Church Anymore* and I picked it up and that began the most amazing yet painful journey of my life. Painful because it challenged everything I had been taught. Amazing because it revealed my Dad to me. If I hadn't have bought that book, I would still be traveling down the road of religion.

Chris in Kentucky

Thanks for listening to what God is asking you to do. Your blog and podcasts have been very encouraging to me in my journey with Jesus. I just discovered your website last month, and it has been like finding buried treasure.

Michael, UK

Wow! And wow again! Saved as an atheist reading the Bible in 1978, I hadn't appreciated how the religion of 'church' had obscured that sweet and simple encounter with the Lord Jesus. Waking up to my deep dissatisfaction with 'church' (yet love for the saints), in exploring organic church etc. on the internet, I discovered your website. I hadn't realized just how much I longed for Him, how thirsty I was. What joy, what comfort, what solace I have found these last few weeks, what answers I've found about a scary God, about making sense of my first encounter with Him. I should be finishing my Ph.D. but instead I've been reading or listening to what the Lord has empowered you to say, with laughter, with tears of joy streaming down my face.

Raymund in South Africa

You will never fully know the impact you make on people but I was a broken man angry at Father for all the wrong reasons, now I am a son who is loved again.

Julie, UK

I love your website. I thought I was the only one who felt like this. When I went to church it felt as if I was leaving God outside. I was afraid that the church would take away my love for God. Please keep doing what you are doing - some of us who felt totally alone are now no longer alone. I am tired of well-meaning church people trying to bring me 'back into their fold'.

Melinda in Tennessee

I love listening to the podcasts and have read all

the books that you have recommended. I read the *Jake* book after I picked it up in Wal-Mart one day. I just did not want to go to church anymore, and still don't. I'm reading *He Loves Me* for the fourth time because I know I didn't get it all the other three times. I get something new from it each time I read it and I am learning to live in God's grace and extend that grace on to others. I'm learning to enjoy my time with others more instead of rushing on to something else on my to-do list.

Brian by Email

I purchased *He Loves Me* three days ago and read it in two days. I could not put it down. I felt the Father just wrap His arms around me as I became engrossed in the pages of this book and had two wonderful days in the loving arms of the Savior. I have been teaching this material for years and deeply appreciate the fresh insight for how God loves me and cares for me.

Tony in Georgia

I just finished reading your book *So You Don't Want to Go to Church Anymore*. I wanted to let you know what a blessing this book was to me. My wife bought it for me and at first I thought it was just another "Christian book of rules telling me how I ought to go back to church." Once I picked it up I could not set it down and needless to say the message was the opposite of what I thought it would be. Like a drowning man that has been offered a hand your book called me back to the longing God put in my heart a long time ago. The last 48 hours I have felt like a new man and already have seen God free me from things I never thought I would overcome.

Norma by Email

Your books, podcasts, etc... have opened my heart and mind and brought me into a relationship with Jesus that I could never have imagined.

Angie by Email

I was compelled to pick up your book *So You Don't Want To Go To Church Anymore*. I had seen it at WalMart for a while and had also been agreeing with the title. I have been feeling so disillusioned with a place whose mission statement begins with "A unified body of believers..." but we all walk

and would-be leaders exploit it to get us to embrace their programs and contribute to their income.

The fruitfulness of God rises out of rest not anxiety, out of the gentle nudge of his Spirit not the vision of a charismatic leader. In truth, God is not asking us to do anything for him. He's already doing the best stuff in the world and as we learn to live inside of him he will invite us to be part of what he's already doing. One of the things I notice about the life of Jesus is that he rarely created the environment, or planned meetings for other people. He simply joined them in the environments in which he found them.

When we get so involved with our own planning we easily miss the moments Jesus puts right in front of us. They are always far simpler and yet more magnificent than what we conjure up. At the beginning they never look as flashy as our plans or appear to be as far reaching. Usually he's just inviting us to love someone. We have no idea how simple acts of obedience can snowball into consequences we never considered.

As long as you have any confidence in your flesh's ability to work for God, you will confuse the urge to be productive with the nudging of the Spirit. And the more capable you are in your own efforts and intellect the greater danger you're in of substituting the arm of the flesh for the breath of the Spirit.

Being part of his church happens by simply loving the people God puts before you each day.

A Different Kind of Gathering

God's voice isn't in the passion to create new church movements, nor is it in the cry for revolution. Those appeal to our own self-need for significance by belonging to the most cutting-edge group. God's invitation comes from within—that deep drawing into the

“**Being part of his church simply happens by simply loving the people God puts before you each day.**”

Shepherd's care, and learning to love as he loves, to think as he thinks.

What the church will become in ten years isn't going to be unveiled in the next ecumenical conclave in Geneva or Hong Kong, nor in the latest how-to book on church life. What the church becomes in the next ten years will be the fruit of millions of simple decisions made each day by people like you who are learning to live loved by the Father. There is no model to copy, no method to implement.

The early church focused on Jesus and its life was merely the visible expression of how people who are alive in Jesus treat each other. It was not perfect, but it was full of life because their life was in him, not each other. The church was the joyful network of relationships that living in him spawned and its visibility in the world came simply from doing together those things he put on their hearts.

