

# A list of Christian publishers, and Awards

## Associations and Trade Publications

### **Christian Bookselling Association**

<http://www.cbaonline.org>, they also have a blog <http://cbablog.typepad.com/cba/> which includes current bestsellers.

### **Evangelical Christian Publishing Association**

[www.ecpa.org](http://www.ecpa.org)

Every year this association publishes a list of their chosen award winners by Christian publishers. You can also get a list of which publishing houses belong to the association.

### **Christian Retailing**

<http://www.christianretailing.com/>

Trade magazine for those in the Christian retail industry, their website and e-newsletter are a great source of news.

**Publishers** (note: I have made this a broad list, including some mainstream religious publishers outside of the evangelical Christian market).

### **Barbour Publishing, Inc.**

[www.barbourbooks.com](http://www.barbourbooks.com)

Among their offerings is the romance imprint "Heartsong"

<http://www.heartsongpresents.com/>

### **Bethany House Publishers**

[www.bethanyhouse.com](http://www.bethanyhouse.com)

Bethany House (a division of Baker) is a large publisher of Christian fiction. The site includes listings of their series.

### **B & H Publishing Group (formerly Broadman and Holman)**

<http://www.bhpublishinggroup.com/>

### **Cook Communications (RiverOak is their fiction imprint)**

<http://www.davidccook.com/Books/Fiction/>

### **Covenant Communications**

[www.covenant-lds.com/](http://www.covenant-lds.com/)

A Mormon publishing house, click on "online store" to browse their selections.

### **Deseret**

<http://deseretbook.com/store/>

A Mormon publishing company that has a lot of selections.

### **Harlequin:Steeple Hill**

[www.steeplehill.com](http://www.steeplehill.com)

Includes author profiles and upcoming releases for the Steeple Hill Love Inspired, Steeple Hill Café (Chick-Lit), Steeple Hill Women's Fiction and the new Steeple Hill Love Inspired Suspense line.

### **Harvest House**

[www.harvesthousepublishers.com/](http://www.harvesthousepublishers.com/)

**Hachette Book Group: Faithwords** is the name of their Christian imprint

<http://www.hachettebookgroup.com/>

### **Herald Press**

<http://www.mph.org/hp/>

A Mennonite publishing company, features the popular "Ellie's People" series.

### **Ignatius Press**

<http://www.ignatius.com/>

Catholic books, including some fiction

### **Kregel Publications**

<http://www.kregel.com/>

### **Moody Publishers**

[www.moodypublishers.com/](http://www.moodypublishers.com/)

### **Oasis Audio**

<http://www.oasisaudio.com/>

Audiobook publisher which specializes in Christian books.

### **Paraclete Press**

<http://www.paracletepress.com/>

A non-denominational Christian press that features books from Catholic, Orthodox, and Protestant points of view.

### **Shadow Mountain**

<http://www.shadowmountain.com/>

Another Mormon publisher that has had great success with The Wednesday Letters.

**Thomas Nelson**

[www.thomasnelson.com](http://www.thomasnelson.com)

**Tyndale House Publishers**

<http://www.tyndalefiction.com/>

**Urban Christian**

<http://www.urbanchristianonline.net/13.html>

An imprint of Urban books, they reflect the modern African American culture. Expect them to be frank about sexuality and the grittier side of street life.

**Walk Worthy Press**

<http://www.walkworthypress.net/>

Specializes in African American Christian fiction and Non-fiction

**Waterbrook Multnomah Publishing** (The Christian division of Random House)

[www.randomhouse.com/waterbrook/](http://www.randomhouse.com/waterbrook/)

**Zondervan**

<http://www.zondervan.com>

**Awards****Christy Awards**

[www.christyawards.com](http://www.christyawards.com)

Named in honor of Catherine Marshall's novel "Christy", these awards focus on the best in Evangelical Christian fiction and include several categories like romance, historical, futuristic, western, new novel, etc.

