

# Book reviews

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## Book reviews

[Premium Roast with Ruth](#) by Sandra Glahn (AMG Publishers)

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In *Premium Roast with Ruth*, the newest addition to the Coffee Cup Bible Study Series, award-winning author and seminary professor Sandra Glahn brings the biblical character Ruth to her reader's front doorstep.

Glahn presents a panoramic picture of Ruth's world, the history of Israel and Moab—spiritual climate, Levitical laws, Israelite customs and past relationship between the two nations—while showing how it all correlates with the world of the “21st century woman with cell phones, washing machines and SUVs.”

Other Bible studies cover the book of Ruth, but the rich blend of warm anecdotes, engaging questions, in-depth extra-biblical research, aesthetics and sensitivity to the current reading audience, as well as the audience of biblical times, is where Premium Roast uniquely shines. At the author's website ([www.aspire2.com](http://www.aspire2.com)), we even find recipes that use barley!



What are you reading that other Texas Baptists would find helpful? Send suggestions and reviews to [books@baptiststandard.com](mailto:books@baptiststandard.com).

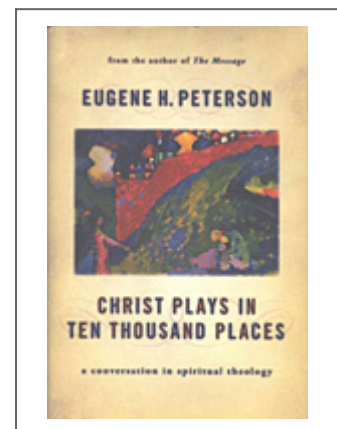
Premium Roast with Ruth will not only plunge you in the Bible, but also move you to explore the way you see yourself and the diverse world around you. If you're looking for a Bible study that teaches you the Scripture and is relevant to the 21st century woman, or if you simply want to know what Oprah Winfrey and Ruth's sister-in-law have in common, *Premium Roast with Ruth* has your answer.

Millicent Martin Poole, director

Christian Women's Job Corp of Grand Prairie

Grand Prairie

**[Christ Plays in Ten Thousand Places: A Conversation in Spiritual Theology](#)** by Eugene H. Peterson (Eerdmans)



Eugene Peterson, the pastor and scholar best known as the translator of *The Message*, takes the reader on an exploration of spiritual theology in

this first book of a five-volume series.

Using Scripture as his unequivocal foundation and imagery from a Gerard Manley Hopkins poem, Peterson challenges Christians to dig below the surface of theology and actually do what good theology is intended for—living.

“Spiritual theology is the attention that we give to the details of living life on this (Jesus-revealed) way,” he says. “It is a protest against theology depersonalized into information about God; it is a protest against theology functionalized into a program of strategic planning for God.”

This “lived theology” is reveling in the fact Jesus Christ is playfully present and dynamically active in creation, history and community.

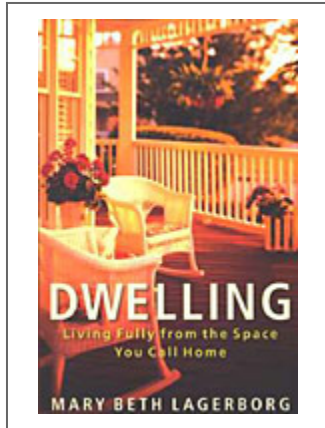
Peterson’s pastoral heart and poetic command of the original biblical languages make for thoughtful reflection and exciting depth of application. May we, as Christ’s disciples, join in living adventurously as we watch him at play!

Greg Bowman, minister to students

First Baptist Church

Duncanville

**[Dwelling: Living Fully From the Space You Call Home](#)** By Mary Beth Lagerbog (Revell)



Turning a house into a home that is both peaceful and functional can be a challenge. Mary Beth Lagerborg, director of media for the Mother's of Preschoolers organization and co-author of the best-selling *Once-a-Month Cooking*, offers the advice for a more inviting home in *Dwelling*.

Through personal stories and interviews, the book allows readers to catch a glimpse into the homes of people from across the nation. The suggestions on cleaning, decorating, cooking and hosting provide ideas for improving their own home life.

*Dwelling* lets readers find a place of community among people from different locales and backgrounds. It offers a reminder that everyone needs a place to call home. And it suggests creative ways the readers can make theirs better—for themselves as well as guests.

*Dwelling* is a good read, whether the home is for one or for many. It offers readers inspiration for creating homes they can enjoy. For a home ready to host a dinner party to a place to seek refuge, this book can help make those dreams a reality.

Rebekah Hardage

Communications intern

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