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Andrew Root and Blair D. Bertrand

A Future for
Your Congregation
beyond More
Money, Programs,
and Innovation

When Church Stops Working



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RELIGION / Christian Ministry /
Pastoral Resources
RELIGION / Christian Ministry /
General

Paperback / softback
8.500 in H | 5.500 in W
176 pages • Carton Quantity: 48

Andrew Root (PhD, Princeton Theological Seminary) is Carrie Olson Baalson Professor of Youth and Family Ministry at Luther Seminary in St. Paul, Minnesota. He is a frequent speaker, has written more than 20 books, and hosts the *New Time Religion* podcast.

Blair D. Bertrand (PhD, Princeton Theological Seminary) is a lecturer at Zomba Theological University, teaching consultant with Theological Education by Extension Malawi, and adjunct lecturer at Tyndale University, Toronto. He has served various congregations as an ordained minister and lives in Ottawa, Ontario.

Brazos Press

MAY 2023

WHEN CHURCH STOPS WORKING

A Future for Your Congregation beyond More Money, Programs, and Innovation

Andrew Root and Blair D. Bertrand

Your Church Needs Help. What Now?

- Root is a leading practical theologian and a successful author with a worldwide speaking and teaching ministry
- Authors both have pastoral ministry and cross-cultural ministry experience
- Argues that more money, people, and resources won't solve the problem of church decline

What if the solution for the decline of today's church isn't more money, people, programs, innovation, and busyness?

What if the answer is to stop and wait on God?

In *When Church Stops Working*, ministry leaders Andrew Root and Blair Bertrand show how actively watching and listening for God can bring life out of death for churches in crisis today.

Using clear steps and practices, they invite church leaders to stop the endless cycle of doing more and rather to simply "be" in God's presence. They tell the story of two congregations who did this--and found new life in the process.

When Church Stops Working distills the core themes of Root's critically acclaimed *Ministry in a Secular Age* series in a more accessible form. Leaders and churchgoers who are burned out and hopeless will experience affirmation, encouragement, and empowerment as Root and Bertrand turn to the book of Acts as well as examples from contemporary congregational life to show what "active" waiting looks like and the saving grace it can hold.

WAKE UP TO WONDER

22 Invitations to Amazement in the Everyday
Karen Wright Marsh

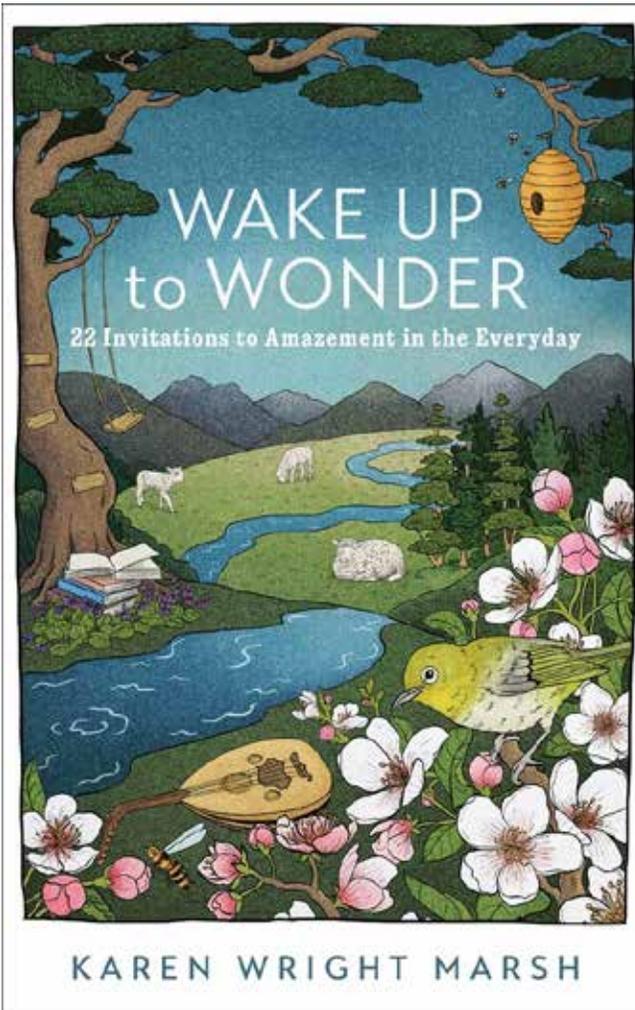
Practices to Find Deeper Meaning and Purpose in Everyday Life

- Marsh is executive director of Theological Horizons, a nonprofit at the intersection of faith, thought, and life
- Marsh wrote the acclaimed book *Vintage Saints and Sinners*
- The 22 spiritual and personal practices include illustrated prompts, space for personal reflection, and engaging experiments

In her quest to live a vibrant spiritual life, Karen Wright Marsh had a revelation: she didn't need to find and follow the perfect *plan*; she needed *people* she could follow.

