

Book Reviews

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[The Begotten](#) by **Lisa T. Bergren (Berkley Publishing Group)**

It's a classic clash between good and evil, an epic struggle between earthly power and the ultimate power, God's love.

Set in 1339 Italia, the story really begins some 600 years earlier, when the Gifted were foretold. And although they know their calling is real—their images are clearly illustrated in the old manuscript—they must trust God to guide them on a mission that is illuminated only one step at a time.

Their gifts? None other than the gifts of the Holy Spirit. Their strength? Unity. But as they step into their gifts, the enemy is aroused, and the battle begins.

Off the Bookshelf
What's everyone reading anyway?

What are you reading that other Texas Baptists would find helpful? Send suggestions and reviews to books@baptiststandard.com.

Lisa T. Bergren is a master storyteller. In this, the first of an epic quest trilogy, mysteries begin on page 1 and carry you through to the end.

You'll alternate between cheering and chewing your fingernails. It's definitely a page-turner. But when you get to the last page, you'll be glad to know the story has only just begun.

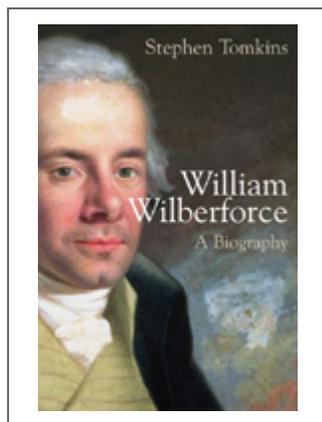
For an inspirational yet entertaining read, don't miss *The Begotten*.

Kathryn Aragon

First Baptist Church

Duncanville

[William Wilberforce: A Biography](#) by Stephen Tomkins (Wm. B. Eerdmans Publishing)



Stephen Tomkins paints an engaging portrait of William Wilberforce, who led a 20-year battle in Parliament that resulted in abolition of the British slave trade 200 years ago. Tomkins makes it clear Wilberforce's strong evangelical faith fueled his passion to put an end not only to the slave trade, but also to the institution of slavery itself in the British Empire.

At the same time, Tomkins forthrightly acknowledges seeming contradictions in Wilberforce's record. The ardent champion of abolition and advocate of human rights favored wartime imprisonment without trial,

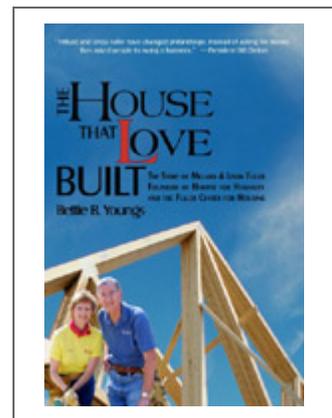
supported restrictions on freedom of speech and called for outlawing trade unions. But Tomkins places that apparent inconsistency in historic context—not offering excuses, but providing helpful explanation.

In addition to offering a well-rounded look at Wilberforce, Tomkins also takes an unblinking look at the slave trade. He includes firsthand testimony detailing the brutality of the Middle Passage and the dehumanizing view of people as property. In a world where up to 27 million people continue to be victimized by forced labor, human trafficking and debt bondage, the message bears repeating.

Ken Camp, managing editor

Baptist Standard, Dallas

[The House That Love Built: The Story of Linda & Millard Fuller, Founders of Habitat for Humanity and the Fuller Center for Housing](#)
by Bettie B. Youngs (Hampton Roads Publishing)



It is too rare a thing to read about a couple who literally gave away millions of dollars and walked away from a lucrative business to commit their lives to following Christ.

The story of Millard and Linda Fuller, founders of Habitat for Humanity, is such a story. This book is a story of sin, repentance, forgiveness, grace, obedience, perseverance, vision, hard work, faith and changing the world.

The Fullers are not perfect people, but they have lived lives that exemplify loving God and others. Their journey has not been without great challenges. Perhaps the best lessons learned from this couple are found in the times when they faced their own brokenness and painful disagreements about the future of the organization they founded.

If you want a refreshing book on true servant leadership, this book is for you. The Fullers are modern-day examples of laying down their lives for others, and we would do well to emulate them.

Carolyn Porterfield

Former executive director-treasurer

Woman's Missionary Union of Texas, Dallas

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