

## 2012 Reading Program UMW

Education for Mission

***Beaded Hope***. Cathy Liggett. Tyndale House Publishing. 2010. 386p

*Beaded Hope* author Cathy Liggett, and Beaded Hope founder Jennifer Davis became friends in 2005, bonded by a common love of Africa and a desire to make an impact on the world. Cathy and Jennifer traveled to South Africa together in March of 2008, and from that trip came *Beaded Hope*, the novel. Cathy fell in love with the women of South Africa and the mission of the non-profit organization Beaded Hope, and now donates 20% of her earnings from the sale of the novel to the organization. Together Cathy and Jennifer work to put into action the African proverb

Education for Mission

***Because He Lives: Faith, Hope and Love in Action***. Catherine Ritch Guess. CRM Books. 2010. 276p

A true and living example of the faith, hope and love that emerged from one of the most horrid genocides in the world's history, *Because He Lives* portrays the many ways the united Methodist Women members' supplemental giving helps not only the Methodist Mission in Cambodia but the women and children there. Bonus book [count as two books]

Education for Mission

***Cesar Chavez: A Photographic Essay***. Ilan Stavans. Cinco Puntos Press. 2010. 96p

Mention the name Cesar Chavez and you're likely to get a wide range of reactions, depending on the age of the person you ask. Although most people recognize the name, they don't always connect it to his legacy, and not many realize that during the U.S. Civil Right Era Cesar Chavez led marches trying to improve the status of itinerant workers in the United States.

Education for Mission

***Forgotten Girls: Stories of Hope and Courage***. Kay Marshall Strom and Michelle Rickett. InterVarsity Press. 2009. 176p.

All over the world, women and girls face starvation, displacement, illiteracy, sexual exploitation and abuse. These pages hold their stories of deep pain and suffering, inspiring courage and incredible hope. They are the stories of girls who have discovered their value in God's eyes in the midst of cultures that have rejected them.

Education for Mission

***It's Easier to Reach Heaven Than the End of the Street: A Jerusalem Memoir***. Emma Williams. Interlink Publishing Group. 2010. 412p.

In August 2000 Emma Williams arrived in Jerusalem with her three small children to join her husband and to work as a doctor. For the next three years, she witnessed an astonishing series of events in which hundreds of thousands of lives, including her own, were turned upside down. This powerful memoir continues to bring to live the realities of the Palestinian-Israeli conflict.

Education for Mission

***We Wait You: Waiting on God in Eastern Europe***. Taryn R. Hutchison. WinePress Group. 2008. 222p.

Inspiring and humorous, *We Wait You* is the real-life story of hearts transformed after the Revolutions of 1989 in Eastern Europe. History and faith will come alive as you take this riveting journey with one woman who made a difference during the unforgettable events that forever changed Eastern Europe.

#### Education for Mission

***Bamboo People: A Novel.*** Mitali Perkins. Charlesbridge Publishing. 2010. 272p

When 15-year-old Chiko is pressed into military service by the Burmese government, he finds himself involved in an ongoing war with the Karenni people, one of the many ethnic minorities in modern Burma. A scholar, not a soldier, Chiko soon gets wounded and finds himself at the mercy of Tu Reh, an angry Karenni boy only slightly older than he is. Will these two teens, who should be natural enemies, find a way to friendship? Perkins' latest novel—told in the individual voices of the two boys—explores that possibility while introducing a considerable amount of factual and contextual information about present-day Burma. Though occasionally didactic and a bit preachy, this is nevertheless a story that invites discussion of the realities of warfare rooted in long-standing antagonism and unreasoning hatred of “the other.”

#### Leadership Development

***The Boy Who Harnessed the Wind: Creating Currents of Electricity and Hope.*** William Kamkwamba. HarperCollins Publishers. 2009. 306p. e-reader version available.

After reading about windmills, William Kamkwamba dreamed of building one that would bring to his small Malawian village a set of luxuries that only 2 percent in his country enjoys: electricity and running water. With a small pile of forgotten science textbooks, scrap metal, tractor parts and bicycle halves he embarked on a daring plan to build an unlikely contraption and small miracle that would change the lives around him.

#### Leadership Development

***Change the World: Recovering the Message and Mission of Jesus.*** Mike Slaughter. Abingdon Press. 2010. 158p. e-reader version available.

Despite the church's place of prominence in American culture and the ever-resent church in every American town, misconceptions about the faith of Jesus Christ run rampant. Christians are known more for exclusivity than for love, more for potlucks than for solving world hunger. It is time for churches to get over the cruise ship mentality of being a program provider and reconnect with the true message and mission of Jesus?

