



BIO

***A Long Obedience in the Same Direction****Discipleship in an Instant Society, Commemorative Edition*

Available April 2, 2019 | \$24, 220 pages, hardcover | 978-0-8308-4661-0

***Run with the Horses****The Quest for Life at Its Best, Commemorative Edition*

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## Pastor, Scholar, Author, Poet

**Eugene H. Peterson** (1932–2018) was a pastor, scholar, author, and poet. He wrote more than thirty books, including his widely acclaimed paraphrase of the Bible *The Message: The Bible in Contemporary Language*, his memoir, *The Pastor*, and the bestselling spiritual formation classic *A Long Obedience in the Same Direction*.

Peterson published several books with IVP including *Run with the Horses*, *Earth & Altar*, and *Traveling Light*. His first book published with IVP in 1980 was *A Long Obedience in the Same Direction*.

“When I wrote *A Long Obedience* twenty years ago, I was a parish pastor writing for my parishioners, the people I knew best in the place I knew best, a few acres of Maryland piedmont on which we were camped for a few years in our wanderings through the North American wilderness,” Peterson wrote in the epilogue to *A Long Obedience in the Same Direction*. “I was doing what pastors do—trying to get this gospel of Jesus Christ into the lives of these men and women with whom I was living, and doing it the only way I knew, through Scripture and prayer, prayer and Scripture. I preached and taught the Scriptures that revealed Jesus. I prayed with and for this mixed bag of saints and sinners that was my congregation, prayed in the name of Jesus.”

He further explains that seventeen publishers initially rejected the book, saying there was no niche for it. IVP’s risk in picking it up gave him confidence to continue in his work and his writing.

“Eugene Peterson’s *A Long Obedience in the Same Direction* vibrantly and powerfully opened up the wonder of the Psalms and its Songs of Ascents to me very early in my journey of faith,” Jeff Crosby, IVP’s publisher, said. “And that book, in turn, prompted me to follow Eugene’s written work over the past three decades, from his essay on the classic literature of Fyodor Dostoyevsky to his spiritual theology from Eerdmans publishing and, of course, his work on *The Message* which I have used devotionally since its publication. His voice was one of great wisdom, his life an example of Christian fidelity, and his witness of obedient discipleship a challenge to us all.”

The affection for Peterson’s writing is global and transcends boundaries.

“In the last few years, Eugene’s writing has kept me sane,” said Bono, lead singer of U2 and cofounder of ONE and (RED). “*Run with the Horses* has been a powerful manual for me. It includes a lot of incendiary ideas. I hadn’t really thought of Jeremiah as a performance artist. Why do we need art? Because if we’re honest the only way that we can approach God is through metaphor, through symbol. Through *Run with the Horses* I learned about the prophet’s work and it really changed me.”

Peterson was founding pastor of Christ Our King Presbyterian Church in Bel Air, Maryland, where he served for twenty-nine years before retiring in 1991. With degrees from Seattle Pacific, New York Theological Seminary, and Johns Hopkins University, he served as professor of spiritual theology at Regent College in Vancouver, British Columbia, until retiring in Lakeside, Montana, in 2006.



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