

BOOK REVIEW

“JESUS CALLING”

By Sarah Young
Integrity Publishers,
Nashville, Tenn.

A few weeks ago I was asked a thought provoking question. What is your favorite book? It took me a few minutes to think about all the good books I have read, and it seemed they came to mind in categories like, devotional books, fiction, inspirational books, books on prayer, on history and biographies. But if I had to pick one all time favorite, it would be the devotional book I have been reading for three years. A good friend recommended the title, and at the time I was looking for a book to read in the mornings that would combine scripture and meditation. Little did I realize it would also become a faithful friend that would speak deeply and yet practically as I read it each day.

The title of the book is “Jesus Calling.” It was written by Sarah Young, a counselor, philosopher and missionary. Each day’s date is accompanied by three or four scriptures and an entry from her journal. The entry is written as a personal message from God to the reader, and it focuses on the



By Sharon Kidd

Bible verses listed there. At the beginning of the book, Young relates her search for a personal relationship with God and her spiritual journey after she discovered He cares about every detail of her life. She began a quest to experience His presence throughout each day. The journal was her way of listening daily for God’s guidance.

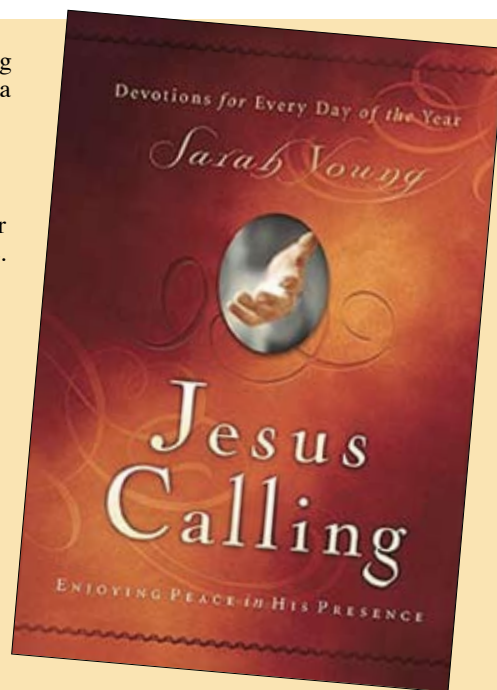
I found her insights very scripturally solid and appropriate for the situations I was experiencing. For instance, whenever I prepare for a trip out of town, I always find myself anxiously thinking of all the negative things that could happen. So, I asked God to help me work on this problem. A few days before leaving for retreat in North Carolina, Isaiah 55:12 was included on that day’s devotional page. The verse seemed to describe the scenery we would pass and suggest a new attitude I needed to trade for my old pessimism. “You will go out in joy and be led forth in peace. The mountains and hills will burst into song before you, and all the trees of the field will clap their hands.” Isaiah 55:12. It grabbed me with such promise that I slept like a baby the night before we left and has helped me prepare for traveling since then.

Other phrases that have helped me are scattered through the journal entries.

“Wear God’s Love like a cloak.” June 9.
“God’s Love soaks in and dispels fear.” July 8.

“The gift of God’s presence comes through an attitude of thanksgiving.” July 24.

“Live in the boundaries of the day.” April 11.



Each morning when I open the book, I anticipate a thought from God to me for that day. I enjoy writing my favorite phrases along with the page numbers in the back cover. That way I can refer back to them at any time.

There are many wonderful devotionals available, but “Jesus Calling” has proven to be a good fit for my spiritual needs. If you are looking for a daily reminder of God’s presence, give this little book a try. You’ll be pleased with the wisdom on each page. I hope you’ll give it a try.

MOVIE REVIEW

“ALL ROADS LEAD HOME”

12-year-old Belle (Vivien Cardone) loses her mother in an automobile accident. Her father Cody (Jason London) struggles to raise his daughter alone, but Belle’s continued rebellious behavior forces Cody to send her to stay with her maternal grandfather (Peter Coyote). This relationship is also difficult as her grandfather is still bitter over his daughter’s untimely death. Belle learns that on a farm, it is the survival of the fittest, but she can not handle the thought of

an animal (or any life for that matter) not being worth saving unless it’s useful. Is she useful? Belle soon becomes the savior of all living things. An old thoroughbred race horse and Atticus the dog change Belle’s life, and in turn, Belle changes the lives of those who love her.

This is a wonderful movie to watch alone or with loved ones, but you might need to keep a few tissues handy for a sad part here and there.

RATED: PG

