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## Book Marks

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# BOOK MARKS

Featuring summaries of books written by Furman faculty and alumni.

## FROM ALUMNI

Lucy Bowers Maddox '64, *Citizen Indians: Native American Intellectuals, Race, and Reform* (Cornell University Press, 2005). The publisher states that "by the 1890s, white Americans were avid consumers of American Indian culture. At shows, pageants, expositions and fairs, American Indians were most often cast as victims, noble remnants of a vanishing race, or docile candidates for complete assimilation. However, some prominent Indian intellectuals of the era were able to adapt and reshape the forms of public performance as a means of entering the national conversation and as a core strategy in pan-tribal reform efforts." The book "explores the work of American Indian intellectuals and reformers in the context of the Society of American Indians, which brought together educated, professional Indians in a period when the 'Indian question' loomed large. By adapting the forms of discourse and performance already familiar to white audiences, Maddox argues, the reformers could more effectively pursue self-representation and political autonomy." The author is a professor of English at Georgetown University.

James L. Crenshaw '56, *Defending God: Biblical Responses to the Problem of Evil* (Oxford University Press, 2005). The publisher asks, "When mortals suspect their gods of wrongdoing, do they have the right to put them on trial? What lies behind the human endeavor to impose moral standards of behavior on the gods? Is this an act of arrogance or a means of keeping theological discourse

honest?" The author seeks answers to these and other questions in his "wide-ranging study of ancient theodicies." Crenshaw, Robert L. Flowers Professor of Old Testament at Duke University, has long been interested in theodicy — the effort to justify the ways of the gods (or God) and to reconcile the existence of a benevolent God with that of evil. His study, the publisher says, "sheds new light on the history of the human struggle with this intractable problem." Crenshaw, who received an honorary degree from Furman in 1993, has been named Joseph McCarthy Visiting Professor of Old Testament at Rome's Pontifical Biblical Institute for 2006-07.

Jonathan Rogers '86, *The Secret of the Swamp King* (Broadman & Holman, 2005). This is the second in the author's "Wilderking Trilogy" fantasy series, following *The Bark of the Bog Owl*, and continues the story of young Aidan Errolson, hero of *Bog Owl*. Aidan now lives in the court of King Darrow. But the king's insecurities cause him to hate Aidan, who saved the kingdom in the first book. The pontiff sends Aidan on a mission to the Feechiefen Swamp, from which no one has ever returned; *Secret* follows the young man's journey. The *School Library Journal* calls the author's writing "terrifically appealing" and adds, "The adventure and the humor are first rate." Rogers lives in Nashville, Tenn. To learn more, visit [www.wilderking.com](http://www.wilderking.com).

Linda Heatwole Jacobs '74, *Summer of Fire* (Medallion Press, 2005). Set against the backdrop of the 1988 fires in Yellowstone National Park,

this novel describes the work done by those assigned to fight the blaze. The author says she was inspired by Ross Simpson's account of the event, *The Fires of '88*. Jacobs also has a second novel, under the name Christine Carroll, coming this fall from Medallion. Titled *Children of Dynasty*, it is about rival families in real estate in San Francisco. A former field geologist, Jacobs lives in New Mexico and owns a consulting company with her husband, Richard. To learn more, visit [www.readlindajacobs.com](http://www.readlindajacobs.com).

Mary Bailey Whittle '84, *Soaring in Life* (PublishAmerica, 2004). Subtitled *A Way of Living That Nourishes and Restores Your Soul*, this book shows readers "how to align themselves to the sacred that is within and around them" — and thus find the radiance of their souls and a deep, lasting peace. "Living in this way," the author says, "life will never look the same again." She lives in Maryland and teaches classes based on the book. Visit her Web site, [www.SoaringInLife.com](http://www.SoaringInLife.com).

Margie Willis Clary '53, *Spirits & Legends* (Written in Stone, 2004). This collection of stories and tales from the South Carolina Sea Islands marks the author's fourth children's book. Her others are *A Sweet, Sweet Basket*, *Searching the Lights* and *Make It Three* (the story of the H.L. Hunley submarine). Her fifth book, about the Palmetto State's remaining lighthouses, is to be released this fall. A retired teacher, she lives in Charleston, S.C.

## FROM FACULTY

Shelly Matthews and E. Leigh Gibson, *Violence in the New Testament: Jesus Followers and Other Jews Under Empire* (T. and T. Clark, 2005). Matthews, associate professor of religion at Furman, and her colleague, an independent

scholar, edited this collection of essays examining the theme of violence in the earliest documents of the Christian faith. While scholars have usually placed the origins of "Judeo-Christian" violence squarely within Judaism, the authors argue that Christianity has not been above the fray. According to its introduction, the book "interrogates the assumption that the New Testament is a book solely of love, mercy and peace, lying outside the web of religion and violence." Aside from editing the book, Matthews also wrote a chapter titled "The Need for the Stoning of Stephen." She spent 2004-05 as a Postdoctoral Research Leave Fellow at the Institute for Ecumenical and Cultural Research in Collegeville, Minn., where she worked on a book about violence in the book of Acts.

Paul Rasmussen, *Personality-Guided Cognitive-Behavioral Therapy* (American Psychological Association, 2005). Rasmussen, associate professor of psychology, examines a variety of personality types and provides strategies for therapists to follow when treating patients. In the book, which is part of the APA's Personality-Guided Therapy Series, he describes how a patient's clinical condition is seen as stemming not only from distorted thinking or behavioral excesses, but also from personality attributes and situational demands. He also describes a variety of personality prototypes, including Paranoid, Antisocial, Narcissistic, Avoidant, Dependent and Compulsive. A clinical strategies and contributing review editor for *The Journal of Individual Psychology*, Rasmussen maintains a private practice in Greenville for families and individuals.