

## Books We Love

~ From Shari Shelton ~

### ***1000 Gifts: A Dare to Live Fully Right Where You Are*** by Ann Voskamp

A jewel, and one of the best books I've read in the past few years. For a mom of six children living on a large farm in the middle of Canada, through a challenge to list the blessings of her days, God begins to polish her eyes to see the vast array of these blessings everywhere, and her life changes. Voskamp also has a devotional with a similar name, and hosts a very poignant blog.

### ***Animal Dreams*** by Barbara Kingsolver

I took this as my best book of 5-10 years back a while ago. When I began reading the first page of this book, I knew immediately that Kingsolver was a writer extraordinaire. It is beautifully and fully written, and one you will not forget.

### ***The City of Joy*** by Dominique Lapierre

My favorite book for almost a decade when I was 30. Set in India with the main character being a Catholic priest, it is an amazing tale!

### ***For the Glory*** by Duncan Hamilton

Through precise research, follows Eric Liddell's (as in the movie *Chariots of Fire*) life after the 1944 Olympics as he studies in England, returns home to China as a missionary, and more. The four of us in our household read this aloud, and Carol and Art knew some of the people in the book! Eric Liddell is a saint, and a man with such a heart for God, who was a true and loving witness clear to the end.

### ***The Gift of Years: Growing Older Gracefully*** by Joan Chittister

A perfect book, and one I very much wanted someone to write. I was over the top thrilled when found it the first few months after I retired, a time when I was looking for good books to challenge and feed my soul and give me new visions for my life. **Every retired person should read this!**

### ***Power of Praise*** by Merlin Carothers

An old one from back in my high school days which I recently found again. Amazing how praise and thanksgiving can open up the gates of heaven, and how God takes care of us in mighty unexpected ways. A true pearl of a book. Carothers has written a few more books along these lines, also.

### ***She Believes*** by Debbie Lindell

A new find, and one I gave to my daughter and daughters-in-law for Christmas this year. The author and her husband pastor a large church in Texas. She urges women to rise up and embrace the full life that they were meant and are called to live through Jesus. A powerful and fun read, and very much one every woman can relate to.

### ***A Song for Nagasaki*** by Father Paul Glynn

A Shelton household read-aloud of a Japanese doctor who became a Catholic believer, worked in the days of early radiation, and survived the atomic bomb dropped on Nagasaki. His life's story is an unbelievable gift and challenge to the rest of us, and his love amidst a time of great horror is incredible.

### ***Tending Roses*** by Lisa Wingate

A simple story of a grandmother who is starting to lose her memory, a granddaughter and husband who come to be with her, and the waves of influence the grandma has over her family and many in the community. A great read for grandparents as it shows how important our influence and wisdom are to those who come after us.

### ***Unfinished*** by Richard Stearns, president of World Vision

A powerful book that I read before going to Rwanda, which challenged me greatly to go forth and try and do much more for the poor and hurting in our world for Jesus. It is also Stearns' story of his conversion and his further faith growth.