



PRESS KIT

BLACK HISTORY MONTH



RESOURCES THAT HONOR THE HISTORY AND THE FUTURE OF THE BLACK EXPERIENCE.

Throughout its publishing history, InterVarsity Press (IVP) has been intentional about providing books that address issues of justice, race, ethnic identity, and other topics that speak to the culture and the church as a whole.

To commemorate Black History Month in February, the IVP publicity team has highlighted the following recent and forthcoming titles that acknowledge and honor the Black experience. We hope these resources will spark ideas for articles, excerpts, and interviews that commemorate Black history—the people, the contributions, and the ongoing work for healing and understanding.

[Click here](#) to read about IVP's publishing history on race and justice.

SWING LOW, VOLUME 1:

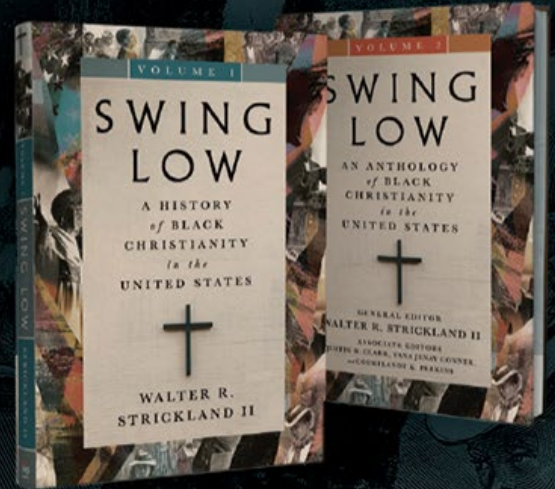
A History of Black Christianity in the United States

[View Book](#)

SWING LOW, VOLUME 2:

An Anthology of Black Christianity in the United States

[View Book](#)



The history of African American Christianity is one of determined faith of a people driven to pursue spiritual and social uplift for themselves and others to God’s glory. Yet stories of faithful Black Christians have often been forgotten or minimized. The dynamic witness of the Black church in the United States is an essential part of Christian history that must be heard and dependably retold.

In this groundbreaking two-volume work, Walter R. Strickland II does just that through a theological-intellectual history highlighting the ways theology has formed and motivated Black Christianity across the centuries.

In [volume 1](#), a narrative history, Strickland tells the story of these themes from the 1600s to the present. He explores the crucial ecclesiastical, social, and theological developments, including the rise of Black evangelicalism as well as broader contributions to politics and culture.

[Volume 2](#), a companion anthology, covers the breadth of these historical developments by presenting primary-source documents so we can listen to Black Christianity in its own words.



Walter R. Strickland II (PhD, University of Aberdeen) is associate professor of systematic and contextual theology at Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary. He has coauthored or contributed to several books, including *For God So Loved the World: A Blueprint for Kingdom Diversity*. He is a host of the *White Horse Inn* podcast and founder of Cultural Engagement and Aptree Learning.

“With its focus on Black Protestants, these books are landmarks for the exploration of the nation’s past and its perennial struggles over race. Most of all they record a story that has been regularly neglected in accounts of American Christianity. It is the often unexpected, sometimes contentious, but enduring impact of the Christian gospel throughout African American history.”

—**Mark Noll**, author of *America’s Book* and *C. S. Lewis in America*



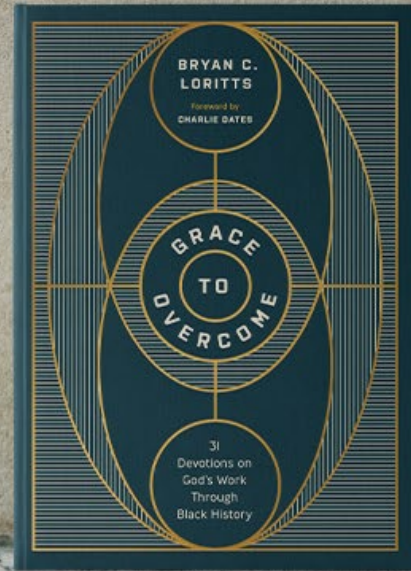
[Request a review copy or interview.](#)



GRACE TO OVERCOME:

*31 Devotions on God's Work
Through Black History*

[View Book](#)



Crafted by Pastor Bryan C. Loritts, an influential voice in multiethnic church movements, *Grace to Overcome* is a powerful collection of 31 devotions that bring to life the stories of both renowned and lesser-known figures who have helped shape society. From the soulful notes of Miles Davis and Billie Holiday to the groundbreaking inventions of Jerry Lawson and Alice H. Parker, each story is an inspiring testament to resilience and faith.

In a world where the importance of learning Black history often faces scrutiny, *Grace to Overcome* stands as a poignant reminder of the enduring power of heritage and the gospel's call to live with grace and purpose.