#### Leadership Development

***More Bad Girls of the Bible.*** Barbara J. Essex. The Pilgrim Press. 2009. 128p.

This Bible study consists of 12 units and is designed for individual or group study. Each Study unit begins with a focus text and review of the stories of selected biblical women and ends with a reflection questions to help start a discussion about what we can learn from these characters and their stories. The book is designed to help us examine our own motives, assumptions and identity as we explore the stories of our faith.

#### Leadership Development

***Old Testament Prophets for Today.*** Carolyn J. Sharp. Westminster John Knox Press. 2009. 112p. e-reader version available.

Prophets can be mediators who connect us to the holiness of God. They can be idealists whose desires for humanity call us to new heights of God's desire, and they can be companions for us in the confusing journey through our complicated world. In this book the author offers a lay-friendly introduction to some of the Old Testament's most interesting-and often-overlooked-prophets.

Leadership Development

***Women Lead the Way: Your Guide to Stepping Up to Leadership and Changing the World.*** Linda Tarr-Whelan. Berrett-Koehler Publishers. 2009. 213p. e-reader version available.

Despite enormous gains in the past decades, women continue to be woefully underrepresented in positions of power. This is a loss for everyone. Women's priorities are overlooked, and society misses out on the new perspectives and fresh insights that women can offer. *Women Lead the Way* offers practical guidance for bringing your passion, brains and background to the tables where critical issues get decided.

Leadership Development

***Why Women Should Rule the World.*** Dee Dee Meyers. HarperCollins. 2009. 364p. Large print, audio and e-reader versions available.

In this blend of memoir, social history and call to action, *Why Women Should Rule the World* challenges us to imagine a not-too-distant future in which increasing numbers of women reach the top ranks of politics, business, science and academia. Reflecting on her own tenure in the Clinton administration, the author assesses the crucial but long ignored strengths that female leaders bring to the table.

Nurturing for Community

***Allow God to Wear Your Face: Spiritual Care for Those Who Are Ill.*** Alice G. Knotts. Front Row Living Press. 2010. 64p.

As a spiritual caregiver the greatest gift you have to offer is your calm, spiritual non-anxious presence. This book is a simple guide for people who wish to make visits with sick people more meaningful and effective.

Nurturing for Community

***Asylum Denied.*** David Ngaruri Kenney and Phillip G. Schrag. University of California Press. 2008. 352p. e-reader version available.

*Asylum Denied* is the gripping story of political refugee David Ngaruri Kenney's harrowing odyssey through the world of immigration processing the United States. Kenney, while living in his native Kenya, led a boycott to protest his government's treatment of his fellow farmers.

He was subsequently arrested and taken into the forest to be executed. This memoir tells of his near-murder, imprisonment and torture in Kenya; his remarkable escape to the United States; and the obstacle course of ordeals and proceedings he faced as U.S. government agencies sought to deport him to Kenya. It is a story of courage, love, perseverance and legal strategy.

Nurturing for Community

***Breathe: Finding Freedom to Thrive in Relationships After Childhood Sexual Abuse.*** Nicole Braddock Bromley. Moody Publishers. 2009. 180p. e-reader version available.

Childhood sexual abuse is suffocating thousands of victims across our nation. With one in three women and one in six men experiencing some form of sexual abuse or assault, our world is full of survivors longing to be healed. The author, a fellow survivor, guides abuse victims and those who love them from muffled existence to exuberant life.

Nurturing for Community

***I Am Nujood, Age 10 and Divorced.*** Nujood Ali. Three Rivers Press. 2010. 190p. e-reader version available.

Nujood Ali's childhood came to an abrupt end in 2008 when her father arranged for her to be married to a man three times her age. With harrowing directness she tells of her married life and of her daring escape after being sent to the market to buy bread. With help from local advocates and the press, Nujood obtained her freedom, and extraordinary achievement in Yemen, where almost half of all girls are married under the legal age.

Nurturing for Community

***The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks.*** Rebecca Skloot. Random House. 2010. 382p. e-reader, audio CD and large print versions available.

Her name was Henrietta Lacks, but scientists know her as HeLa. She was a poor Southern tobacco farmer who worked the same land as her slave ancestors, yet her cells-taken without her knowledge-became one of the most important tools in medicine. The first "immortal" human cells grown in culture, they are still alive today, though she has been dead for more than 60 years.

Nurturing for Community

***Creative Aging: Rethinking Retirement and Non-retirement in a Changing World.*** Marjory Zoet Bankson. Skylight Paths Publishing. 2009. 152p. e-reader and large print versions available.