**Evangelical Christian Publishing Association's Christian Book Awards**

<http://www.ecpa.org/awards.php>

This publishing association has given out awards since 1978, looking at the winners in the "Fiction" category gives you a glimpse of the history of the genre.

**Rita Awards**

<http://www.rwanational.org/>

The Rita (Romance Writers of America) awards include an award for best inspirational romance

**Christianity Today Book Awards**

<http://www.christianitytoday.com/ct/special/bka/wards.html>

Given every year for both fiction and nonfiction

## HIGHLY RECOMMENDED CHRISTIAN FICTION AUTHORS:

**Lynn Austin** – writes historical and some contemporary women’s fiction.

**Bodie and Brock Thoene** –have written over 45 historical fiction novels since the mid 1980’s—for which they have won numerous ECPA awards

**Karen Hancock** –One of the few fantasy and science fiction authors in Christian fiction, her Legends of the Guardian King series is fantastic

**Dee Henderson** –writes suspense with a touch of romance and featuring modern day occupational heroes (FBI or CIA agents, police officers, etc.)

**Francine Rivers** –Is known for making the jump from the romance genre to C.F., she writes romance and historical novels and her Redeeming Love is a “classic” of the genre

**Vinita Hampton Wright** –writes introspective fiction that examines the plight of modern day families and communities

**Jan Karon** –Her Mitford series is the very definition of a “gentle read”. Although published by a mainstream publisher, her books reflect Christian values and are still enormously popular among Christian fiction fans.

**Tamera Alexander** –Her historical romance series the “Fountain Creek Chronicles” has been a huge success with readers and critics

**Melody Carlson** –write edgy fiction that deals with modern day issues, also writes series for teens and children

**Ted Dekker** –Has a reputation for spinning tales filled with the supernatural and fantasy elements, some are dark and border on horror

**Athol Dickson** –writes introspective novels with a touch of “magical realism”, miracles show up in unexpected places and people

**Tracy Groot** –writes powerful historical fiction, so far all set in Biblical times and related to Biblical stories

**Angela Ewell Hunt** –writes a variety of fiction, from the “chick lit” type “Doesn’t She Look Natural” to the creepy allegory “Uncharted”, and books for teens and children

**Beverly Lewis** –Her gentle modern day novels set among the Amish are enormously popular

**Frank Peretti** –made history with “This Present Darkness”, still remains popular for creepy supernatural suspense like “The Oath”, also writes books for teens and children

**Lisa Samson** –writes modern day fiction that both challenges the status quo and tells a compelling story

**Jamie Langston Turner** –Writes modern fiction in a way that really gets you into the characters heads.

## Books for the Soul: Christian Fiction Basics

**Definition of “Christian Fiction”:** This term, as use it, describes an easily recognizable and highly marketed subset of books that is labeled as “Christian Fiction” or “Evangelical Christian Fiction” by its publishers, authors, booksellers, and readers. Books from evangelical Christian publishing houses like Bethany House, Tyndale, etc. dominate the genre and are so heavily marketed that for many readers their products are synonymous with the term “Christian Book”. A writer working with these publishing houses operates under certain constraints, they must: accept the infallible authority of the Bible; address life’s dilemmas through faith in Jesus; and believe that Jesus is divine, died, and rose again for the sins of humankind and that he will return again as a judge and a warrior. There may also be certain “taboos” or offensive content that they are not allowed to write about.

Appeal Factors:

- Parochialism—created for the safely defined boundaries of a certain community
  - Typical remarks from readers: Christian books leave me feeling hopeful, I wanted something wholesome and that I could learn from
- Promote strong values
- Teach a lesson
- Happy Ending, Good prevails over evil
- Adhere to a code of decency—though this is changing & some are getting edgier (especially in terms of violence & blood & gore), but there are still boundaries that won’t be crossed, especially in regards to sexuality and language.

