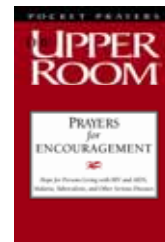
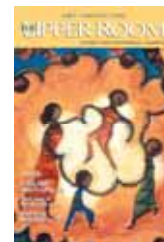
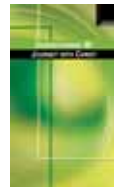
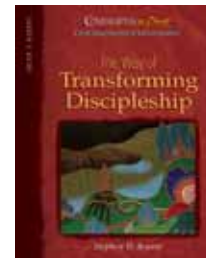


## Resource Recommendations for VIM Teams

June 2008 [Click on titles to order materials](#)



### Mission Trips That Matter: Embodied Faith for the Sake of the World

By Don C. Richter

Mission trips and alternative spring breaks are on the rise. Millions of youth and adults are taking time to help people in need across the state and across the globe. In a world torn by misunderstanding and inequalities, making sure missions are 'mutually beneficial and just' instead of patronizing is an urgent concern. Learn to transcend personal experience and connect your itinerary with the gospel — even before you leave home.

"Seeing the larger story helps mission team members connect their travel experience to their ongoing life of faith," writes Richter. "Instead of viewing their lives as a series of random, disconnected episodes, Christians are challenged to view their activities in relation to God's activity. Guiding folks into this way of thinking about life is at the heart of leading mission trips that matter."

Discover how to personify Christ's love, becoming servant-guests, as you help others through projects in unfamiliar places. During such pilgrimages, you'll experience and foster community as well as learn, firsthand, about the world beyond your home base. *Mission Trips That Matter* will inspire and guide groups to reflect on your life together before, during and after your travels. It will also encourage you to model "Here-as-well-as-there" Christian practices.

**Paperback**

**\$15.00.**

176 Pages. Trim Size: 6" x 9"

ISBN# 978-0-8358-9947-5. Order# 9947

## Transforming Ventures: A Spiritual Guide for Volunteers in Mission

By Jane Ives

Trends reveal that more and more people are using vacation time to experience new things or to help others. This book will help you consider how you can use your free time toward discipleship. Whether you go with a construction team, a traveling choir, or as an individual volunteer missionary abroad, you'll end up receiving more from the experience than you give.

Ives weaves scripture, personal witness statements, and spiritual practices into a resource that will affect your life and the larger ministry of the church. As you gain a clearer understanding of God's call in your life, you'll recognize the ways God is already at work in the lives of those you seek to serve.

Ives' book is also an engaging study for small groups, leaders of youth missionaries, and wanderlustful individuals.

**Paperback**

**\$13.00.**

176 Pages. ISBN# 978-0-8358-0910-2. Order #910

---

## A Mile in My Shoes: Cultivating Compassion

By Trevor Hudson

*"Love your neighbor as yourself."*

With this imperative, Jesus made compassion for others central to the Christian life. Being personally and deeply aware of the suffering of our neighbors (both near and abroad) requires deep listening and action.

Hudson issues a challenging charge to pay attention all around us and to engage in the spiritual disciplines that enable us to see, hear and respond to the living Christ in our midst.

In the dark period of South Africa's history, the author developed an eight-day experiential program called The Pilgrimage of Pain and Hope. He designed it to enable comfortable, young middle-class South Africans to reflect on the meaning of their faith and discipleship within the harsh and oppressive socio-political realities of their nation. From this experience grew a pattern to help all Christians cultivate the depth of compassion Christ requires.

"We seldom become more compassionate without working at it," writes Hudson. "One practical way to cultivate compassion involves building the pilgrimage experience into our lives. ...The risen Christ meets us in the lives of those who suffer."

Questions at the close of each chapter guide the thoughts of individuals and groups as you consider becoming a daily-life pilgrim.

**Paperback**

**\$13.00.**

128 Pages. Trim Size: 5 1/4" x 8 1/2"  
ISBN# 0-8358-9815-6. Order# 9815

---

Order from Upper Room/Discipleship Resources  
[www.UpperRoom.org/bookstore](http://www.UpperRoom.org/bookstore)  
toll-free: 1-800-972-0433

## Listening to the Groans: A Spirituality for Ministry and Mission

By Trevor Hudson, Stephen D. Bryant

*For we know that the whole creation groans and labors....*  
(Romans 8:22)

A short but powerful discourse, *Listening to the Groans* rejects a spirituality that's inward, personal and individual for one that's faithfully attentive, active and compassionate in society. Sadly, many Christians talk more than listen. The danger is that those who have shut out their neighbor may also shut out God — losing in the process a chance to participate in God's dream of mending a broken world.

