

# False Pretenses

✘ Kathy

Herman | David C. Cook

Zoe

Broussard is enjoying the life she and her husband, Pierce, have created in her loved Louisiana hometown. She especially cherishes owning Zoe B's, their highly popular eatery. Seems like life can't get any better—but it's about to take an ugly turn.

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# Nine Days in Heaven

✘ Dennis and Nolene

Prince | Charisma House

More than 150 years

ago, 25-year-old Marietta Davis had a vision of heaven. Davis fell into a trance, and when she awoke, she said that God took her to heaven for nine days, which become the talk of her community in upstate New York as well as continuing through generations.

In *Nine Days in*

*Heaven*, Davis' account is retold in modern language and includes biblical teaching points and testimonials of those who have been impacted by this supernatural story. Dennis and Nolene

Prince discovered the chronicle of Davis' vision after experiencing the traumatic loss of their two newborn children and being given a copy of the narrative. The Princes found comfort in the remarkable account of the afterlife and wanted others to hear the story as well.

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## Holiness, Truth and the Presence of God

✖ Francis Frangipane | Charisma House

In his book *Holiness, Truth, and the Presence of God*, Francis Frangipane tackles the difficult questions of satisfaction in spiritual growth. Using biblical principles and his spiritual experience, Frangipane offers keen insight into the truths of God as well as how to develop a deeper spiritual walk.

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## Worth Watching: ABC's 'Secret

# Millionaire'

✘ I'll admit it. I can be somewhat of a reality TV show junkie. I don't watch all of them, but there are a few I especially enjoy, *Top Chef*, *The Next Food Network Star* and yes, *The Housewives of Orange County*, *Beverly Hills*, *New York*, *Miami* (you get the picture). But the TV shows I can truly appreciate are those that do make positive changes in people's lives, for example *The Biggest Loser*, *Extreme Makeover: Home Edition* and now *Secret Millionaire*.

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## Wrinkle-Free Bride

Have you ever heard the expression "going to hell in a handbasket"? Doesn't it sometimes seem—at least, judging by our leaders—as if that's what the body of Christ is doing? We have high-profile charismatic preachers divorcing their wives to marry someone else, evangelical pastors falling prey to Internet pornography, mainline denominational priests sexually abusing their congregants' children and, more recently, a homosexual priest being raised up to the position of bishop. As a Christian journalist, I hear the reports—and I cringe.

But I have learned that if we focus on what we see, we can easily become discouraged. So I choose to keep my eyes on Jesus, the magnificent Bridegroom, and my heart anchored in His Word, which tells us that Christ gave Himself for the church "that He might present her to Himself a glorious church, not having spot or wrinkle or any such thing, but that

she should be holy and without blemish” (Eph. 5:27, NKJV, emphasis added). His plan is for us to be a glorious church—a beautiful, wrinkle-free bride.

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## **Staying Fit For the Right Reasons**

*The thought of attending your high school reunion may be enough to get you to lose those extra pounds, but you’ll need a better reason to keep them off.*

God created us to be purpose driven. In other words, our natural inclination is to operate with an intent—a motive, so to speak.

The Bible gives us a number of examples of men and women who did extraordinary things (whether for good or evil) in order to fulfill a purpose or reach a goal. Jacob, for instance, worked 14 years for the deceitful Laban in order to marry the woman of his dreams (see Gen. 29). He had a motive (espousing the lovely Rachel), which served to motivate him to work an extra seven years to accomplish his objective.

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## **Living Without Fear**

We don’t have to live in fear. God is more powerful than anything that can come at us. Joyce Meyer reminds us that fear can seem huge but our faith is bigger.

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# Verily, Verily

✖ Jon Sweeney | Zondervan

Why would anyone want to read the stodgy King James Version (KJV)—with its “thees and thous”—especially when more palatable and accurate translations exist? Jon Sweeney offers a host of reasons in *Verily, Verily: The KJV—400 Years of Influence and Beauty*.

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# No Safe Haven

✖ Kimberley Woodhouse and Kayla R. Woodhouse | B&H Books

Fact meets fiction in this taut adventure written by a mother-daughter team.

In real life, daughter Kayla R. Woodhouse has a rare nerve disorder, a condition mirrored in the story in Andie Tikaani-Gray, 12-year-old daughter of Jenna and Marcus Gray. Andie and Jenna have been alone for a year since Marcus was killed, their lives finally beginning to find peace.

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# The Prayer Dare

✖ Ron Kincaid | Regal

Ron Kincaid, pastor of Sunset Presbyterian Church, not only challenges readers to commit to praying like never before, he also helps readers understand the benefit.

Kincaid is uniquely qualified to issue his 40-day prayer dare because he has kept a 30-year journal in which he's recorded more than 40,000 answers to specific prayers. He knows that when we pray God shows up.