

## Betrayal, Forgiveness and Reconciliation

By Wayne Jacobsen

The world does not need one more example of people who claim to be Christ-followers while they blow up close friendships for whatever personal gain they may seek. We have too many already.

Unfortunately, Christians have a far greater reputation for self-serving than they do for self-sacrifice. Church history is littered with successions of church splits, doctrinal distinctions that allow one group to look down their noses at another, gossip, and dishonest business practices.

What a sad heritage indeed when the only thing Jesus asked of us is that we would love each other in the same way he loved us so that the whole world would know who he is! We failed that mission miserably. We failed it early. And we continue to fail it often.

Paul and Barnabus couldn't even find a way to go on a second journey together to spread the gospel in the world. They ended up in a "violent disagreement" over John Mark that shattered their friendship and unfortunately set a tone that has endured for 2000 years.

There are even numerous examples in history of both sides in a war praying to the same God to help them slaughter their enemies.

If you wonder why authentic, caring community with other Christ-followers remains so elusive, it's because Christianity, *as a religious system*, merely offers humanity another tool to serve their own ambitions. Many, especially so-called leaders, have never learned to live with the same self-sacrificing love that allowed Jesus to



engage others beyond his own personal needs. They view people around them either as those they can exploit if they are cooperative, or must subvert if they dare challenge or question.

We will love well in the world only

~CONTINUED NEXT PAGE

*"Religion killed Christ. Or I might add religion partnered with politics. History shows that when religious and political establishments come together for a cause, it often involves violence, war, and death."*

— Bruxy Cavey in *The End of Religion*

“I was so busy trying to accomplish something great for him that people were often a means to my ambition, not the object of my affection.

when we learn that the essence of love is in laying down our lives for others, not using them for our own needs. We will never understand that freedom until we know how loved we are by God.

### Valuing Relationships

I've met a lot of people who want to be famous writers, artists, or musicians, others who want to change the world through media, political action, or power encounters. But I don't recall ever meeting anyone whose life ambition was to be a good lover of people. And yet, that's how Jesus seemed to live his life. He didn't start any projects, rush around to planning meetings, or plot world-altering strategies. He simply loved the people his Father put before him and the kingdom of God made its way into the world.

Maybe that's why he told the disciples that if they would love like he did the whole world would get to see who he is. It's the one thing Christians haven't done for 2000 years. It's amazing how easily Christians discard personal relationships in the pursuit of other things they consider more critical. Whether it is doctrinal purity, political power, personal acclaim, or behavioral conformity, anything we put above loving the people God puts before us will only make us more a part of the world system that offer human sacrifices to the god of our self-expedience.

Why do we do it? Because we have no idea how deeply loved we are. One

can even teach the so-called "love message" and yet still throw someone under the bus at the first sign of trouble. If you're willing to do that to someone else to save yourself, you don't know Jesus well. Learning to live loved is the fruit of a growing relationship with him. It seems to take significant time, and most of our theological studies and religious efforts are not helpful in that process. I was a passionate practitioner of a religion called Christianity for over forty years before I had an inkling of how much the Father loved me. I was so busy trying to accomplish something great for him that people were often a means to my ambition, not the object of my affection.

As I grow in my understanding of his love for me it changes the way I see others around me, including complete strangers. I've come to appreciate that the greatest gifts we are given in this life are the people we know and the friendships that grow out of those relationships. Ask any person on the verge of death and they will swear it is so. *Everything* else is secondary.

Unfortunately, not everyone shares the same passion for relationship, and if you're going to love deeply in this world you will also get hurt often. You will be taken advantage of. You will be mistreated and often used. Our world is relationally challenged, which is why there are so many Scriptures that help

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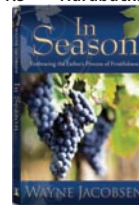
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\$34.99 in a boxed set.) • **A Man Like No Other** is a visual feast as well as a powerful tool for personal reflection or reading together with your spouse

and family. It makes a great conversation piece on your coffee table or waiting room. (128 pages • \$24.99 • 128 pages • 8.5 x 11.5 • Hardback.)

• **In Season: Embracing the Father's Passion for Fruitfulness**, will help you understand the seasons and times of God's working in your own life so that you can respond more freely to what he is doing in you today. His joy doesn't come in trying to follow his principles, but in following him as his



purpose unfolds in us. (208 pages • Trade Paperback • \$13.99)

### OUR GIFTS TO EAST AFRICA

The need in east Africa continues to provide us an opportunity for us to give to others in the world who are in great need. We are still supporting the operating costs of the orphanage we helped build last year and we are also working through a local organization that links up nine million believers in that area. The needs are ongoing. If you'd like to help us you can get more information on our website or send a donation to Lifestream. We are also looking for ways to help them find a means to make the orphanage sustainable through a local business enterprise they can operate. Any suggestions any of you might have would be most welcome.