In a practical and useful way, *Creative Aging* explores the spiritual dimensions of retirement and aging. It offers creative ways for you to share your gifts and experience, particularly when retirement leaves you questioning who you are when you are no longer defined by your career.

Social Action

***Color-blind: The Rise of Post-racial Politics and the Retreat From Racial Equity.*** Tim Wise. City Lights Books. 2010. 216p. e-reader version available.

Following the Civil Rights Movement, race relations in the United States entered a new era. Since then, many voices have called for an end to affirmative action and other color-conscious policies and programs and even a retreat from public discussion of racism itself. *Color-blind* presents a timely and provocative look at contemporary racism and offers fresh ideas on what can be done to achieve true social justice and economic equality.

Social Action

***The Death of Josseline: Immigration Stories From the Arizona Borderlands.*** Margaret Regan. Beacon Press. 2010. 226p. e-reader version available.

Fourteen-year-old Josseline, a young girl from El Salvador left to die alone on the migrant trail, was just one of thousands to perish in its deserts and mountains. This book tells the stories of the people caught up in this international tragedy and explores a host of urgent issues: the border militarization that threatens the rights of U.S. citizens, the environmental damage wrought by the border wall, the desperation that compels migrants to come north and the human tragedy of the unidentified dead in Arizona's morgues.

Social Action

***Moral Ground: Ethical Action for a Planet in Peril.*** Kathleen Dean Moore and Michael P. Nelson, editors. Trinity University Press. 2011. 479p. e-reader version available.

In the face of environmental degradation, species extinction and the climate change, scientific knowledge, political processes of economic incentives do not tell us what we ought to do. The missing premise of the argument and the much-needed centerpiece in the debate to date has been the need for ethical values, moral guidance and principled reasons for doing the right thing for the future of our planet, its animals, its plants and its people.

Social Action

***The New Jim Crow: Mass Incarceration in the Age of Colorblindness.*** Michelle Alexander. The New Press. 2010. 320p. e-reader version available.

As the United States celebrates the nation's "triumph over race" with the election of Barack Obama, the majority of young black men in major American cities are locked behind bars or labeled felons for life. Jim Crow laws were wiped off the books decades ago, but today an astounding percentage of the African-American community is warehoused in prisons or trapped in permanent, second-class status, much like their grandparents before them. *The New Jim Crow* challenges the civil rights community and all of us to place mass incarceration at the forefront of a new movement for racial justice in America.

Social Action

***Rediscovering Values: On Wall Street Main Street and Your Street.*** Jim Wallis. Simon & Schuster. 2010. 274p. e-reader version available.

Getting back to "the way things were" is not an option. It is time we take our economic uncertainty and use it to find some moral clarity. Too often we have been ruled by the maxims that greed is good, it's all about me and I want it now. Those can be challenged only with some of our oldest and best values; enough is enough, we are in it together and thinking not just for tomorrow but for future generations. *Rediscovering values* shows that the solution to our problems will be found only as individuals, families, friends, churches, mosques, synagogues and entire communities wrestle with the question of values together.

Social Action

***The Slave Next Door: Human Trafficking and Slavery in America Today.*** Kevin Bales and Ron Soodalter. University of California Press. 2009. 312p. e-reader version available.

In *Slave Next Door* we learn that slaves are all around us, hidden in plain sight- the dishwasher in the neighborhood restaurant, the kids on the corner selling cheap trinkets, the man sweeping the floor of a local department store-and we meet some unexpected slaveholders. Weaving together a wealth of voices this book is also a call to action, telling what we as private citizens can do to finally bring an end to his horrific crime.

Social Action

***Green Church: Reduce, Reuse, Recycle, Rejoice!*** Rebekah Simon-Peter. Abingdon Press. 2010. 116p. e-reader version and large print versions available.

Climate change is in the news. But what does it mean for Christians, and how can you help? *Green Church* answers these questions in ways that are both hopeful and engaging. Citing Scripture and science, the book weaves in personal stories of Sabbath, gardening, recycling, camping and the power of faith. She challenges us to consider our role in the care of creation to help save the earth for future generations.

