

Nonfiction

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easily adaptable for men as their female counterparts. Whether you're dealing with parenting, retirement, care-giving, or stress, each chapter will supply supportive, Christian-based ideas for not only surviving but growing through tough times.

—Donna Watson, PhD

Plan B

Pete Wilson/Thomas Nelson
Subject: Spiritual Growth
p \$14.99 ISBN: 9780849946509



As a pastor, Pete Wilson knows the heartbreak he and others experience when God allows unexpected changes of course along life's way. *Plan B* navigates a useful path for dealing with those occurrences that may superficially appear to be tragedies. Using examples from the Bible, his family's life, folks from the congregations he's shepherded, and the occasional contemporary Christian music celebrity, Wilson plots a course of recovery and realignment when things don't go as planned. His reliance on the church body and reconciling disappointments with the Lord's love should prove useful to some readers. Wilson's quotations of authors from the emergent/contemplative and

Catholic worlds may give some readers pause; however, their understanding of some events being mysterious on this side of eternity could be useful to some.

For such a weighty subject, Wilson adds just enough levity to make his spiritual medicine go down smoothly. Others have written on similar subjects in the past, but *Plan B* may be the thing to help some through troubled times.

—Jamie Lee Rake

Trevor's Song

T.A. Beam/Milestones
Subject: Memoir
p \$14.99 ISBN: 9780924748998



The book tells the story of Trevor Beam, who was 8 years old when, on his Pennsylvania farm, he was pulled through the spiked bars of a harvester wagon, mangling his lower legs. The rest of the book chronicles the healing process Trevor experienced in the subsequent days, weeks, and months.

Trevor's story is told in a fictional manner, with abundant details about his healing. His parents give God the credit for healing their son. The book shows the power of prayer and of believing God for miracles. It doesn't "dictate"—saying that God must heal

or that we can dictate the terms of a prayer request—which is a strength of the book.

—Neil Bartlett

5 Ministry Killers Identified

Charles Stone/Bethany House
Subject: Ministry
c \$19.99 ISBN: 9780764207051

HELP FOR FRUSTRATED PASTORS—INCLUDING NEW RESEARCH FROM THE BARNA GROUP



Pastors routinely face overwhelming ministry disappointments of such painful intensity that nearly 1,500 pastors leave the ministry each month. In *5 Ministry Killers*, Charles Stone utilizes his current research, interviews, and surveys to dig deeper into pastors' feelings of despair and defeat. The book consists of three categories: the top five ministry "killers," pastors' responses to them, and four steps to defeating them. The final chapter wisely considers pastors' wives' perspectives, and each chapter concludes with discussion questions.

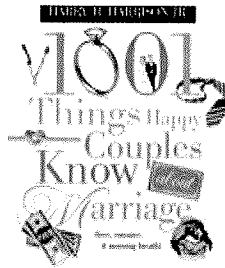
Moderately well-written, the book starts slowly, and is heavy with research data—though an abundance of personal stories and testimonials save the day. Heavy reliance on data interpretation is its weakness, but Stone's three-plus decades of pastoral and ministry experience

provide credibility. Some insights are difficult to hear, but Stone's desire to see pastors thrive is clear. Recommend this book to pastors and pastors-in-training.

—David Mundt

1001 Things Happy Couples Know About Marriage

Harry H. Harrison Jr./Thomas Nelson
Subject: Marriage
p \$9.99 ISBN: 9781404187511



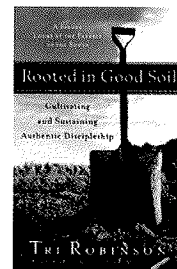
Harry H. Harrison Jr. has added yet another book to his "1001" series. His latest is on marriage relationships. Some of the topics covered include commitment, forgiveness, and fidelity, as well as the "M's" of money, myths, mothers-in-laws, and menopause. The "gems of wisdom" about everyday situations and caring for each other, are both witty and serious. Very little Scripture is quoted in *1001 Things Happy Couples Know about Marriage*, but the importance of God is often implied, and the role faith plays in marriage is emphasized throughout the book.

Harrison's book offers thought provoking insights for those who feel they're in a mundane relationship. It's ideal for

any couple, newlywed or seasoned, and whether the relationship is good or not. —Jolane Shaffer

Rooted in Good Soil

Tri Robinson/Baker Books
Subject: Ministry & Church Leadership
p \$14.99 ISBN: 9780801072536



How can we cultivate and sustain authentic, mature, and lasting Christian discipleship in ourselves and others? Robinson—a farmer, pastor, and former schoolteacher—believes that Jesus' parable of the sower (found in all three Synoptic Gospels) provides the answer. Focusing primarily on the image of the seed in good soil, he compares various aspects of plant growth to the process of discipleship, illustrated with honest, poignant, and humorous stories from his farming, personal, and pastoral experience and with other Scripture passages. He covers the need for brokenness, the gift of repentance, the hidden work of God, the inner work of the Trinity, the benefits of community, the response of compassion, and more.

Recommend *Rooted in Good Soil* especially to pastors and