

Authors in your church's backyard

Compiled by Scott Harrup

Despite current economic woes, people continue to spend hard-earned dollars on books — plenty of books. Even factoring in a 2.8 percent drop from 2007, the Association of American Publishers reported more than \$24 billion in book sales for 2008. Religious book sales were down 7.6 percent, but that corner of the market still com-

manded \$724 million.

Superstar authors in the secular industry attract headlines in *USA Today* and *The New York Times* every year, but millions of Christian readers keep an eye out for the latest releases from the likes of Karen Kingsbury, Chuck Swindoll or Jerry Jenkins. And publishers continue to expand their offerings among writers from the rank and file within the

Christian community.

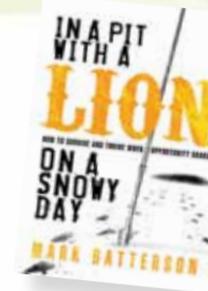
Behind the pulpit or in the pew, Assemblies of God communicators are branching into book writing and getting their message out to a growing audience of readers. This summer, whether your reading interests are Bible fact or inspirational fiction, consider the following titles when you're putting together your reading list.

Mark Batterson

is lead pastor for National Community Church in Washington, D.C. Currently one church with three locations, the vision of NCC is to meet in movie theaters and Metro stops throughout the D.C. area.

Batterson's *In a Pit With a Lion on a Snowy Day* is inspired by the obscure yet courageous act of King David's trusted bodyguard Benaiah who chased a lion down into a pit. Then, despite the snow and slippery ground, he caught the lion and killed it. Batterson invites readers to "unleash the lion chaser within."

"Our best days often start out as our worst days," Batterson says of his book. "And our greatest opportunities are often disguised as our biggest problems. You can land in a pit with a lion on a snowy day, and it will seem like the end of the road. But God is in the recycling business. He recycles past experiences and uses them to prepare us for future opportunities."



Making of a Mentor.

Her latest release, *Finding an Unseen God: Reflections of a Former Atheist*, led her to establish an intercessory prayer group.

"Those of you who know me well know that I don't talk about spiritual warfare often or lightly," Chole shares on her blog at truthportraits.com. "But I felt a distinct call from God's heart today to gather a team to partner for His purposes for this message in prayer." Chole invites those interested in joining this prayer team to e-mail her at contact@truthportraits.com.

Kerry Clarensau's

recent release, *Secrets: Transforming Your Life and Marriage*, leads women on a journey that reveals eight biblical secrets every wife needs to know. The interactive, just-for-women

Bible study is packed with wisdom, stories, discussion questions, activities and journaling. The entire *Secrets* learning experience combines a leader's kit with the book and utilizes DVD and CD-ROM resources.

Clarensau has served the Kansas District of the Assemblies of God in different ministry roles and at the Assemblies of God headquarters as national Missionettes coordinator. Under her

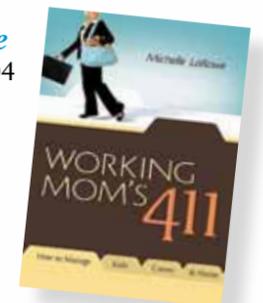


leadership the Missionettes program was retooled in 1998. She has also served as women's pastor at Maranatha Worship Center in Wichita, Kan., where her husband, Mike, serves as senior pastor. She is a Bible teacher, writer, wife, mother and much more. Her role as pastor's wife will be instrumental in developing effective leadership resources for the local church.

Michelle LaRowe Conover

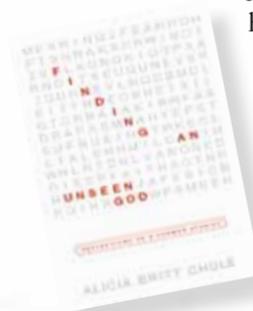
is the 2004 International Nanny Association Nanny of the Year. A career nanny specializing in caring for twins, Conover has more than a decade of professional child-care experience. She is an active member of the nanny community and has served on the board of directors and as vice president of the International Nanny Association.

Conover is called on by the media as a parenting expert and has appeared on local, national and international television and radio and has been featured in print. She is the author of the *Nanny to the Rescue!* parenting series and of *Working Mom's 411*. Michelle and her husband, Jeff, reside on Cape Cod with their daughter, Abigail, and attend Faith Assembly of God in Hyannis, Mass.



Alicia Britt Chole

enjoys country living with her husband, Barry, and their three children, all the while reaching out to others as an in-demand speaker and writer. Her books include *Anonymous: Jesus' Hidden Years and Yours* and *The*



Tom Greene, national director of Men's Ministries for the Assemblies of God, served for nine years

SUMMER SCHOOL

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in National Youth Ministries, first as director of Speed the Light and later as director of youth ministries. This followed a 12-year term as the district youth director in Oklahoma.

Greene has generously shared from his experiences as a pastor, youth leader, Men's Ministries director, husband and father in his 2008 release *The Game Isn't Over*.

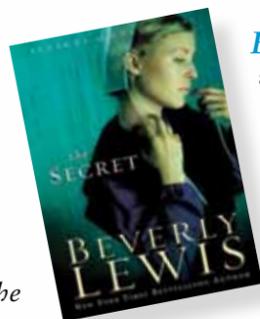
"This is not a book about baseball," Greene insists. "This is a book that leans on real stories and sports analogies to illustrate a proven game plan. This is a book committed to effective principles for every inning of life."

