

IMPRINTS

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Imprint— “to impress or to stamp”

Part of the reason many of us value being ordained in the UMC is the connection we have with colleagues. One cannot help but marvel at all the different gifts and graces God has given to the clergy in the Central Texas Conference. And scripture tells us that God uses the whole of the body of disciples to make to further the message of Christ in this world.

Out of this desire to strengthen the connection and to celebrate different given gifts and graces, **Imprints** was born.

Imprints is a curated collection of the published works of the clergy in the Central Texas Conference. Authors are invited to contribute responses to set questions. Those responses are edited and formatted to create **Imprints**.

It is the big dream of **Imprints** that others might see and understand the “imprint” the Central

Texas Conference clergy are making in the Christian discussion.

It has been said the only way to change culture is to make different culture. May this publication help be an agent of culture change in our conference.

Thank you for writing, reading and sharing.

Grace and Peace to you.

Rev. Jason Valendy

Want to contribute to Imprints? Email requests to JasonValendy@gmail.com or fill out the form directly at: <http://bit.ly/1D5frud>

**The content of this publication is the responsibility of the editor and contributing members and it does not speak for or on behalf of the Central Texas Conference.*

CTC Blogroll

CTC clergy write or contribute to



David Alexander

pastordavidalexander.com (Author)

Seedbed.com (Contributor)

Steven Bell

happytents.org (Author)

Tim Buster

UMC.org article (Featured)

Ethan Gregory

umclead.com (Contributor)

Sarah Miller

thevicarofhogsmeade.wordpress.com (Author)

revgalblogpals.org (Contributor)

Steve Heyduck

noncon.wordpress.com (Author)

Jarrod Johnston

liturgynerd.com (Author)

Brad Slaten

UMC.org article (Featured)

Jason Valendy

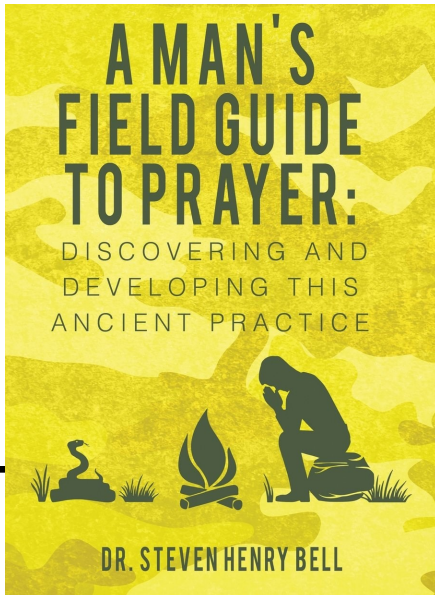
Jasonvalendy.net (Author)



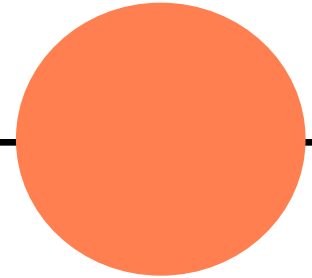
Rev. Dr. Steven Henry Bell

stevenhenrybell@me.com

Steven is a native of Northwest Louisiana, being raised in the small town of Coushatta. He loves to be outdoors, running, cycling, mountain biking, hiking, camping, kayaking, and fishing. By far, Steven's favorite activity is to hang out with his three girls, his dog Kate, and spend time with friends. He is an ordained elder in the United Methodist Church, and earned his doctorate in Church Leadership from Perkins School of Theology/SMU in Dallas, Texas. He also enjoys writing, and published his first book in 2013, "With No Strings Attached: 28 Days of Blessing Your Wife." Steven's second book, "A Man's Field Guide to Prayer: Discovering and Developing This Ancient Practice", was published in 2015. Steven and his family currently make their home in Corsicana, Texas, where he serves as the Senior Pastor of First United Methodist Church of Corsicana.



A Man's Field Guide to Prayer: Discovering and Developing This Ancient Practice



Details

Print Length: 184 pages

Publisher: CreateSpace Independent Publishing Platform (April 10, 2015)

How to use this book: Personal and group study/spiritual formation

Availability: [amazon.com/author/stevenhenrybell](https://www.amazon.com/author/stevenhenrybell)

Why did you write this?

