

It's been a couple of years since we suggested some summer reading. Back in April it sounded like a *great* idea for this year. So for the July issue I tried to catch the staff and find out what they're reading as they scattered for the summer. Britta said she's reading something, but she doesn't want to talk about it until she finds out how it ends. Kim said, "Books? You mean people get to *sit down*?" Mike called over his shoulder, "*Crazy Love!* It's da bomb!," as he sprinted out the door.

So here are the "summer" books we collected, organized by topic. We hope you try them out!

Christian Life

Crazy Love: Overwhelmed by a Relentless God, by Francis Chan

This summer Mike Killeen is encouraging our high school students to read this fast-paced, thought-provoking book. Chan digs into what God teaches us through the Bible, challenging our habits, our assumptions, and our practices. With online video clips that build on Chan's message, *Crazy Love* is an engaging way to renew and deepen your faith. MK/KS

A Million Miles in a Thousand Years, by Donald Miller

Donald Miller, who also wrote *Blue Like Jazz*, has written another exploration of himself, his world, and God. This time Miller tackles "story"—The Story, the screenplay for "Blue Like Jazz: the movie," and his own story. What if a good life needs to have the same elements as a good story? Read and find out! KS

Theology

The Reason for God: Belief in God in an Age of Skepticism, by Timothy Keller

Timothy Keller is worth discovering this summer. We are reading his book *Prodigal God* for the men's backpacking trip. LC

God Is Great, God Is Good: Why Believing in God Is Reasonable and Responsible, by William Lane Craig and Chad Meister, editors

A response to Richard Dawkins' and Christopher Hitchens' attacks on Christianity. Timely! LC

Novels

Home: A Novel, by Marilynne Robinson

The follow up to the Pulitzer prize-winning novel *Gilead*. (Read it first!) *Home* takes the story further into the complexities of life and shows there unexpected grace and hope. LC (ed. note: *Home* is one of the librarian's recommended books this month. Coincidence?)

The Church

Who Stole My Church?: What to Do When the Church You Love Tries to Enter the 21st Century, by Gordon MacDonald

The last 20 years have seen an acceleration in changes in the American Christian church, its worship and its engagement in the world. MacDonald writes in story form and helps us understand and negotiate the changes. LC

No Perfect People Allowed: Creating a Come-as-You-Are Culture in the Church, by John Burke

John is the pastor of Gateway Church in North Austin (they have a south location as well). John lays out the task of creating an inviting church culture in a changing world. Our pastoral staff read this together in the spring and it sparked great conversations. LC

It's Not Too Late! Sign-up continues for *Disciple* Classes!

Classes run Sept-May for 2 hours each week. *Disciple 1* should be taken first, but the upper levels may be taken in any order. Click on the *Disciple* link at members.shpc.org/adult/ to get more detail on specific *Disciple* classes and times. Come join us this fall!

LEAD WHERE YOU ARE

THE GLOBAL LEADERSHIP SUMMIT is about stirring up and calling out the VERY BEST in leaders.

Pastors, teachers, business leaders, law enforcement officials, politicians, musicians, athletes, and others are answering the call and choosing to lead where they are to make a lasting difference. Striving to be effective leaders, they are the agents of transformation. They call out what's wrong, set goals, launch initiatives, motivate, challenge, and move people to get on the solution side of solving our worst problems.

On August 5-6, 2010, over 60,000 leaders will gather for *The Global Leadership Summit*, broadcast live at Westlake Hills Presbyterian Church via satellite from the Willow Creek campus near Chicago to more than 225 satellite sites across North America.



THE GLOBAL LEADERSHIP SUMMIT

AUGUST 5-6, 2010 | willowcreek.com/summit

Far more than an annual training seminar, The Global Leadership Summit has become a galvanizing event in this worldwide leadership movement. Leaders representing an amazing diversity of races, cultures, ethnicities, languages, and denominations are coming together to develop their unique leadership gift.

Speakers for 2010 include: Bill Hybels, Jim Collins, T.D. Jakes, Jack Welch (videocast), Andy Stanley, Christine Caine, Tony Dungy, Zhao Xiao, Ph.D., Blake Mycoskie, Terri Kelly (videocast), Daniel H. Pink, Adam Hamilton, Jeff Manion.

TAKE THE NEXT STEP: Contact the church office, church@shpc.org, to find out how to register.

Summer reading with a purpose

(a.k.a. *Sherry's* summer books!)

There is no required reading before taking any of the Disciple courses. However, for those of you who love to read, the following are some books you may want to consider. Many of them are available in our SHPC Library. They are listed according to the particular focus of each level. However, any of the books actually relate in some way to all of the Disciple classes.

Disciple 1

The Disciple Story: The Transforming Power of Scripture by Nancy Kruh with forward by Richard Wilke (The incredible story of how the Disciple program was developed.)

Reading Scripture as the Word of God (Second Edition) by George Martin

Oxford Bible Atlas (Fourth Edition) edited by Adrian Curtis (This book is so much more than maps! It contains well written infor-

mation on the how and why of archaeology in the Holy Land and on the different historical ages. And this edition contains beautiful color pictures.)

Violent Sands by Sean Young (Also a librarian's selection, this story is set in the time shortly after Jesus when Christianity was still a growing sect within Judaism. It is an adventure and love story about a Zealot fighting against the Romans.)

Teaching the Bible to Adults and Youth by Dick Murray (This is great for leaders but is also very helpful for any student of the Bible. It teaches you various creative methods for digging into scripture.)

Disciple 2

Keeping the Sabbath Wholly by Marva J. Dawn (Learn very practical and specific tips on how you can keep the Sabbath special for you and your family.)

Abraham by Bruce Feiler (Three major religions trace their lineage back to Abraham but have very different ideas about who he was and what we learn from him.)

Walking the Bible: A Journey by Land through the Five Books of

Adult Ministry

Moses by Bruce Feiler (This is a travel odyssey of one man's spiritual journey through the greatest stories ever told.)

Disciple 3

Thus Says the Lord: The Message of the Prophets by James M. Ward

In the Steps of the Apostle Paul by F. F. Bruce (Large "coffee table" style book with beautiful pictures and information on the cities Paul visited.)

Paul and His Letters (Second Edition) by Leander E. Keck

Disciple 4

The Message: The Old Testament Wisdom Books in Contemporary Language by Eugene H. Peterson

The Gospel and Letters of John (IBT series) by R. Alan Culpepper

Revelation (Westminster Bible Companion Series) by Catherine Gunsalus Gonzalez and Justo L. Gonzalez