In *Wake Up to Wonder*, Marsh introduces us to those people--faithful yet oh-so-human Christians from across centuries and cultures. Inspired by their example, she offers playful, simple practices that bring deeper meaning and purpose to everyday life.

In the company of diverse spiritual companions--from Dorothy Day, Francis of Assisi, and Fannie Lou Hamer to Patrick of Ireland, Wangari Maathai, and Henri Nouwen --readers journey through physical health, prayer, activism, Scripture reading, creativity, and beyond. Each chapter includes hands-on invitations such as writing prompts, space for personal reflection, and "Try This," a collage of spiritual and personal experiments anyone can do. As readers wake up to wonder, they'll discover what these 22 historical figures already knew: that a life of spiritual depth, amazement, and connection is within reach--today and every day.



JULY 11 • US \$19.99 • CAN \$24.99

9781587435805

Paperback / softback

8.500 in H | 5.500 in W

192 pages • Carton Quantity: 48

RELIGION / Christian Living /
 Inspirational

RELIGION / Christian Living / Personal
 Growth

RELIGION / Christian Living / Spiritual
 Growth

Karen Wright Marsh (MA, University of Virginia) is the founding director of Theological Horizons, a ministry at the University of Virginia that hosts lectures, spiritual studies, dialogues, and mentoring initiatives. She is the author of *Vintage Saints and Sinners: 25 Christians Who Transformed My Faith*, which was named an *Outreach Resource of the Year*, a Logos Booksellers Book of the Year, and a *Foreword* INDIES finalist. She lives with her professor husband, Charles Marsh, at the Bonhoeffer House in Charlottesville, Virginia.

THE BALLOT AND THE BIBLE

How Scripture Has Been Used and Abused in American Politics and Where We Go from Here

Kaitlyn Schiess

The Use of the Bible throughout American History and Politics

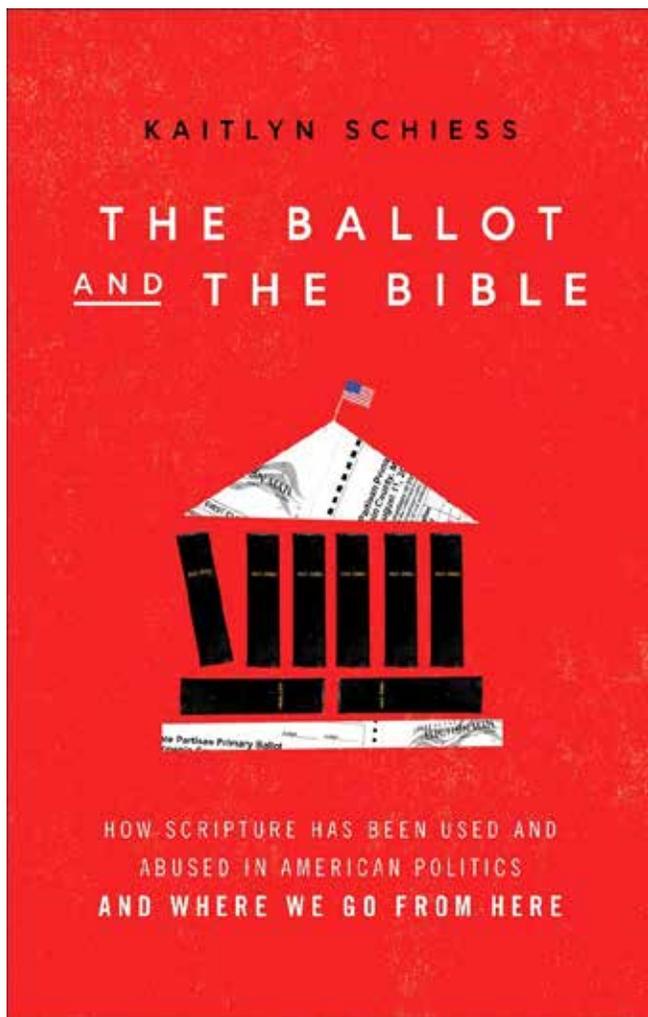
- Schiess is an author, speaker, theologian, and regular cohost on the *Holy Post* podcast with Skye Jethani and Phil Vischer
- Author has written for *Christianity Today*, the *New York Times*, and *Sojourners*
- Author is involved with the Center for Public Justice, the AND Campaign, and the National Association of Evangelicals

