

WALK WITH ME

CHRIS JORGENSON, Petra-Philos Publishing, Leeds, ND, hardcover, (183p)
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This collection is a testament to the authoress' faith in God, and it is a touching, moving and inspiring work. The authoress Chris Jorgenson displays her faith with awe-inspiring simplicity. She has surrendered herself to the Son of God, and this collection of stories, songs and poetry is her testimony to God's role in every aspect of her life: joy, loss, praise, grief, pain, and even the desire for a miracle. This book portrays the compassion Jorgensen displays in everyday events in her life. Because of her deep love for the Lord, the authoress is able to emanate kindness during her father-in-law's 70th birthday and the death of her friend's child.

This collection is divided into several sub-collections. The first is a collection for her family, including songs for her mother-in-law, father-in-law, sister, and extended family. The most touching amongst this collection is a song called "Eyes So Blue" written for her son, in which she prays that he will grow up in the likeness of the Lord who made him.

The next collection is specially dedicated to teenagers. She sympathizes with teenagers who grow up facing so many problems. She reminds them that the Lord is looking out for them. She says that though their lives seem difficult, they will turn out just fine if they surrender to their maker. With her understanding tone and the force of her conviction, she is extremely convincing. She has included two songs written in the aftermath of 9/11. In the songs, it is obvious that she is deeply affected by the tragedy, but she is also unshakeable in her faith in the Lord. She believes that He will set the evil right. In her prayers for those in pain, she empathizes with them and reminds them that they are never alone. The Lord is always there to hold their hands.

The last collection, titled "My Journey" is a testimony of Jorgensen's struggle with her faith. It is a brutally honest account of the times when she feels like she is losing her faith, is ashamed of her fears, or has doubts about being able to carry on. Every song she pens has a plea to the Lord to rejuvenate the faith that seems to be waning. Every reader who has ever faced a dilemma with his/her faith will be able to see him/herself in these songs, and will be able to draw strength from them and the authoress' inspiring story.

The two short stories about organ donors at the end of the collection and the appeal to the readers to "Be Someone's Hero" are heartfelt and inspiring. This book will provide a source of strength to those who have faith. But, moreover, it will create faith for those who don't.

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