## Books and CD Collections by Wayne



### BOOKS

- A MAN LIKE NO OTHER (\$24.99)
- IN SEASON: (\$13.99)
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### SOME CHANGES AT LIFESTREAM

We mostly think of winter as a cold, unproductive season. But in the vineyard it offers the farmer his most significant opportunity to affect the harvest to come. Vines pruned well will produce a bountiful harvest; those pruned poorly or not at all can end up fruitless. I've just been through a bit of winter myself as God sorted through a number of things I've been involved in to restage my life for the next season. That means cutting back on some things, and looking at others with fresh eyes that will allow me to get back to my greatest passion, which is helping people live in the life and freedom of a real relationship with God. I will no longer be an owner of Windblown Media nor involved in its operations. While I'll continue to write and publish the things God asks of me I gratefully will no longer be entangled in that industry. I also see me moving further away from BridgeBuilders as other priorities take hold. Finally, I am reshaping the podcast a bit. While Brad will remain a frequent voice on The God Journey, I will also be expanding the conversation to include others as well. Brad and I remain good friends as we free each other to the different things he's put on our hearts and each give ourselves to the things God's asking of us.

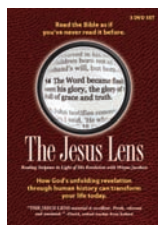
### HELPING OTHERS, HELP OTHERS

I'm not even sure how those will be done yet, but I do want to spend more of my time with those who are not only learning to live loved themselves, but also equip them to help others live loved as well. Forty years ago people with that passion became pastors or missionaries. Now they publish books and host podcasts. But is that really the best way to help others find freedom and love in the life of Jesus? How does our focus move from what I want to do, to who does God want me to help? And how to we encourage people in this life if we're not meeting up in conventional ways. This project is sending me in two directions. First, I'm talking to

people who have lived this journey longer than me, and seeing what God will show us together. Some of that you can follow on The God Journey as I share some of their insights through the podcast. Second, I am also keeping my eyes open for some younger brothers and sisters who also share the passion of equipping others to see how Father is leading them. In the end I'm not hopeful to come out with a new method to use, but a way to encourage people

### NEW RESOURCES

We've been blessed at the overwhelming response to the new resources we released last fall to help encourage people on their journey. **The Jesus Lens** is a nine-hour DVD series designed to help people read the Scriptures through the revelation of Jesus Christ and come away with one cohesive view of God and how he works in our world. These videos are also available at TheJesusLens.com. If you've ever felt that the Bible was too long, too confusing, or full of unresolved contradictions THE JESUS LENS was designed for you. (3 DVD collection including more than 9 hours of instruction and dialog.



### Wayne's Travels



**Holland:** May 3-8

**Boeil-Belzing, France:** May 24 - 27

**Azille, France:** May 28 - 29

**Angers, France** May 30 - June 2

**Paris, France:** June 3 - 4

**County Wicklow, Ireland:** June 6 - 10,

**Scotts Valley, CA: June 24 - 29,**  
CaliforniaFamilyRetreat.com.

**Quebec City, Canada: September 21-23**  
Eglise Vie Abondante

**Karlsruhe , Germany: October 11 - 14**  
Karlsruhe Christian Center

We are currently praying about invitations to North Carolina • Montana • a return to Australia, and many others.

us deal with relational breakdowns.

If you want to love like he loves, you will have to learn how to negotiate the painful realities of broken relationships and even find joy even in the process. Living loved by him and loving others freely around you is the greatest adventure you will ever know.

### Handling Betrayal

We learned at a very young age that the same people who might praise us one day, can easily reject us the next. I wonder how many people who shouted, "Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord" as Jesus rode into Jerusalem, also shouted, "Crucify him," only five days later.

Jesus knew that for many love would often take second-place to self-interest. I'm not talking here about momentary failures or misunderstandings that can temporarily derail a friendship. We all see things differently, and can disappoint each other without knowing it. But people of honor will work through those moments to find a mutually satisfying resolution with love and respect. Betrayal rises out of consistent patterns of exploitive, deceptive, or destructive behaviors.