"The intersection of faith and the unique African American story is perhaps the most timely message for America today. It's not just a story that we read, but a story that reads us. This is the kind of book you will want to offer to your children in years to come."

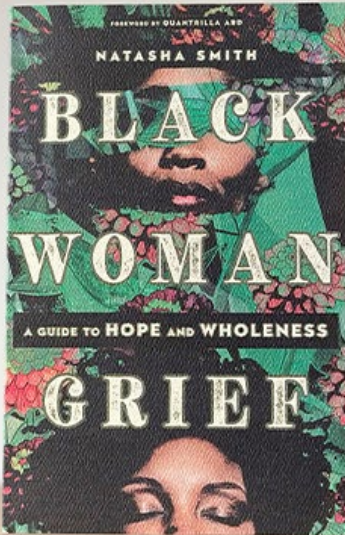
—**Charlie Dates**, senior pastor of Salem Baptist Church of Chicago, from the foreword



Bryan C. Loritts (DMin, Liberty University) is teaching pastor of the Summit Church in Durham, North Carolina. He has dedicated his life and ministry to seeing the multiethnic church become the new normal in our society. He is also vice president for regions for the Send Network, the church-planting arm of the Southern Baptist Convention, where he is responsible for training church planters in multiethnic church planting. He has been a featured speaker at the Global Leadership Summit and Catalyst. His books include [Enduring Friendship](#), [The Dad Difference](#), and [The Offensive Church](#).



[Request a review copy or interview.](#)



BLACK WOMAN GRIEF:

*Artemis of the Ephesians in Antiquity
and the New Testament*

[View Book](#)

Natasha Smith unearths a painful reality that is tangled within our nation's roots and DNA: trauma, loss, and grief are embedded in the lived experience of the Black woman in the United States. Smith talks about grief that is specifically applicable to Black women, providing them with affirmation and a safe place to exhale. Yet, amid a broken world and broken systems that have weighed down Black women for generations, Smith reminds us that there is hope because the kingdom of God is at hand.

Smith writes:

"The ability to endure grief and suffering seemingly on our own is perceived as a gift by others, but it feels like a curse. I heard this illustration of grief: if we get into a bad traffic accident and have to be in a full body cast as a result, others will recognize the physical pain we are in. But when we have no external indicators of the internal suffering, pain, and grief we are carrying, it appears we are fine.

"People see us and wonder, 'I don't know how you're still smiling despite what you've been through.' And we say, 'It's because of God.'"



Natasha Smith is a grief advocate, speaker, and podcast host. She is the author of [Can You Just Sit with Me?: Healthy Grieving for the Losses of Life](#). Her work has appeared in *Guideposts*, *Propel Women*, *Influence magazine*, *BIBLE*, and elsewhere.

"This book is a love letter to Black women who grieve, and a roadmap for those who know and love Black women who grieve."

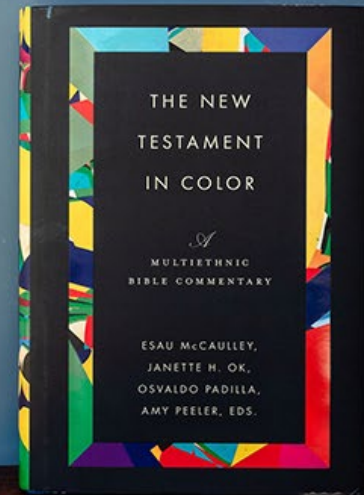
—**QUANTRILLA ARD**, author, speaker, and grief coach at *It's All Grief to Me*, from the foreword

[Request a review copy or interview.](#)

THE NEW TESTAMENT IN COLOR:

A Multiethnic Bible Commentary

[View Book](#)

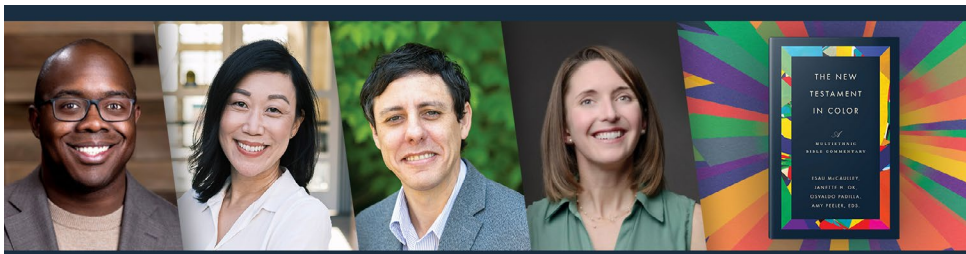


[Read a conversation with the editors of *The New Testament in Color*.](#)

This one-volume commentary on the New Testament is written by a multiethnic team of scholars holding orthodox Christian beliefs. Each scholar brings exegetical expertise coupled with a unique interpretive lens to illuminate the ways social location and biblical interpretation work together. Theologically orthodox and multiethnically contextual, *The New Testament in Color* fills a gap in biblical understanding for both the academy and the church.