How do Bible passages written thousands of years ago apply to politics today? What can we learn from America's history of using the Bible in politics? How can we converse with people whose views differ from our own?

In *The Ballot and the Bible*, Kaitlyn Schiess explores these questions and more. She unpacks examples of how Americans have applied the Bible to politics in the past, highlighting times it was done well and times it was egregiously misused.

Schiess combines American political history and biblical interpretation to help readers faithfully read Scripture, talk with others about it, and apply it to their lives--and to contemporary political issues. Rather than prescribing what readers should think about specific hot-button issues, Schiess outlines core biblical themes around power, allegiance, national identity, and more.

Readers will be encouraged to pursue a biblical basis for their political engagement with compassion and confidence.



AUGUST 22 • US \$19.99 • CAN \$24.99
9781587435966

RELIGION / Religion, Politics & State
RELIGION / Christian Living / Social
Issues
RELIGION / Christianity / History

Paperback / softback

8.500 in H | 5.500 in W

208 pages • Carton Quantity: 64

Kaitlyn Schiess (ThM, Dallas Theological Seminary) is a writer, speaker, and theologian. She is the author of *The Liturgy of Politics: Spiritual Formation for the Sake of Our Neighbor* and is a regular cohost on the *Holy Post* podcast with Skye Jethani and Phil Vischer. Her writing has appeared in the *New York Times*, *Christianity Today*, *Christ and Pop Culture*, *Relevant*, and *Sojourners*. Schiess is currently a doctoral student in political theology at Duke Divinity School. She lives in Durham, North Carolina.

The Evangelical Imagination



*How Stories, Images & Metaphors
Created a Culture in Crisis*

Karen Swallow Prior



AUGUST 8 • US \$26.99 • CAN \$33.99
9781587435751

RELIGION / Christian Living / Social
Issues
RELIGION / Christianity / History
RELIGION / Religion, Politics & State

Hardback
8.500 in H | 5.500 in W
272 pages • Carton Quantity: 30

Karen Swallow Prior (PhD, SUNY Buffalo) is research professor of English and Christianity & Culture at Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary. She is an award-winning author and one of today's leading evangelical writers and commentators. Her book *On Reading Well: Finding the Good Life through Great Books* was recognized as a *Publishers Weekly* Book of the Year in Religion in 2018. She is a frequent speaker, is a monthly columnist at Religion New Service, and has written for *Christianity Today*, *The Atlantic*, the *Washington Post*, the *New York Times*, and The Gospel Coalition. Prior lives with her husband in central Virginia.

THE EVANGELICAL IMAGINATION

How Stories, Images, and Metaphors Created a Culture in Crisis

Karen Swallow Prior

Understanding the Forces That Have Shaped the Evangelical Movement

- Prior is an award-winning author and one of today's leading evangelical writers with 100,000 social media followers
- *On Reading Well* was recognized as a *Publishers Weekly* Book of the Year in Religion and received a starred review
- Author is a frequent speaker, is a monthly columnist at Religion News Service, and has written for *Christianity Today*, *The Atlantic*, the *Washington Post*, the *New York Times*, and The Gospel Coalition

Contemporary American evangelicalism is suffering from an identity crisis--and a lot of bad press.

In this book, acclaimed author Karen Swallow Prior examines evangelical history, both good and bad. By analyzing the literature, art, and popular culture that has surrounded evangelicalism, she unpacks some of the movement's most deeply held concepts, ideas, values, and practices to consider what is Christian rather than merely cultural. The result is a clearer path forward for evangelicals amid their current identity crisis--and insight for others who want a deeper understanding of what the term evangelical means today.