"Listening to the groans...is the ticket to evangelism, healing, pastoral care, community building, peacemaking and so much more," the authors write. "As we listen we find ourselves able to love God with all our hearts, souls, minds and strength and to love our neighbors as ourselves."

Hudson and Bryant challenge Christ-followers to be vulnerable enough to listen to the groans of creation, to be still enough to hear the groans within ourselves, and to find hope and strength for the journey by relying on the Holy Spirit. They breathe new life into familiar scripture to propel laity, clergy, scholars and mystics to be transformed to a deeper faithfulness. *Listening to the Groans* also includes a retreat model for group study and action.

### **Paperback**

**\$6.00.**

64 Pages. Trim Size: 4¼" x 6½"

ISBN# 978-0-8358-9933-8. Order# 9933

---

## Companions in Christ: The Way of Transforming Discipleship (Leader's Guide)

By Stephen D. Bryant

Everything you need to guide a small group in a six-week exploration of authentic, whole Christian spirituality is contained in this Leader's Guide.

Find the very practical help you need:

- Ideas for a session to introduce the resource to participants
- A list of *Weekly Needs at a Glance*
- Detailed instructions for leading five weekly meetings
- Meaningful *Deeper Explorations* of the spiritual life
- Plans for a *Closing Pilgrimage and Retreat*

Help your group members become the people God wants them to be with this exciting sixth title in the [Companions in Christ](#) series. Lead them to reflect on what faith means in terms of who we are, how we must change, how to deal with pain, and how to move toward reconciliation and belonging. Be challenged to live the whole gospel by connecting spirituality and discipleship.

A group experience of this resource consists of a preparatory meeting, weekly sessions, and a closing retreat. *The Way of Transforming Discipleship* is appropriate for any group that has completed the [Companions in Christ 28-week foundational resource](#), or it may also be used as an introduction to this powerful initiative.

### **Paperback**

**\$10.00.**

94 Pages. Trim Size: 7¼" x 9¼"

ISBN# 978-0-8358-9841-5. Order# 9841

---

Order from Upper Room/Discipleship Resources  
[www.UpperRoom.org/bookstore](http://www.UpperRoom.org/bookstore)  
toll-free: 1-800-972-0433

## Companions in Christ: The Way of Transforming Discipleship (Participant's Book)

By Trevor Hudson, Stephen D. Bryant

Are you becoming the person God wants you to be? Discover a way to authentic Christian spirituality in this sixth title in the [Companions in Christ](#) series.

By shining the light of God's Word into the darkness of our lives, Hudson will lead you to a pathway of discovery and growth. Join this journey to experience more deeply what it means to live as a follower of Christ. Understand the meaning of *spiritual formation* and how it leads to a spirituality that's authentic and grace-filled. Reflect on what your faith means in terms of who you are, how you must change, how you deal with pain, and how you relate to others. Be challenged to live the whole gospel by authentically connecting spirituality with discipleship.

**Paperback**

**\$8.00.**

94 Pages. Trim Size: 7¼" x 9¼"

ISBN# 978-0-8358-9842-3. Order# 9842

---

## Transforming Evangelism: The Wesleyan Way of Sharing Faith

By Henry H. Knight III, F. Douglas Powe Jr.

Because of the more aggressive and confrontational tactics we hear about, evangelism has developed a bad connotation. Doors are shut hurriedly, phone calls end abruptly and emails left unanswered. After all, isn't this a task better handled by the pastor?

Perhaps it's time to re-examine John Wesley's model of evangelism as a full, natural circle — where it's a communal beginning point rather than a solitary end.

The central motive of authentic evangelism is: *Having received a message that's made all the difference in our lives, we desire to share that message with others in the hope it will transform their lives as well.* Wesley models an evangelism that reaches out and welcomes, invites and nurtures, and speaks to both head and heart.