The church of Jesus gathers like a family, not with orchestrated meetings, but a celebration of relationship and sharing with each other. With the Father's love as the source of church life, not it's objective, a new range of possibilities as to how the church might gather will become clear. I already see God connecting in unique ways brothers and sisters across this world who live unencumbered by religious performance and seek simply to love as they have been loved. They are less concerned with getting church right than they are seeing Jesus reveal him-

self. Connections happen easily among such people as a friend of one quickly becomes a friend of others, and the body grows!

What will happen as that continues to spread? I don't know and don't need to know. I do expect, however, that this church will take more visible expression over the next ten years than we can conceive. The forms that takes will uniquely fit the locale and the season of God's working, but in the end may not be all that different from ones we have already known. I'm sure it will involve meals together with lots of laughter and at times tears, insightful sharing, caring about each other, and listening to God together.

In the end, what forms that takes is far less significant than having authentic, caring friendships that put Jesus first. What we can do is learn to live in him and open our hearts to the connections he wants to make with us.

Live Connected

Being part of his church happens by simply loving the people God puts before you each day. Be intentional about cultivating friendships, especially with new people. Some will be tempo-

rary; others will connect at a far deeper level. In our human nature we mostly gravitate to people we already know who make us happy. Those relationships, however, are still focused on our needs whether it is to combat our loneliness or find an audience for our gifts, and won't lead us to the authentic friendships that radiate Jesus.

When you know you are loved by God, you won't have to use others to get what you want. Then watch what happens out of those relationships. You won't have to look far and wide for people of like mind. You won't need to find a group that believes what you do. Just take an interest in the people around you and let the results of that caring bear fruit over time. Some relationships may not go far at all. Others may be only a fruitful moment while others will become deep and enduring friendships.

Simply loving those around us will open whatever other doors Jesus needs to build his church. I am convinced that everything God wants done in the world can happen as the simple extension of growing friendships. That will provide fellowship enough, outreach enough, and work enough to let

God's life flow to the world. He said so himself. If we will simply love others like he loves us the whole world will come to know him. (John 13:34-35) Because we don't believe that the world can be touched through simple, loving relationship we keep creating machines that we hope can do it for us.

I am often accused of being anti-structure. I'm not. I'm against structure as a substitute for relationship. I'm all for structure that facilitates whatever God asks us to do together. There is a huge difference. Over the past few years I've been part of some international efforts that have had widespread impact just because some friends cooperated together and God has continued to open some amazing doors.

Out of friendship we've been able to send over \$100,000.00 overseas to help with relief in Kenya without overhead costs or administrative fees. I'm grate-

ful for that, but I am also well aware that the best way the gospel spreads in the earth is by each one of us just loving the next person God puts in front of us.

If you don't know how to do that, ask for help from others who do. But be careful of those who try to herd you into their program or draw you into their vision. I'll probably share more about this in the next issue, but real elders in the family don't gather people to their vision, but help equip and free others to the vision God has for them. And above all, relax. Building the church is Jesus' assignment, ours is to learn to live loved by the Father and then to love others in the same way. When we focus on our task, it is far easier for him to do his!



Sharing the Journey

Margie in Australia

Thank You for writing the book *So You Don't Want To Go To Church Anymore*. This book has been so healing and freeing. It has explained my experiences and answered yearning questions I've had for so long. I can't express in words how much it means to be free from the guilt and exclusion. As I type the tears of relief, utter joy and gratitude to our Father are flowing.

Kathryn by Email

I can't tell you what your book means to me. I have read and underlined and longhand copied a lot of the talks from John. I am presently unemployed (and) John's words bring me comfort and closer to My Lord. I am not anxious. I do look for work and pray. But if I hadn't read this book my mind would be telling me God had cast me aside; church works for others and not for me. But your book stopped that negative mind chatter. I know God is in this with me and WILL see me thru. I am on an adven-

ture with God. This is incredible!

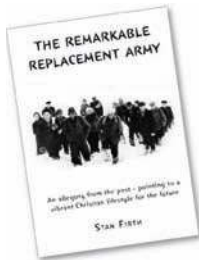
David in Virginia

I liked *The Shack*, but I was blown away by *So You Don't Want to Go to Church Anymore*. While reading your book all I could think was "WOW!". It took me to places in my heart and mind I had never visited and was that ever exciting! I have done what I consider to be a masterful work of spiritual writing. I have read many of the mystical writings and I felt you exceeded them all.

Charlie by email:

I am still new to this amazing love of God. I have been a believer for 3 years, but during those years what I thought was God being revealed to me through "church" was religion. So now I'm learning to allow God to break that off of me. I'm learning to get those distorted notions of God out of my head. I believe that it was the hand of God that placed your books into my hands. I was in Walmart and

Book Recommendations



The Remarkable Replacement Army

by Stan Firth, author Custom or Command

In his newest book Stan uses an extended metaphor about a "replacement army" in Norway during World War II to resist the Nazi occupation and help overthrow their German invaders to share some powerful observations about people who no longer fit into the religious systems they once did. He describes a transition going on in the world from the traditional congregation as we've known it and a more relational networking of passionate believers that he says

will define church life in this century. It will challenge many of you and encourage others. It will help many of you asking how you can live more effectively beyond the congregational model. Though this book can bog down a bit, persevere through it. You will find it inspiring and insightful. I posted a longer review on my blog. The book is available at lulu.com or a free PDF download can be found on the website: <http://www.remarkablereplacementarmy.com/>.