For the past ten years I've begged every friend I've done business with, to resolve whatever difficulties might arise inside the friendship. I promised if they were unhappy, I'd make sure they walked away with a smile before I did. People easily agree to the concept, but at the first sign of conflict some will betray the friendship and seek whatever means they can to force their will. And almost all of them claim God's leading even when it involves outright lying and gossip. When I've asked them to submit their concerns to other believers of their choosing, they refuse. That's when you know they are not concerned with a fair solution, but only one that serves them.

Feeling used by another human being is one of the most painful realities of living in a broken world. I've been surprised by it on more than one occasion and am left wondering why people can't put affection and truth ahead of duplicity and greed.

Perhaps it simply asks more of people than they have to give. In his book, *His*

“Living loved by him and loving others freely around you is the greatest adventure you will ever know.”

*Excellency George Washington*, Joseph J. Ellis tells us that our nation's founders rejected the idea of a pure democracy knowing it would ultimately fail. "During the war Washington had learned, the hard way, that depending on a virtuous citizenry was futile, for it asked more than human nature was capable of delivering." And what was that? "Making voluntary sacrifice the operative principle of republican government had proved to be a romantic delusion. Both individual citizens and sovereign states required coercion to behave responsibly."

Without Christ that is certainly true. Often with Christ it is still true. I've spent a lot of time of late with people who have been through incredible acts of betrayal, whether it is an unfaithful spouse, abusive pastors, or even dishonest business associates. There's nothing worse than finding out that a close friend has decided they have more to gain by betraying you than by remaining faithful.

Rather than be overrun with pain, however, Jesus told us to consider ourselves blessed when we're lied about or excluded. And if we don't appreciate

it, we will only treat others the way they treat us and perpetuate the cycle of pain. No, that isn't easy, but it is nonetheless the truth.

One thing that helps me is not to take it personally. No one deserves to be betrayed by someone who postures themselves as a close friend. Betrayal at its heart is not about you, it's about weakness in the other person's soul.

**“ Forgiveness does not excuse someone else's behavior; it merely frees their victim from the ongoing pain of their actions and the desire to pay them back.**

*Hurting people, hurt people.* That's as true a statement as I know. Betrayal is an assault against love itself and only shows how lost the betrayer is in his own pain.

Of course, none of us can endure betrayal on our own. We have to land squarely on the lap of a loving Father, pouring out our hurts and disappointments, knowing he is able to care for us even beyond the unfaithfulness of others. As we find healing and rest in his love, which may take weeks or months, then it will become clear how he wants us to respond.

Sometimes he wants you to stay in the relationship and love them past it. At other times he will want you to distance yourself from destructive people, especially those who violate your boundaries. Loving others doesn't mean you have to let them walk all over you. He will show you how to lay down your life in trust that he will resolve things in far better ways than you can.

### **Finding Forgiveness**

“Unforgiveness is like drinking rat poison while waiting for the rat to die,” is a common, but wise expression.

Our unforgiveness does not impact those who have hurt us. It doesn't

even protect us from further hurt. It merely leaves power in the hands of those who cause damage in the world. Forgiveness is the healing salve in broken relationships. It does not excuse someone else's behavior; it merely frees their victim from the ongoing pain of their actions and the desire to pay them back. By doing so it opens the opportunity for us to find healing beyond the

pain, and the freedom to move on with God's further work in our lives

But forgiveness is not just a choice of our will; *it is a process.* It begins by bringing our hurt and pain to Father so that his love can heal us from what others have done to damage us. This may take a few weeks or even years, depending on how deep the betrayal, but don't stop short until his freedom comes to reign in your heart. Somewhere along the way, as he untangles the pain and leads us out of it into greener pastures, you'll find yourself able to release the other person from your judgment and entrust them to God.

You'll know forgiveness has had its work in you when you no longer feel the angst in your stomach when you think of the one who hurt you. You'll find God's love more powerful than the most destructive intentions of others. In the end, we learn to forgive as we understand how much we need God's forgiveness ourselves. When I have a difficult time forgiving someone else over a long season, it has helped me to ask Jesus what it is about his forgiveness that I don't yet know for myself. The more I understand his forgiveness for me the easier it becomes to give it away to others.

frustrated and angry and unable to connect with God! Then, (I started listening to) *The Jesus Lens*. Why has no one ever told me it like this before?! Again, as with *He Loves Me* what I've been hearing makes so much sense. It seems so obvious! I'm beginning to get it! I am beginning to see the God I know there in the Bible. I love the story of the extravagant Father but it has often seemed at odds with the portrayal of God in the rest of the Bible. But to think that I could see it as a summary of the Bible's story. Well! That is such good news! That changes everything! I can actually say I'm beginning to get it!! Thank you for all the resources you've made available to people like me.