“Prayer is something I not only want to know more about – I want to do it more. This book is a primer on prayer (specifically for a male audience, but anyone would benefit from spending some time with it), what it is, and how to do it. “

What do you hope people gain

“Prayer is one of those basic, yet majorly complicated, aspects of the Christian life. It brings peace, yet we struggle on how to do it. We know the words we use

in prayer don't really matter (since God knows everything we're going to say or ask anyways), but because we're talking to the Creator of the universe we ought to put a little thought into what we say. We try to pray with all our might, and how quickly we get distracted from that time of prayer by our worries, our fears, our stomach growling, or the squirrel outside our window. Simply put, incorporating prayer into our busy lives is hard. We need a guide – a field guide. A field guide helps people to identify the mysterious and unknown. Field guides exist for the military, Scouting, hunting, fishing, birding, and for outdoor enthusiasts of every sort. This is a field guide about prayer, for men who want to learn more about this ancient Christian practice, what it is, and how to do it.“

Where can people read more

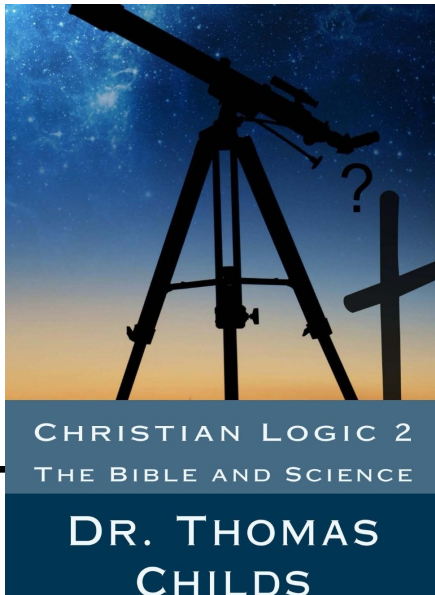
[www..HappyTents.org](http://www.HappyTents.org)



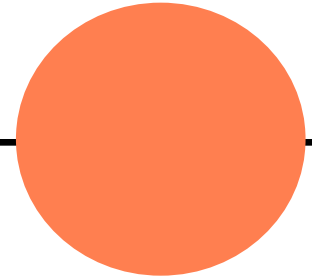
Rev. Dr. Thomas Childs

pastor@lifepointumc.com

Dr. Thomas Childs grew up in Fairhope, Alabama. He earned a Bachelors of Music degree in Jazz Studies from Loyola University- New Orleans, a Master of Divinity Degree from Southwestern Seminary, studied at the Goethe Institute in Manheim Germany, a Master of Theological Studies from SMU, and his DMin from St Paul's. Thomas has toured with the Christian band TRUTH, as well as playing in the New Orleans Symphony, the New Orleans Saints Jazz Band, the Desire Brothers band, the Harmon Lights jazz band, and others. Thomas is married to Dr. Gladys Childs and they have one child, Scott.



Christian Logic 2: The Bible and Science



Details

Print Length, 91 pages

Publisher, CreateSpace (December 12, 2014)

How to use this book: Preaching Series; Sunday School Topical Study

Availability: [Amazon](#)

Content

“Christian Logic 2 delves into some of our most relevant questions about the Bible and science. What about dinosaurs? What about the Big Bang? How do you reconcile Adam and Eve and Evolution? And more. This book offers teaching that is relevant and insightful, avoiding empty platitudes that often accompany critical questions about faith and God. It is designed for thinking people who embrace questions raised by science, logic, and critical reflection, yet who also seek answers about God. Without adequate answers, these ideas can seem incompatible. When substantive answers are discovered, you find not only

truth that changes how you look at life today, you also find these ideas provide a lifetime of meaning and significance. May this book help you on your journey of finding answers that lead to personal transformation.”

Why did you write this

“Address basic (and perpetual) questions people ask about science and the Bible in one concise, easy to read resource.”

What do you hope people gain

“Very little controversy exists between the Bible and science once you are exposed to logical, common sense options.”

