

Q & A



Bread for the Resistance
Forty Devotions for Justice People

September 17, 2019 | \$15, 168 pages, paperback | 978-0-8308-4396-1

“Some people write with beautiful words, and others speak through their character. Donna Barber excels at both. She writes with clarity and an unmatched depth of insight and has the reputation and longevity of someone who has something to teach us all. This devotional was exactly what I needed. Bread for the Resistance will refresh your soul and become the one book this year you give to everyone you know.”

Ken Wytsma, author of *The Myth of Equality*, founder of The Justice Conference

A Devotional for the Days when Your Legs Are Tired from Marching and Your Knees Are Bruised from Kneeling

Donna Barber is cofounder of The Voices Project, an organization that influences culture through training and promoting leaders of color. She is also the director of Champions Academy, an initiative of the Portland Leadership Foundation that provides culturally responsive leadership development for student athletes. She lives in Portland, Oregon, with her husband, Leroy, and their children. In *Bread for the Resistance*, she offers life-giving words of renewal and hope for those engaged in the resistance to injustice.

She writes, “On those days (every day), this book is meant to be more than a devotional. It’s a reminder of the *why* and a suggestion of the *how* for our spiritual disciplines. It’s a tool for creating a quiet space, a connection point between our divine contact and our human context. It’s an expression of gratitude for the good days and a word of encouragement for the bad, a pat on the back and a kick in the butt. At the very least it’s meant to provide the thought, word, and hope that is needed on any given day to keep you on the path, in the game, and going about the work of the high calling of God that is in Christ Jesus.”

What’s been your own personal experience with devotionals throughout your career?

Donna Barber: The thing that has sustained me through the ups and downs, triumphs and tears has been my devotional life, my quiet time with the Lord. In that space, I find courage. I remember what is true. I am convicted of my sin and reminded of his love. I am centered and grounded and built up. I wanted to try to do that for others.

Why do people who do justice-oriented work need a devotional?

Barber: I’ve worked for some time in urban ministry and nonprofits and therefore know firsthand how challenging, discouraging, and draining the work can sometimes be. However, over the years I have found the most joy when I’ve had the opportunity to encourage, coach, and motivate others to continue in the fight because it’s good work. It’s necessary work.

How is a devotional for justice work different than any other devotional?

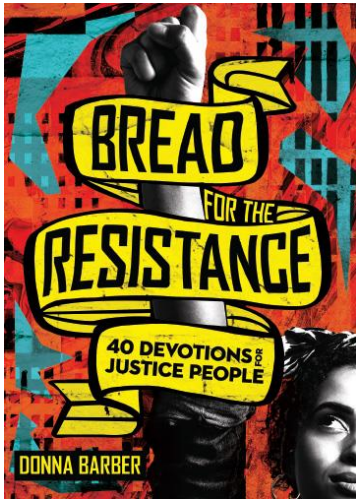
Barber: The distinction is that the challenges described in this devotional are not limited to those we encounter in marriage and motherhood or focused solely on the personal or individual. Instead, they include the stories we share as a



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community and give voice to the pressing issues of our present day society and our responsibility as followers of Jesus and justice people.

Can you speak to why representation in books matters?

Barber: Over the years, I’ve heard many speakers and read many books. However, it has always frustrated me that it was so difficult to find books written by black authors for leaders working in an urban context, confronting urban issues. I was always looking for a voice like mine speaking to a person like me, but time and time again I was disappointed. This was particularly true when I looked for devotional books. I wanted to provide that resource.

What do you hope readers can take away from *Bread for the Resistance*?

Barber: The fight for justice is a righteous and necessary fight, but it is one we cannot do in our own strength. No matter how zealous or committed, the people who work in justice ministries get tired. We also sometimes get off track and lose sight of the goal and wander or deliberately walk away from the narrow path we must walk to get there. We need to be reminded. We need to recommit to it again and again.



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