Brought to life with color illustrations, images, and paintings, this book explores ideas including conversion, domesticity, empire, sentimentality, and more. In the end, it goes beyond evangelicalism to show us how we might be influenced by images, stories, and metaphors in ways we cannot always see.

SURPRISED BY DOUBT

How Disillusionment Can Invite Us into a Deeper Faith

Joshua D. Chatraw and Jack Carson

Why Doubt Doesn't Have to End in Deconversion

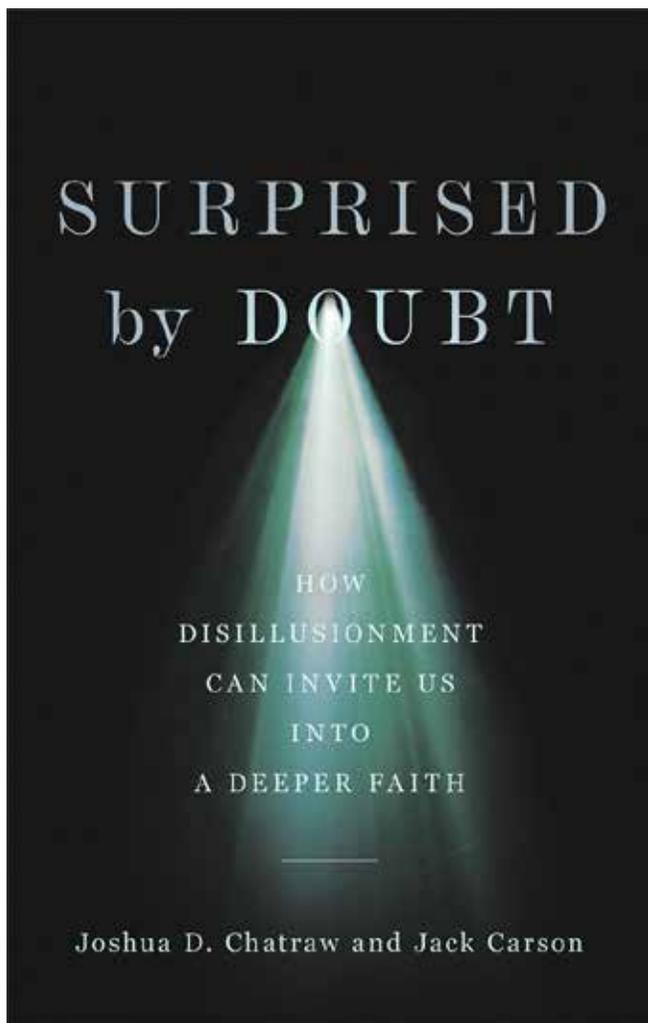
- Chatraw is an award-winning author
- Chatraw is executive director of the Center for Public Christianity
- Carson is executive director for Liberty University's Center for Apologetics and Cultural Engagement

Even those who live by faith sometimes doubt. Those doubts don't have to mean the end of your faith.

In *Surprised by Doubt*, Joshua Chatraw and Jack Carson help readers rediscover a deeper faith in the midst of a confusing world. They invite skeptics and doubters to explore the ancient faith for a new perspective on contemporary Christianity.

Chatraw and Carson build on C. S. Lewis's metaphor that envisions Christianity as a house with many rooms, suggesting that readers move beyond the cramped attic of reactionary versions of the faith to explore the larger, more ancient main floors of the house.

With pastoral care and intellectual rigor, Chatraw and Carson not only help Christians think through the issues confronting them. They also help readers engage their emotional journey of anxiety, fear, anger, and frustration. Readers will discover the wisdom of the past and ways to reimagine a life of faith alongside doubt.



AUGUST 29 • US \$21.99 • CAN \$27.49
9781587435591

RELIGION / Christian Living / Spiritual Growth
RELIGION / Christian Theology / Apologetics

Hardback
8.500 in H | 5.500 in W
176 pages • Carton Quantity: 48

Joshua D. Chatraw (PhD, Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary) is executive director of the Center for Public Christianity, the theologian-in-residence at Holy Trinity Anglican Church, and the lead teacher for New City Fellows in Raleigh, North Carolina. He lives with his wife and two children in Garner, North Carolina.

Jack Carson (PhD candidate, University of Aberdeen) serves as the executive director of the Center for Apologetics and Cultural Engagement and as an instructor at Liberty University. He lives with his wife and son in Lynchburg, Virginia.