Where can people read more

LifePointUMC.com



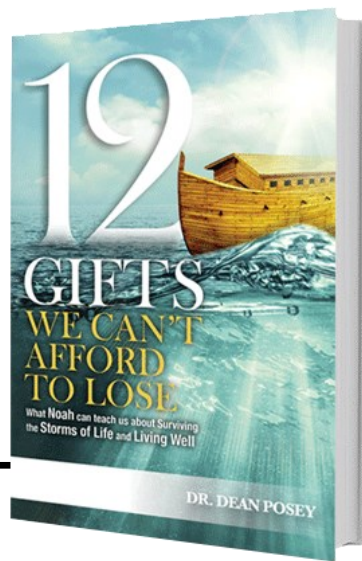
Rev. Dr. Dean Posey

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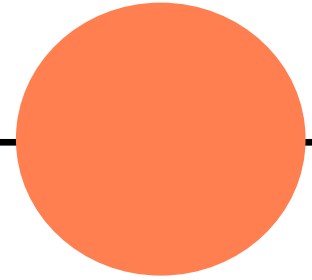
Dr. Dean Posey grew up in Albuquerque, New Mexico. While attending Baylor University, he felt God's call on his life to be a United Methodist pastor. After Baylor, he attended Candler School of Theology in Atlanta, Georgia and earned his M. Div. and D. Min. While at Candler, he married Diana whom he had met on his first day at Baylor. Diana is a home health physical therapist. Dean and Diana have two grown children and a daughter-in-love.

Dean was ordained in 1978 and since then he has served several churches in the Central Texas Conference. Currently he is the senior pastor of Trinity UMC in Arlington.

Dean is the author of *12 Gifts We Can't Afford To Lose: What Noah can teach us about surviving the storms of life and living well.*



12 Gifts We Can't Afford To Lose : What Noah can teach us about surviving the storms of life and living well



Details

Print Length: 192 pages

Publisher: HigherLife Publishing (February 16, 2015)

How to use this book: Individual or small group study

Availability: <http://www.12gifts.com/>, Amazon

Why did you write this?

“Many years ago I was asked to preach a revival. After several days of fasting and praying, I felt God wanted me to preach on Noah and the ark. Although I initially didn't understand what Noah had to do with a revival, I started reading the story of Noah and the ark over and over again. As I read and prayed, I found lessons in that story that I never knew existed. I discovered that the story of Noah is one of the greatest miracle stories in the Bible and it is primarily a story of redemption, not a story of destruction. I also learned that it is a story that can teach us many practical lessons for our lives. After the revival, I continued to study the story of Noah. I eventually wrote this

book to share what I learned and to help people realize how the Bible can be applied to their lives today.”

What do you hope people gain

“Much of life today is an attempt to find a quick fix by searching for something we think we do not possess. We believe that if we can just discover the right answer or formula, then our lives will be better. I encourage you to realize that much of what we need has already been offered to us by God. We like to receive gifts—especially when they are from someone who knows us and who really cares about us. What if God, not some mystical being behind the veil of the universe, but a loving, faithful and personal God wanted to give us not just one, but twelve gifts? That would be pretty incredible. The truth is, God has already offered us these gifts and they can help us live more fulfilling and significant lives. The question is: ARE WE WILLING TO RECEIVE THESE GIFTS?”

Where can people read more

www.trinityarl.org



Rev. Jason Valendy

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Andy Crouch argues in his book “Culture Making” that you cannot change the culture only that we can create new culture and give people the opportunity to live into the new/different culture. I know it is not possible to change the culture of the UMC or even of the conference that I am appointed to serve in. I can only, with the help of God, help create new culture and choose to live into that new/different culture. What is the culture many of us hope for?

A culture that is not built on competition but on collaboration. A culture that is more willing to say yes before we say no. A culture where imagination, courage and trust are the bedrock values. A culture where we are quick to share in the successes of others and avoid the “schadenfreude” that is present in the YouTube world we live in. A culture that understands that ideas all originate with God and we do not own them. A culture where generosity is the currency we trade in. A culture that is “more heart and less attack.” This may be your hope as well. If so thank you for helping to actualize this culture. I don’t know of all the ways this culture is being created or cultivated, and I pray God will perfect the imperfections in our efforts.

I hope that you will continue your efforts to strengthen the connection, advocate for our colleagues, do the work God is calling us to and trust that together with the Holy Spirit we are making imprints in God’s world.

SAVE THE DATE!
JULY 28—29, 2015
SERMONCRAFT 3.0



SermonCraft is a time for storytellers, preachers and teachers to gather and pitch, share and co-create ideas for stories. 2015 will mark the third year of SermonCraft and we are looking to expand and host additional SermonCrafts throughout the year. If you are interested email:

Jasonvalendy@gmail.com or Steve@fumceulless.org to RSVP.