#### **Bryan by email (Jake)**

I came across *So You Don't Want to Go to Church Anymore* through my mother and as I read it, it made so much sense to me and answered so many

questions. I know that the story is not real or my not be real but the wisdom that is behind it makes so much sense and answers so many questions that I believe that God led me to this book as part of my journey of wisdom. Something does not have to be completely real for us to get real wisdom out of it. Just as the gospels we read in the bible are parables and stories written by men in the same way this book was written by an man but the wisdom you can get from it comes from God. I don't want to babble on too long but since I have started this journey I am happier and more at peace than I have ever been even though my life has not gotten any better in the sense that our society thinks our life should be. I am at peace with whatever life brings and have found out how to be happy just being me, I believe that this book has helped me on my journey and has given me a greater understanding of what it means to know him.

## **From Wayne's Blog**

### ***Don't Buy the Lie***

Over the past few weeks I've been with a number of people who have told me that they have been told by members of “the clergy” that they had no right to listen to God for themselves. Some said that God no longer speaks to the believer, since we now have the Scriptures. Others have even taught that God only passes his will down through pastors and elders. I've even heard people teach that elders and pastors will know your heart better than you know it yourself, and even when you disagree with them, you should trust them above yourself.

Let me say this as clearly as I can: Any man or woman who tells you they know God's will for you better than you do yourself, proves by doing so that they are a false teacher. Flee from him or her!

At the heart of the New Covenant lies this reality: All of us get to know him and listen to him. He didn't invite us to follow his book, follow his rules, or follow one of his designated representatives. He invited us to, “Come, follow me.” Anyone who gets in the way of that relationship hasn't a clue who Jesus is or how he works in the world.

I was with a man last month in New Zealand who listens to God as well as any man I know. He has pastored churches and traveled the world for decades encouraging others to live deeply in Jesus. He told me, “I have never believed, even for a moment, that I can hear God for someone else more clearly than they can hear themselves.” He never presumed to tell someone what God wanted them to do. That's the kind of person I recognize as a true elder among the body of Christ. They don't hear God for you; they help you learn how to listen to God for yourself because they wouldn't think of robbing you of the most precious gift God has to give—an intimate friendship with him!

**Carol from Scotland**

I have just enjoyed He Loves Me, having stumbled upon it in a charity shop here in Glasgow where I live. I loved it and found it life/faith changing in that I felt, after 30 years as a Christian, I realised I had actually known far more 'about' Jesus which fell a long way short of the personal relationship with Him I longed for (and indeed, thought I had!). I'm delighted to say, that is changing now. I love what God is doing in my life through your ministry so, thank you from the bottom of my heart - but I want more! I love listening to the conferences you have very generously made freely available online - you just seem to 'get' what my struggles have been about all these years.

**Katrina in the UK**

I read a couple of your books about two years ago and they continue to have a profound effect on my life, the way I look at things in relation to church, duty, relationship. The truth in your books have just stuck with me and become part of me. It's hasn't always made life easy or comfortable as a result but it's definitely more life-giving, real and authentic.

**Elina in Finland**

Thank you for writing the book *So You Don't Want to Go to Church Anymore*. Now I can name some of those feelings and thoughts that I've been having but been unable to name. I'm also thankful for giving me ideas for new vocabulary that must substitute the old one which is so packed with old and perhaps wrong connotations. I'm so excited that I can find a real, meaningful life with God!

**Greg from New Zealand**

I wanted to say how encouraging Wayne's latest *Living Loved* newsletter was to both my wife & I. We've been on this journey for a couple of years and feel like we are just starting to "relax" into this relationship of living loved. Its great to be reminded of what real 'elders' look like. Reminded is probably the wrong word, as I don't think I've ever seen elders described so well, (especially not in the institution), but the more Wayne wrote about how real elders lives are characterised by authenticity, horizontal friendships, and hospitality, the more it resonated with me. When we fellowship with these types of people we are truly encouraged and built

up and we want to meet with them again. There is a connect there and its a wonderful thing! We also have something that we can aspire to. Not in a striving way, but in a way that we can recognise in others and grow towards ourselves.

**Renee in Oklahoma**

I've been meaning to write you to tell you how much *A Man Like No Other* has been ministering to me. I read it during my sunrise with Jesus each morning. It's like I'm transported to a different time and place with Him and He speaks such wonderful things to my heart. The beautiful art work helps me to imagine each story more vibrantly. Your words and especially your questions give me much to ponder.