*"In my own theological education, I was pressured to suppress my ethnic perspective and experiences, to conform to some sort of disembodied neutrality. Since then I have come to learn that my background, culture, and reading lens can actually enhance my ability to understand Scripture. I am thrilled to recommend *The New Testament in Color* because this 'library-in-a-book' reflects the beautiful mosaic of a many-colored hermeneutic. I wish someone had handed this book to me twenty-five years ago, and I hope many will read it now."*

—NIJAY GUPTA, bestselling author of *Tell Her Story*

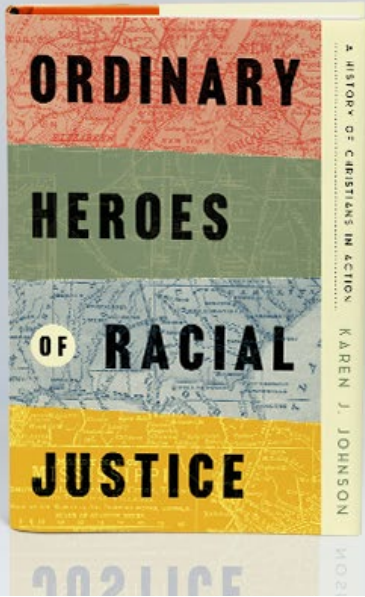


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ORDINARY HEROES OF RACIAL JUSTICE:

A History of Christians in Action

[View Book](#)

Through rigorous historical research and compelling narrative storytelling, Karen Johnson illuminates the past's intersections of Christianity, race, and place, offering profound insights for today's world. *Ordinary Heroes of Racial Justice* explores the important role faith plays in radical justice, including:

- The intertwining of faith and racial justice as a driving force throughout history.
- Examining faith communities who served as catalysts for social change by championing equality and justice.
- Exploring religious teachings that inspired advocates to confront systemic racism and propagate the message of love, acceptance, and unity.
- Studying key figures that used faith as a foundation to fuel their activism for civil rights.

Whether you're a scholar, teacher, activist, or avid reader of U.S. history, *Ordinary Heroes of Racial Justice* will enrich your understanding and inspire action as you uncover the stories of those who dared to be different for the greater good and joined the pursuit of justice.



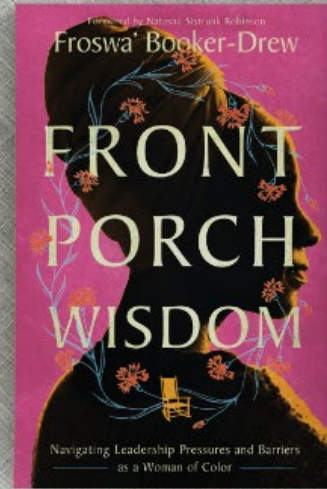
[Karen J. Johnson](#) (PhD, University of Illinois at Chicago) is associate professor and chair of the history department at Wheaton College. Her expertise is in the history of religion and race in America. She is the author of *One in Christ: Chicago Catholics and the Quest for Interracial Justice* and coeditor of *Understanding and Teaching Religion in US History*.

[Request a review copy or interview.](#)

FRONT PORCH WISDOM:

Navigating Leadership Pressures and Barriers as a Woman of Color

[View Book](#)



Celebrating the achievements and struggles of women of color in leadership, Dr. Froswa' Booker-Drew fills a crucial gap in leadership books by focusing on faith and workplace journeys unique to women of color. Each chapter is an invitation to explore tools and insights tailored for nonprofit management, corporate environments, and beyond. With wisdom accumulated from a lifetime of leadership and community engagement, Dr. Booker-Drew offers a safe and reflective space for thinking, learning, and growing as a leader.

“What if you could sit on the front porch with Lady Wisdom herself, laugh and cry and learn facts that will shift your thinking and lift you up out of your chair? That is what this book is. I am honored to be a friend.”

—LAURIE BETH JONES, author of *Jesus, CEO, The Path, and Jesus, Life Coach*



FROSWA' BOOKER-DREW (PhD, Antioch) is the founder of Soulstice Consultancy, providing philanthropic guidance, community engagement strategies, and leadership development for companies and nonprofits. She is the founder of the Reconciliation and Restoration Foundation, a nonprofit designed to amplify, support, and fund the work of Black-led nonprofits. She is also an adjunct faculty member at Tulane University and a research affiliate at Antioch University. Froswa' is the author of four books including *Empowering Charity: A New Narrative of Philanthropy* and is the cofounder of HERitage Giving Circle.



[Request a review copy or interview.](#)