AMERICAN IDOLATRY

How Christian Nationalism Betrays the Gospel and Threatens the Church

Andrew L. Whitehead

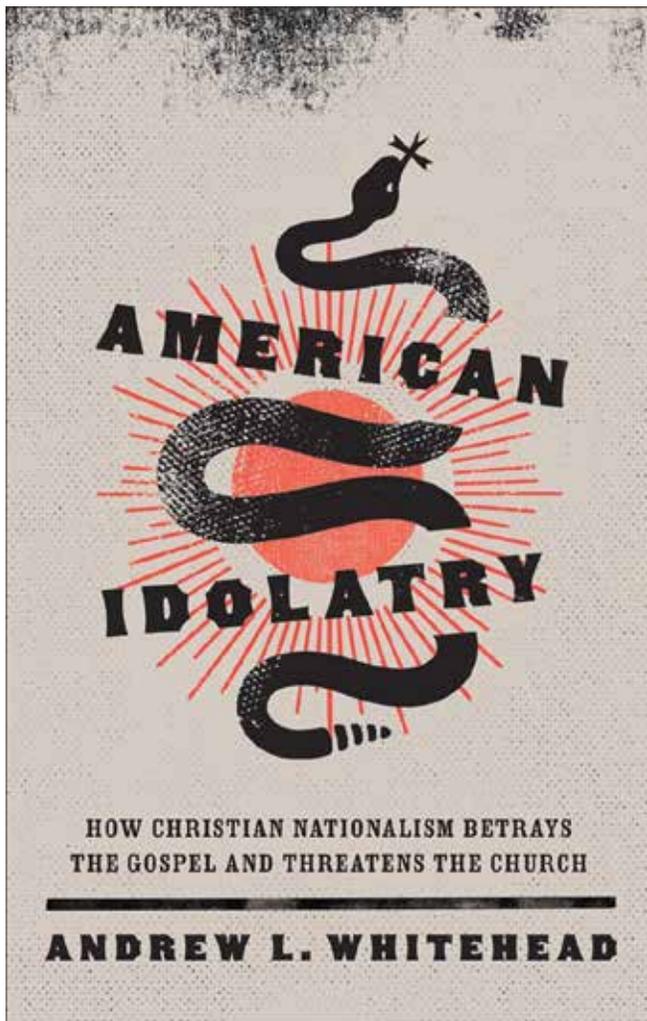
The Theological and Spiritual Costs of Christian Nationalism

- Whitehead is a leading scholar on American Christian nationalism and speaks widely on its effect within Christian communities
- Author is a sociologist who codirects the Association of Religion Data Archives at Indiana University-Purdue University Indianapolis
- Author has written for the *Washington Post*, *NBC News*, *Time*, and Religion News Service

Power. Fear. Violence. These three idols of Christian nationalism are corrupting American Christianity.

American Idolatry reveals how Christian nationalism threatens the spiritual lives of American Christians and the church. Leading scholar Andrew Whitehead shows how the idols of power, fear, and violence can lead Christians to embrace expressions of the faith that harm their neighbors. He explains how these idols violate core Christian beliefs through two key examples: racism and xenophobia. Pointing a way forward, he encourages further conversation about what Christian nationalism threatens, how to face it, and why it is vitally important to do so.

This book helps Christians identify Christian nationalism and build a framework that strives to make sense of the relationship between their faith and the current political and cultural context. Through stories, they will learn about alternate expressions of Christianity that confront Christian nationalism and provide a faithful path forward.



AUGUST 15 • US \$24.99 • CAN \$30.99
9781587435768

RELIGION / Christian Living / Social Issues
RELIGION / Religion, Politics & State
SOCIAL SCIENCE / Sociology of Religion

Hardback
8.500 in H | 5.500 in W
224 pages • Carton Quantity: 36

Andrew L. Whitehead (PhD, Baylor University) is associate professor of sociology at Indiana University-Purdue University Indianapolis, where he codirects the Association of Religion Data Archives in the Center for the Study of Religion and American Culture. He is the coauthor of *Taking America Back for God: Christian Nationalism in the United States*, which won the 2021 Distinguished Book Award from the Society for the Scientific Study of Religion. Whitehead has written for the *Washington Post*, *NBC News*, *Time*, and Religion News Service and speaks frequently about Christian nationalism.