**Pablo from Madrid**

Thank you first to the Lord for the gifts He has given to you and second to you Wayne for the use of these gifts to bless so many people in their journey. I am one of this. Your books and articles have been and are a precious balsam, a tremendous encouragement and a profound motivation source to live my life closer to Jesus. I am widely distributing them around the people God has connect me and they are so blessed as well

**Eric in Florida**

I just finished reading *In Season: Embracing the Father's Process of Fruitfulness*. This book is tied for first place among my all time favorite books. A must read!!"

**Pete on the blog**

Many thanks for this edition of *Living Loved*. A special thanks for not making this a "how-to" but very much a "He will!"

**Claire in England**

Many times since then I've felt at the end of my rope as far as reading the Bible. This August I was out for a run and listening to a God journey podcast, You were reading a letter from someone who was advocating chucking out the Bible altogether. That was how I felt! Whist I have held onto a conviction that the Bible is a precious and valuable part of relationship with God, my experience in recent years has been that reading it leaves me feeling

What I love about forgiveness is that it is a unilateral process. It doesn't depend on the other person owning their failure or asking me for it. My forgiveness of others is transacted with God alone. I free them to God. And, as much as God allows, I take my liberty from their continuing influence on my life. Forgiving can allow an amiable relationship, but it will be a distant one. You can keep the peace with them by not bringing up the past, but the friendship will not heal.

Nothing in forgiveness heals the relationship, nor does it give respect back to those who were hurtful. Many have been taught that true forgiveness erases the past and lets us start over. It does not. While I remove my judgment from them, their actions may still expose their true nature. While I can continue to love them, it is love with eyes wide open, aware of the deep inner torment that they live with and their willingness to thrust it upon others in an instant.

***A Heart for Reconciliation***

Forgiveness alone, however, does not fulfill the Father's greatest desire. Broken relationships in his family break our Father's heart. It results from sin twisting us and our competing for things he has not given. Redemption always holds out hope for reconciliation—even with those people who have wronged us most. God's ability to restore friendship between estranged children of his, is one of the greatest fruits of his work in humanity.

In the past four months I've had the blessing of being part of two reconciliations of important friendships that were cut off in days of pain and betrayal. Both separations lasted over 15 years and have now been healed. I wish it hadn't taken so long, but this isn't a process we control. What absolute delight it was to work through the

“**Reconciliation can only happen when both parties are ready to sit down and honestly explore each other's story with a spirit of compassion and humility.**”

pain, misunderstandings, and confusion that caused the separation, and celebrate the grace of God that triumphs in all of us, even beyond our own brokenness and failures!

While forgiveness is a unilateral process, reconciliation is a bilateral process where the relationship is healed. This can only happen when both parties are ready to sit down and honestly explore each other's story with a spirit of compassion and humility. It cannot be forced and can only happen when all parties truly value the relationship over any other agenda. Reconciliation embraces a love greater than our need to be vindicated.

This, too, is a work of Father we respond to, and not our responsibility to make happen. Until each heart is prepared to truly listen to the other's story, laying aside own assumptions and judgments, admitting mistakes, caring about each other's pain, and mitigating any way we can the damage we caused. That's what allows friendship to be renewed.

***Do I Trust Them Again?***

Does reconciliation restore trust? I'm asked that question almost every time I discuss it. Of course not!

Reconciliation does not require us to trust again. That's a different process. While it will allow us to love them again, reconciliation does not restore trust.

The sad truth is that while it takes years to build trust it only takes a minute to destroy it. Once destroyed by abuse or betrayal, trust has to grow again even after the friendship is renewed. You can forgive a spouse who abuses you, and even find reconciliation as he owns his failure, but reconciliation doesn't change people. If we simply trust someone who has not yet changed, we only set ourselves up to be exploited again.

Reconciliation doesn't make you stupid or gullible. Cheap promises are not a substitute for transformation. Trust, once violated, can only be won back by the demonstration over significant time that God has dealt with their inner darkness, and they have come to value the relationship above their own self-interest.

You don't trust a stranger, and you don't re-trust someone who has betrayed you even after you've been reconciled. We are never told to trust someone beyond our assurance that they will lay down their life for us. Trust is the fruit of an ever-deepening relationship of mutual love and respect. One of the greatest joys in human relationship is to engage relationships of love and growing trust that endure the test of years of shifting circumstances. It is a journey worth cultivating, and one worth protecting. Why anyone would trade that joy for any temporal gain is beyond me. They are giving up more than they know.