#### Social Action

***The Bite of the Mango.*** Mariatu Kamara. Annick Press. 2008. 216p.

Relaying her experiences as a child in Sierra Leone during the 1990s, Kamara chillingly evokes the devastating effects of war. Mariatu is 11 when her tiny village is decimated by rebel soldiers, many of them children like her. Forced to watch as peaceful villagers are tortured and murdered, Mariatu is finally allowed to go free—but only after boy soldiers cut off her hands: We want you to go to the president, they tell her, and show him what we did to you. You won't be able to vote for him now. Mariatu's long walk to get medical aid marks the first stage of a harrowing journey to build a new life for herself and other wartime victims; she now lives in Canada and is a UNICEF representative. Written with journalist McClelland, her story is deeply personal yet devoid of self-pity. As it aims to correct misperceptions about Sierra Leone and to raise awareness of the needs of child victims of war, this book will unsettle readers—and then inspire them with the evidence of Mariatu's courage.

#### Spiritual Growth

***All Creation Sings: The Voice of God in Nature.*** J. Ellsworth Kalas. Abingdon Press. 2010. 124p. e-reader version available.

*All Creation Sings* wants us to go further than the “green” movement and being simply conscious of the wonder of our creation and the necessity of caring for it passionately. The book calls us to not only see and be grateful for these wonders but to be responsible for them, to go beyond its exquisite beauty to learn some of the lessons it would teach us, lessons about both life and God. A discussion guide is included.

#### Spiritual Growth

***Hidden in the Rubble: A Haitian Pilgrimage to Compassion and Resurrection.*** Gerard Thomas Straub. Orbis Books. 2010. 170p.

Prior to the devastating earthquake that struck Haiti on January 12, 2010, Gerard Straub had vividly captured the dreadful conditions that already existed there for a documentary film he was making. Immediately afterward he went back with a team of doctors who rushed in to help the countless victims. This book describes life before and after the earthquake and contains a series of reflections from people fully engaged in helping the Haitians through their darkest days.

#### Spiritual Growth

***Laugh Your Way to Grace: Reclaiming the Spiritual Power of Humor.*** Susan Sparks. Skylight Paths Publishing. 2010. 150p. e-reader and larger print versions available.

Laughter is the gift that you received at birth, one thing you were able to do freely as a child. It's a gift that may fade but never fully disappears. *Laugh Your Way to Grace* is intended to give you permission to reconnect with your own sense of joy and hope.

#### Spiritual Growth

***Ostriches, Dung Beetles and Other Spiritual Masters: A Book of Wisdom From the Wild.*** Janice McLaughlin. Orbis Books. 2009. 148p.

*Ostriches, Dung Beetles and Other Spiritual Masters* not only tells us about the wildlife of Africa but also teaches us about ourselves and what we're capable of, how from the elephant we can learn the meaning of community, or from the hippopotamus humility and self-acceptance. The African landscape and its inhabitants become the catechists in this wonderful collection of stories, perfect of individual or group reflection.

Spiritual Growth

***Wasabi Gospel: The Startling Message of Jesus.*** Shawn Wood. Abingdon Press. 2009. 142p. e-reader version available.

*Wasabi Gospel* takes you on a quest to really examine the words of Jesus and their impact on our lives. Using seven well-known gospel passages, the book unpacks their real significance and explores what life would really look like if we lived out those seemingly subtle commands of Christ.

Spiritual Growth

***Seasons of Salt: Meditations.*** Millie Horlacher. iUniverse. 2009. 232p. large print version.

Whether we realize it at the time, normal events in our everyday lives can have significant spiritual meaning and can also offer valuable lessons-if we only take the time to listen. In more than 60 devotions suitable for individual or group use, *Seasons of Salt* weaves faith and daily living and shows how everyday activities, including childhood games, kitchen challenges and family and church events present perfect opportunities for expressions of faith.

Spiritual Growth

***Outlive Your Life: You Were Made to Make a Difference.*** Max Lucado. Thomas Nelson. 2010. 240p  
Outlive Your Life, in typical Lucado methodology, combines anecdotes and stories with theology and practical application to give us a good look at how we can be more like the early church as described in Acts. He calls us beyond the mundane, past the day to day, through the doldrums, and asks us to look beyond the pie-in-the-sky we will have by-and-by - as glorious as the hope of heaven is - and focus on what we can do in the here-and-now to radicalize the world for Jesus.

Spiritual Growth

***Francis: The Saint of Assisi: A Novel.*** Joan Mueller. New City Press. 2010. 272p.

A modern retelling of the life of St. Francis of Assisi, this book combines historical details and dramatic style. The author explores the daily lives of Francis and Clare and the lives of thirteen-century Assisi and beautifully translates their stories in these pages. *St. Francis: The Saint of Assisi* reads like both a love story and a biographical account of the life of the most universally acclaimed saint.