**Tips for talking to patrons/writing reviews:** When reviewing or talking to patrons about Christian fiction, consider how to discuss the Christian/spiritual aspect with them. They may or may not care about this element, or they may have preferences as to how “preachy” they would like their fiction to be. In some Christian fiction books the faith of the characters is a subtle undertone, in others it comes across forcefully and cannot be ignored. A term that I like to use with patrons is “faith element”, as in “this book has a strong faith element, are you comfortable with that?” Of course it is always good to mention that the book is from a Christian publisher so it is going to reflect a Christian point of view.

## Tips for finding good Christian fiction:

### Websites

[www.christianbook.com](http://www.christianbook.com) –The Christian Amazon

[www.faithfulreader.com](http://www.faithfulreader.com) –Great features, updated monthly

### Review Sources

**Library Journal** frequently has a special section of Christian Fiction reviews <http://www.libraryjournal.com/>

**Publishers Weekly** reviews Christian fiction but it is often mixed in with the general fiction, I usually scan the publishers to see what Christian fiction has been reviewed. Occasionally they will do a theme issue on religious publishing and that issue is usually chock full of helpful statistics, news and reviews.

<http://www.publishersweekly.com/>

**Booklist** also reviews Christian fiction, but again you have to look through the general fiction and scan for Christian publishers. Occasionally they will do a theme list of their top Christian fiction picks.

<http://www.booklistonline.com/>

[www.overbooked.org](http://www.overbooked.org) is a great website to get an overview of what Christian fiction books have been getting good reviews. Check out the "Christian Stars" list of Christian fiction with starred reviews, also check out the current "starred fiction" lists as they don't always update the Christian Stars list right away.

<http://www.christianfictionreview.com/> Online only source of only Christian fiction reviews.

### Connecting with Christian Fiction authors

**Christian Authors Network** <http://www.christianauthorsnetwork.com/>

Their website has lots of useful information including previews of books and contact info for authors.

**American Christian Fiction Authors** <http://www.acfw.com/>

I have made a lot of useful contacts with authors through being a part of the ACFW online book group, which discusses one Christian fiction novel each month; lots of authors are a part of this group.

Local (Kansas) Christian fiction authors I have worked with are **Deb Raney** from Moundridge Kansas, <http://www.deborahraney.com/>, [debraney@mac.com](mailto:debraney@mac.com), (620) 354-7494 and **Judith Miller** from Topeka, [www.judithmccoymiller.com](http://www.judithmccoymiller.com), [jamauthor@cox.net](mailto:jamauthor@cox.net)

## Deb's Favorites, Christian Fiction Titles I highly recommend



### ***In His Image* by James BeauSeigneur**

Decker is a small town journalist, but he has the propensity to be in the right place at the right time and that pays out when he is able to finagle his way into the team researching the Shroud of Turin. Some strange events occur on his trip while they are studying the shroud--but not as strange as what happens years later when one of the scientists contacts him with news that he has discovered that one of the samples from the shroud contains living cells--and that he plans to make a clone from them. We move along into a world where political and natural (or supernatural) catastrophes occur one right after the other--including a worldwide disaster in which millions of people just suddenly die--Including Decker's wife and daughters. Decker ends up adopting the clone from the shroud--Christopher--and they both become involved in working for the United Nations--which has its hands full after Arabs destroy the Wailing Wall, Israeli's retaliate, Russia invades, and nuclear war threatens. Could this be the end of the world? *Left Behind* fans should love this one.

### ***Bad Ground* by W. Dale Cramer**

When Jeremy's mother dies, leaving him an orphan; he is given a letter--her last words to him. She tells him that when the time is right he should go find his uncle Aiden. "You have something I couldn't give him, and he has something I couldn't give you". So a few months later we follow Jeremy as he hitchhikes to Atlanta and arrives at the mining company where his uncle works with nothing but the clothes on his back. He actually gets a job working at the mining operation with his uncle Aiden, or "Snake", much to Aiden's displeasure. As 17 year old Jeremy works at the mine he feels he is becoming more and more a man, but Aiden still sees him as a kid with a lot to learn. But more than that, he sees him as a reminder of his brother Tom (Jeremy's father) and past secrets. **Levi's Will** by him is also excellent.