### *The Sweet Smell of Death*

I recently spent some time in New Zealand with a friend of mine named John Beaumont, he challenged me to look at a Scripture differently than I'd ever interpreted it before. He told me that a passage in Second Corinthians that has been misinterpreted for centuries. This is where Paul writes that we are a fragrance to those being saved, and to those that are perishing. "To the

one we're a smell of death; to the other the fragrance of life." (2:16)

John explained that most people think that we are a smell of death to the world and fragrance of life to the church, but the construction of the verse won't support that conclusion. We are actually a smell of death to those being saved, and a fragrance of life to the world. How can that be? My confused look caused John to go on.

"The smell of death for the believer, is one where someone has been crucified with Christ and their 'life is now hidden with Christ in God (Col 3:3)," John concluded. Is there any greater fragrance than someone whose wounds, ambitions, preferences, and agendas have been swallowed up by God and who now lives in the simple power of loving and caring for others? The aroma of a life that no longer needs to find its own identity, force its own will, or prove itself, offers a garden of rich possibilities in their daily interactions.

Those who are loved well by Father, will love well in the world. To be a lover of people is the one thing every one of us can do each day that will do more to change the world than any personal achievement we aspire to. Loving those whom God puts before—our spouse, children, co-workers, neighbors, and even strangers—is where real joy is found and where the kingdom work is really done.

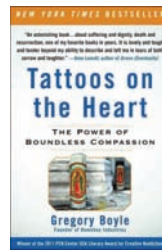
Each time you offer a greeting, show an interest, serve a need, offer a listening ear or a shoulder to weep on, or any other way you simply care for another human being, you become a reflection of his glory. And every day you treat people with compassion, dignity, and respect, refusing to put your interests above theirs, forgiving freely and seeking healing, the life of Jesus shines a bit brighter in a broken world.

Nothing else you can do



that will matter more.

## Book Recommendation



### *Tattoos of the Heart*

By Gregory Boyle

It has been a long time since I have read a book that impacted me more than this one. It is a real-life story of some of the same themes in *He Loves Me and The Shack*. I laughed out loud reading this and I wept at the challenges some kids have to face just because of where they were born. Gregory Boyle is a man loving broken lives at ground zero of the gang culture in Los Angeles. It is a deserving NY Times Best-seller and it's all true. Yes, he's a Catholic priest, and that may bother some of you, but I love the way God is working out his love in this man. There is some coarse language here as he reveals Jesus' ability to make himself known at the most brutal edge of human brokenness. This is a great love story of transformed kids, told with humor and reality in ways that will inspire you to love the people around you.



## Sharing the Journey

### **Renee in Texas**

*So You Don't Want to Go to Church Anymore* was a life-changing book for me. Reading it was like putting glasses on and looking at something I've looked at all my life, but never really seen. As a teacher, writer, and friend you've helped me to see beyond religion, the church, and the law, beyond the system, the building, the hierarchy, the leader, beyond fear and shame, beyond the program, the rituals, the schedule, the weekly meeting, beyond obligations and expectations, beyond "a thing with a name that has to be maintained," beyond the need to fix, the need to do, the need to solve and the need to prove, the need to know, the need to carry, the need to be heeded. And beyond all these I've found rest, joy, adventure, engaging relationships and unfolding seasons and the reality of living loved.

### **Buster by email**

I just finished reading *So You Don't Want to go to Church Anymore*. What an amazing book. There is so much I want to say but through my tears and thoughts and thankfulness all I can say is thank you. Thank you for listing to Father and writing a book that grabbed my very soul. I see myself in

Jake. What a freeing and frightening read.

### **Bob in India**

I want to take this opportunity to communicate the life changing impact your work has had on my ministry over these twenty-five years. Your teaching, books and relationship opened up the scriptures to me even though I'm seminary trained and have been in ordained ministry for forty-two years. The primary awakening started with the understanding of the shift from the old covenant to the new covenant and what that means for all believers.

### **Kevin in Australia**

The copies of *A Man Like No Other* arrived this morning. They are just beautiful in every way! A beautifully written story of a beautiful man with beautiful illustrations and a beautiful production!! I can imagine they will be a great blessing to many families.

### **Louise by blog post**

"Religion is a social experiment to see how many hoops someone will jump through before they go postal." This is a quote from a little known, yet brilliant philosopher—my 15 year old son.