Spiritual Growth

***True When Whispered: Hearing God's Voice in a Noisy World.*** Paul Escamilla. Abingdon Press. 2010. 132p.

Some things are true when whispered, not shouted. Life's finest qualities drain away, Escamilla writes, as intensity, volume, and speed increase. When we hear God's whisper to us, we can address life in a fresher, simpler way - a way that will last beyond the everyday worry and noise.

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Youth titles may be included in Reading plans I, II, III & IV

Youth. Education for Mission

***Lacey and the African Grandmothers.*** Sue Farrell Holler. Second Story Press. 2009. 164p.

What difference can a young Blackfoot girl from North American make in the lives of grandmothers in Africa? A lot, as Lacey discovers. Her decision to help will bring about amazing changes in her life and her community.

Youth. Education for Mission

**Thunder Over Kandahar.** Sharon E. McKay. Annick Press. 2010. 260p.

Best friends Tamanna and Yasmine cannot believe their good fortune when a school is set up in their Afghan village; however, their dreams for the future are shattered when the Taliban burn down the school and threaten the teacher and students with death. Their future in jeopardy, the girls realize they must flee.

Youth. Social Action

**Branded.** Eric Walters. Orca Book Publishers. 2010. 132p.

Ian's school is in an uproar about the new school uniforms, but he wants nothing to do with the issue. He's busy pursuing a newfound passion for social justice. Why Should he worry about uniforms when there are kids in the world who would give anything to be able to go to school? But things change when he discovers that the two issues may be related.

Youth. Social Action

**Going Blue: A Teen Guide to Saving Our Oceans, Lakes, Rivers and Wetlands.** Cathryn Berger Kaye and Phillippe Cousteau. Free Spirit Publishing. 2010. 128p. e-reader version available.

Pollution, oil spills, climate change, overfishing-these are just some of the threats to our planet's water system, resulting in a lack of clean drinking water for millions of people and the devastation of plant and animal life. Teens around the globe are taking action to address these crises. With guide you can join them. Will you?

Youth. Social Action

**Sold.** Patricia McCormick. HarperCollins. 2008. 268p. e-reader version available.

Though desperately poor, 13-year-old Lakshmi's life in a small village in Nepal is full of simple pleasures. But then a monsoon washes away the family's crops, and Lakshmi's stepfather says she must take a job to support her family. Thinking she has a job as a maid in the city, she is glad to help. But then learns the unthinkable truth: she has been sold into prostitution.

Children's titles may be included in plans III & IV

Children. Education for Mission

**14 Cows for America.** Carmen Agra Deedy and Wilson Kimeli Naiyomah. Peachtree Publishers. 2009. 32p.

It is June 2002 and a very unusual ceremony begins in a far-flung village in western Kenya. A gift is about to be bestowed on the men, women and children of America. The gift is as unsought and unexpected as it is extraordinary, and for a heartsick nation, the gift of 14 cows emerges from the choking dust and darkness as a soft light of hope and friendship.

Children. Education for Mission

**Faith.** Maya Ajmera, Magda Nakassis and Cynthia Pon. Charlesbridge Publishing. 2009. 48p.

Celebrate faith around the world in its many expressions: praying, singing learning, caring and more, and discover the common threads that bring people together in reverence and joy.

Children. Nurturing for Community

**Amazing Faces.** Lee Bennett Hopkins. Lee & Low Books. 2010. 40 p.

An amazing collection of poems focusing on universal emotions as expressed by poets from diverse backgrounds, including Joseph Bruchac, Nikki Grimes, Lee Bennett Hopkins, Pat Mora, Janet S. Wong and many others.

Children. Nurturing for Community

***What Will You Be Sara Mee?*** Kate Aver Avraham. Charlesbridge Publishing. 2010. 32p.

At her *tol*, the first-birthday party, Sara Mee plays the traditional Korean prophecy game *toljabee* while her extended family and friends watch.

Children. Social Action

***Seeds of Change: Planting a Path to Peace.*** Jen Cullerton Johnson. Lee & Low Books. 2010. 40p.

A biography of Kenyan Nobel Peace Prize winner and environmentalist Wangari Maathai, a female scientist who made a stand in the face of opposition to women's rights and started her own Green Belt Movement in an effort to restore Kenya's ecosystem by planting millions of trees.

Children. Spiritual Growth

***The Beatitudes: From Slavery to Civil Rights.*** Carole Boston Weatherford. Wm. B. Eerdman's Publishing. 2010. 36p.

In this book the Beatitudes – the beginning of Jesus' famous Sermon on the Mount- from the back drop for Carole Boston Weatherford's powerful free-verse poem that traces the African-American journey from slavery to civil rights.