

# WordbyWord

## The Apostles Library: Check It Out!

By Pastor Rich Omland



I've finally made some great strides in shrinking the volumes in my personal library. Thanks to the gentle (and sometimes not so gentle!) prodding of my good spouse, I've been making trips to the second hand book

sellers, the public library, and to the offices of friends and colleagues to bless them with some of my treasured books. I know, I know! I should have done this a long time ago. And now that I'm in the process, I'm discovering that it isn't as painful as I imagined and actually quite satisfying.

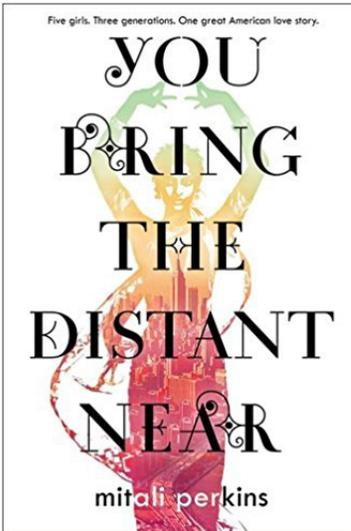
I think that one of the major stumbling blocks in getting at the task of shrinking my library was my worry that it would be difficult and inconvenient to get access to up-to-date volumes for personal study and reaching enrichment. Where would I have easy access to biblical dictionaries and commentaries, church history and theology, as well as devotional writings that were gems of the past and present to nourish my soul? Wouldn't you know, I found all these resources right under my nose at Incarnation's Apostles Library!

When you had a pretty extensive library of your own and an outstanding theological library

at the place where you worked (Luther Seminary), there was not much of a need for me to browse around the Apostle Library. Now that I need access to a good library for my work, I found that at our library was a great place to browse in, borrow from, and be blessed by just taking the time to be in such a well-kept and managed resource. I've found some great tried and true works, as well as new and up-to-date biographies, devotional writings and biblical resources. And what a joy it was to find such a great collection of books for children and families as well. You will be blessed in your browsing and borrowing!

A gem such as the Apostles Library doesn't just happen on its own. Please join with me in giving thanks to the folks who have served and continue to serve on the Library Committee. They have done an outstanding job in establishing a fine collection of material that can serve the needs of the entire congregation, and they keep improving and adding to that collection with timely and relevant additions. If you haven't been in the library in a while, or maybe you've never been through the door, stop by and check it out! I hope to see you there.

*(The Apostles Library is unlocked and available for use anytime the building is open. Please feel welcome to turn on the light in the library if it isn't already on.)*

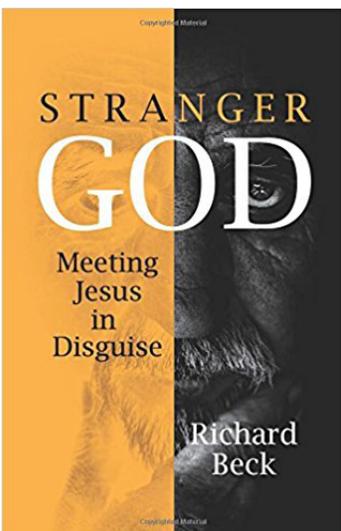


*You Bring the Distant Near* is a young adult novel by Mitali Perkins. It tells the story of five girls/women in three generations as they struggle with issues of sisterhood, first loves, friendship, and the inheritance of Indian/Bengali culture—for better or worse. The women in this book will seem familiar even if your heritage is not East Asian - many of us have immigrant heritage and know that our mothers, grandmothers, and great-

grandmothers also struggled with adapting to a new home and new life while trying to keep traditions from their homelands.

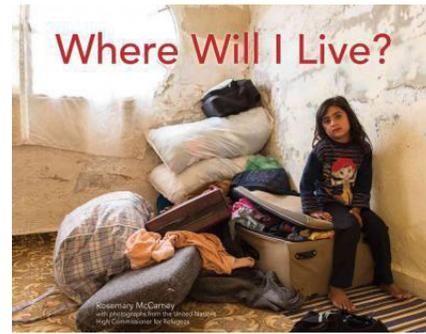
Finding your own identity is difficult even for young/adult women who are born and grow up in the United States. Here's a look at the difficulties of discovering your place in society when coming as an immigrant. Timely and appropriate as we learn to relate in better ways to the immigrants living in our neighborhoods today.

Richard Beck says "God met him in prison". He was struggling with his own faith but felt compelled to reach out to men in prison as Matthew 25 teaches. Hoping to meet Jesus/God through leading bible study at a maximum security site. Sure enough - God was there!



*In Stranger God: Meeting Jesus in Disguise*, Beck uses biblical reflection, theological reasoning, and psychological insight to show how God always meets us in the marginalized, the oppressed, and the refugee. He uses many stories from his life as examples of how God has come to him in the poor, the crippled and the

less desirable. While he acknowledges that psychology shows that we are predisposed to like those who are similar to us and avoid those who are unlike us, he reaffirms that the call of the gospel is to always act with compassion instead and to reach out in love. He continues to use the Little Way of St. Thérèse of Lisieux for guidance in doing even the smallest acts with kindness, and he lays out a path that any of us can and should follow.



Children, too, are aware of the plight of refugees today. They often have questions that are difficult to answer and seem to put us on the spot when trying to answer their queries. *Where Will I Live?* by

Rosemary McCarney is an excellent book to share with children on this subject.

The photographs in this book are mesmerizing. They show children and families in various situations - living in refugee camps, escaping on boats, wandering and dealing with having no home. The simple narrative, explains the plight of these scared and weary refugees who feel lost and hopeless and just want to obtain a normal life once again. They are people whose lives are difficult, who are constantly on the move and never know what they will face the next day. The parents are worried about the family's safety from wars, corrupt officials etc. However, through all this, the children play, make friends and have hope that they will find a home. They wonder what it will be like and what their new lives will bring.

The book ends on a high note, which unfortunately is not the way all their lives and struggles will end, but it is for children so there is some sugar coating. This book will teach children about the plight of others, how they live and what they deal with on a day-to-day basis. It will also help to teach them how to be grateful for their own country, and most of all compassion to enable them to reach out and help those less fortunate.

Timing with the current situations around the world could not be better. One of the things I really like about this book is that all profits will go to refugee organizations to help those who are in these situations.



# Library Hours

The Library is open whenever the Incarnation building is open.

## Check-out procedures:

- 1) Fill out the card in book/media pocket with your full name, phone number and the date you take out the materials.
- 2) Leave card(s) in the basket. PLEASE DO NOT FILE CARDS!
- 3) Return books after three weeks and Videos/DVDs/CDs after one week. Place returned items in the large basket on the floor.