"Evangelism is about relationship," the authors write. "How we are in relationship to God, who is able to transform us into new beings. How we are in relationship to our neighbor, whom we must love like ourselves."

Learn on your own or as a congregational group from this practical study on living an evangelistic life that demonstrates the transforming power of loving God and neighbor.

**Paperback**

**\$12.00.**

112 Pages. Trim Size: 5 1/2" x 8 1/4"

ISBN# 978-0-88177-485-6. Order# DR485

---

Order from Upper Room/Discipleship Resources  
[www.UpperRoom.org/bookstore](http://www.UpperRoom.org/bookstore)  
toll-free: 1-800-972-0433

## Pathways to Christ (series)

Pathways to Christ is a set of four tracts/leaflets in both English and Spanish. Tracts include:

- *Begin with Jesus* by Mitchell Williams -- invites people to know God's love and acceptance in Jesus Christ. The tract introduces readers to love, spirituality, and how to follow Jesus Christ. Order DR446.
- *Understanding My Journey with Christ* by Wesley S.K. Daniel – expands the ideas about what it means to be a person of faith from a Wesleyan tradition. Order DR447.
- *Learning New Habits* by Safiyah Fosua – focuses on the practices or disciplines that help us grow as followers of Christ. Order DR 448.
- *Gifted in Christ* by Craig Miller – examines the importance of finding our own gifts and living both in vocation 'in the world,' and in ministry choices in and through the church. Order DR 449

**Each tract sells in packets of 25.** Use the blank space on the back of each tract to highlight your church or ministry. **A free leader's guide in PDF format is available at [www.UpperRoom.org/bookstore](http://www.UpperRoom.org/bookstore).**

### Package

**\$10.00 per package of same tract.**

16 Pages . Trim Size: 3½" x 6"

Order by individual order number above.

---

## The Upper Room®

### daily devotional guide

*Devotions simply presented... & simply meaningful.*

*"I thought I was drowning in the seas of grief, and I read The Upper Room devotional guide," writes one reader. "The words brought me hope. How did you know I needed that scripture and that message today?"*

*The Upper Room* is the most widely read daily devotional guide in the world. Each day's brief devotion includes a Bible verse and suggested reading, a reader-written meditation, prayer and prayer focus, and thought for the day. With its short readings and pocket-size, *The Upper Room* is the perfect spiritual companion.

Available also in [large print](#), Spanish, and many other language editions (for complete list, visit [www.upperroom.org](http://www.upperroom.org)); Subscriptions begin at \$11 per year US/\$14.25 Canadian. Toll-free: 1-800-972-0433.

---

## Prayers for Encouragement: Hope for People Living with HIV & AIDS, Malaria, Tuberculosis, and Other Serious Diseases

In Jesus' time, lepers were the most stigmatized of patients. Yet he demonstrated great compassion toward them. Today, HIV and AIDS patients suffer many of the same discriminations and rejections that first century lepers did. The church has a special role in providing spiritual comfort, strength, and prayers for encouragement to people in need," says Don Messer, author and executive director of the Center for the Church and Global AIDS. "Where there is human suffering and crisis, Upper Room Ministries wants to provide openings to God's healing and reconciling grace," said Stephen D. Bryant, editor and publisher of *The Upper Room devotional guide*.

*Prayers for Encouragement* is written by persons living with or caring for those with HIV and AIDS and other serious illnesses. The small undated booklet contains 22 meditations written in the style and format of *The Upper Room* daily devotional guide and includes prayers and a scripture guide to help people find strength in times of pain and suffering. This is an ideal resource for VIM teams to share with persons living in areas of the world where the HIV and AIDS pandemic exists (Sub-Saharan Africa, Asia, South America).

*Prayers for Encouragement* is available in English (#9912), Spanish (#9936), Korean (#9947). Outside the US, the booklet is available in Afrikaans, French, Kiswahili, Portuguese, Setswana, Sotho, and Xhosa and can easily be sent from our Africa office to any international address. As funds become available, other language editions will be developed.

**\$10.00 in pkgs of 20 copies of same language.**

---

Order from Upper Room/Discipleship Resources  
[www.UpperRoom.org/bookstore](http://www.UpperRoom.org/bookstore)  
toll-free: 1-800-972-0433