Dave Kyllonen, Duane Nicholson and Neil Enloe are

the original Couriers, described by Bill Gaither as "the class act of gospel music." In 2008 the internationally known singers celebrated five decades of ministry with *Our Final Quarter*, their unique book that offers three distinct and candid viewpoints of the genesis and growth of a music ministry matched by few others. Along with the Blackwood Brothers, the Couriers are one of the best-known gospel groups to originate within the Assemblies of God.

"In all those years," writes former *Revivaltime* speaker Dan Betzer, "they have never given God less than their best. They have offered Him the 'fine linen' of their ultimate service, not the unraveled dishrags of medioc-

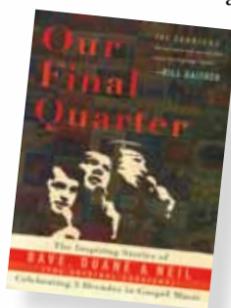
rity. Every concert has been a 'command performance for the King.'"



Beverly Lewis is a member of the National League of American Pen Women, as well as a Distinguished Alumna of Evangel University. Lewis has written more than 80

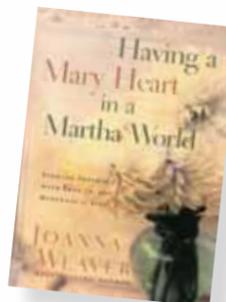
books for children, youth and adults, many of them award-winning. She and her husband, David, make their home in Colorado, where they enjoy hiking, biking and playing with their three grandchildren. They are also avid musicians and fiction "book worms."

Lewis is writing her new series, *Seasons of Grace*, set in Bird-in-Hand, Pa. *Book One: The Secret* was released in April.



Joanna Weaver and her husband, John, recently accepted the pastorate of Hamilton Assembly of God in Hamilton, Mont. Previously they pastored the AG congregation in Whitefish.

Recently updated with a new 12-week Bible study, Weaver's popular *Having a Mary Heart in a Martha World* shows readers how to blend intimacy with Jesus and service to Him. **tpe**



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E-mail your comments to tpe@ag.org.

Today's Pentecostal Evangel TPE Kids page GULP! Weird, hungry plants

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JUST FOR laughs

What do Venus flytraps
in Paris eat?
French flies.

What kind of plant is
good at baseball?
A pitcher plant.



Greens that bite back

Plants are usually on the bottom of the food chain. Cows eat grass. Insects eat nectar. Panda bears eat bamboo. But did you know there are a few plants that actually eat living creatures?

These are called carnivorous plants. Carnivorous means "meat eating." Plants usually absorb nutrients from the ground. But meat-eating plants grow in soil where there aren't enough nutrients. So God provides for them in another way — by allowing them to eat insects.

There are many kinds of meat-eating plants. Venus flytraps have hair-like growths that are triggered as an insect walks across them. When the trap is sprung, a hinged opening in the plant snaps shut, keeping the insect from escaping. The prey is then slowly digested.

Pitcher plants hold pools of sweet-smelling nectar that attract insects. But when they crawl to the slippery edge of the pitcher, they slide down into the liquid and are unable to escape.

Sundew plants are covered with a sticky substance that traps insects like flypaper.

Meat-eating plants use tricks to trap their prey. They often have nice smells, bright colors and pretty openings. But for the curious critter

that gets too close, these plants are bad news.

Temptation is that way. Satan tries to make sin look like the fun thing, the easy thing or the cool thing to do. But disobeying God always leads to big trouble.

"Sinners are trapped and caught by their own evil deeds" (Proverbs 5:22, CEV).

Thankfully, God provides a way of escape. The Bible says that when we face temptation, we can ask Him for help.

"When you are tempted, he will also provide a way out so that you can stand up under it" (1 Corinthians 10:13, NIV).



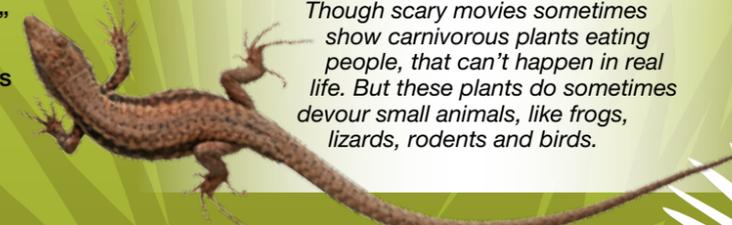
With an adult's help, place a hard-boiled egg in a container of vinegar. Leave it for two or three days.

When you remove it, the egg will be soft and rubbery. It may even bounce. (Try it outside.)

What's going on? The acid in the vinegar breaks down the calcium carbonate that makes the shell hard. In a similar way, digestive acids break down food for carnivorous plants.

Did you know?

Though scary movies sometimes show carnivorous plants eating people, that can't happen in real life. But these plants do sometimes devour small animals, like frogs, lizards, rodents and birds.



Enter to win!

(Recommended for ages 4 and up with adult supervision.) Try growing your own meat-eating plants with this Carnivorous Creations home terrarium. Enter online by July 8 at tpe.ag.org or mail an entry postmarked on or before that date to Carnivorous Plant Kit Giveaway, *Today's Pentecostal Evangel*, 1445 N. Boonville Avenue, Springfield, Mo. 65802. Include a daytime phone number. You must have a parent's permission to enter.



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