### ***Black* (and sequels) by Ted Dekker**

One man--two worlds. Thomas Hunter switches from one world to the next every time he falls asleep and dreams. In one world he is in our reality--in the year 2010. In the other he encounters malevolent black bats and is rescued by white bats--who can talk! They tell him he is dreaming of the 'histories', just before a mutated virus called the Raison strain wipes out most of the earth's population. Now Thomas has to decide which reality is real--or if both are--and fight two evils, the black bats, which seem to be a physical representation of evil and the evil doctor who wants to unleash the Raison Strain and control the world. This highly suspenseful and incredible story is followed in the series by *Red* and *White*.



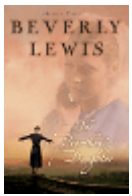
### ***River Rising* by Athol Dickson**

An isolated community on the southern tip of Louisiana receives an unusual visitor--the Rev. Hal Poser. Unusual happenings follow the Reverend, and he soon acquires the reputation of a miracle worker. After aiding a woman with a difficult childbirth, he is admired, but then suspicion falls on him after the woman's child disappears. Poser pokes around and discovers that over the years several infants in the area vanished unexplainably, and he embarks on a search to find out why. As he explores the bayou, he stumbles across a hidden slave plantation--a holdover from civil war days (it's 1927 in the story). He is made a prisoner and is forced to work with the slaves. He manages to escape but then is arrested by the sheriff in Pilotville (this in the middle of a flood) and no one believes him until some of the other slaves are found. It is also discovered that one of the slaves is Poser's mother



### ***Grace at Low Tide* by Beth Webb Hart**

DeVeaux at fifteen should be enjoying all the comforts and concerns of a young woman descended from blue-blood in the south. But her father has squandered their money in shaky business deals and now they have been forced to move from their Charleston home to the caretaker's cottage on the family plantation. DeVeaux is only fifty miles away from her former life, but can hardly stand to go back and endure the looks from her former classmates when they wheel into town in their beat up, muddy truck. But she does have good friends in town though, especially at her church. And she needs all the support she can get, since her father is not taking his humiliation well at all. He is prone to bursts of temper that result in scenes where things get thrown into the nearby river--even Christmas trees. DeVeaux desperately needs God's help to love her family, but how long will it take for the Lord to work things out for them?



### ***The Preacher's Daughter* by Beverly Lewis**

Annie Zook has quite a dilemma. As the daughter of an old order Amish preacher, she is forbidden to pursue her talent in art. But she is driven to continue secretly, hiding her art studio and masterpieces at an art studio. The only one who knows this is Annie's worldly pen pal Louisa, who has problems of her own after breaking off her engagement with her materialistic boyfriend. Louisa feels that she needs a change of pace and asks to come visit Annie and her family. Louisa's designer jeans make quite a splash in Amish country, though she soon adapts to the native dress. Annie is thrilled to have a fellow artist (Annie is an art teacher) but soon her dilemma about choosing her art or the Amish church comes to a head.



### ***Velma Still Cooks in Leeway* by Vinita Hampton Wright**

Velma, in the form of a rambling journal, tells us about the last year of her life. Velma runs a little diner in the small town on Leeway, KS. During the course of the book she deals with a dying relative to come to stay with her while he waits for the inevitable. Then there is also the saga of her next door neighbor's daughter, who ends up pregnant after a date rape situation. Velma is like the rock that her neighbors and relatives turn to for help, but she herself falls apart sometimes. She has her faith and church to turn to for support, but even that has its problems, as some of the people in the church are far from perfect.