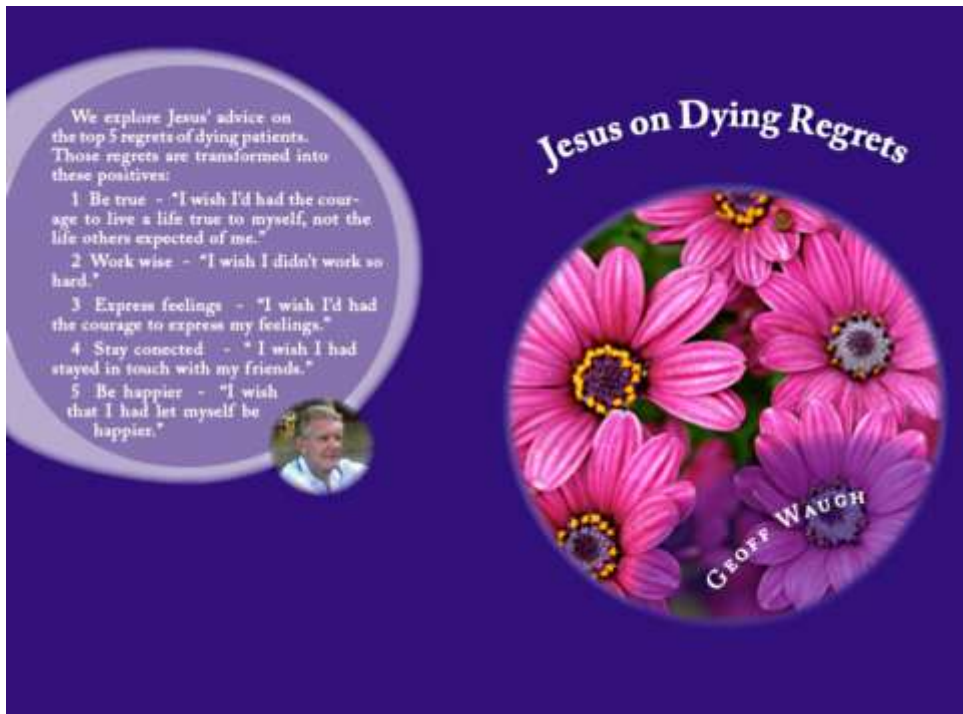


Jesus on Dying Regrets

Advice about the Top 5 Regrets of the Dying



Geoff Waugh

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Logo: lamp & scroll,
basin & towel,
in the light of the cross

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Jesus on Dying Regrets

Advice about the Top 5 Regrets of the Dying



When we reach the end of our lives, do we have any regrets?

What stopped us from doing what we should, or what we were called to do?

A palliative care nurse, working for years with the dying, shared the top five regrets she heard from patients as they pass on.

Faithhub.net was the source for these summary statements and images.

Introduction

Australian Bronnie Ware, formerly a palliative care nurse, wrote Blogs on her website, 'Inspiration and Chai'. One Blog was about the regrets of dying people she had nursed. Her article 'The Top Five Regrets of the Dying' found wings.

I saw her list of the top five regrets of her patients in a Blog on Facebook, so checked out the links. That summary Blog grabbed my attention. It reminded me of the priorities Jesus emphasized. Those top 5 regrets seemed directly related to what is really important in life and also to the way Jesus told us to live. If we followed Jesus' advice we would not have those regrets.

When I read about these regrets of the dying my thoughts jumped immediately to what I had learned from my parents and friends about Jesus.

Our family lifestyle of helping people was grounded in what Jesus said and did. Nevertheless, I suspect we all water down Jesus' advice and instructions because what he said is so radical and challenging.

This small book explores some of that advice, adapted from the top five regrets of dying patients. I have summarized and changed those regrets into these positives:

1 Be true

"I wish I'd had the courage to live a life true to myself, not the life others expected of me."

2 Work wise

"I wish I didn't work so hard."

3 Express feelings

"I wish I'd had the courage to express my feelings."

4 Stay connected

"I wish I had stayed in touch with my friends."

5 Be happier

“I wish that I had let myself be happier.”

Jesus declared emphatically, “I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly” (John 10:10). Abundant life is available to us all, in him.

The following pages explore that promise of abundant life. Each section begins with an image from Faithhub and a brief quote from Bronnie Ware.

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1. Be true

**“I wish I’d had the courage to live a life true to myself,
not the life others expected of me.”**



Do not conform to
the pattern of this
world, but be
transformed by
the renewing of
your mind.

Romans 12:2

“This was the most common regret of all. When people realize that their life is almost over and look back clearly on it, it is easy to see how many dreams have gone unfulfilled. Most people had not honoured even a half of their dreams and had to die knowing that it was due to choices they had made, or not made.”

Remember Shakespeare?

“This above all: to thine own self be true,
And it must follow, as the night the day,
Thou canst not then be false to any man.”

This advice from a father to his son departing for Paris on worldly adventures in ‘Hamlet’ is well known. Often quoted, it resonates within us.

Jesus’ advice goes further. He reminds us that the only way to be true to ourselves is to die to self.

At first that seems both a paradox and impossible. Of course, much of what Jesus advised or instructed is impossible for us without God’s help and intervention.

I love the way C S Lewis explains these mysteries using the examples of light and salt:

“Out of our selves, into Christ, we must go. His will is to become ours and we are to think His thoughts, to ‘have the mind of Christ’ as the Bible says. And if Christ is one, and if He is thus to be ‘in’ us all, shall we not be exactly the same? It certainly sounds like it; but in fact it is not so.

“It is difficult here to get a good illustration; because, of course, no other two things are related to each other just as the Creator is related to one of His creatures. But I will try two very imperfect illustrations which may give a hint of the truth. Imagine a lot of people who have always lived in the dark. You come and try to describe to them what light is like. You might tell them that if they come into the light that same light would fall on them all and they would all reflect it and thus become what we call visible. Is it not quite possible that they would imagine that, since they were all receiving the same light, and all reacting to it in the same way (i.e. all reflecting it), they would all look alike? Whereas you and I know that the light will in fact bring out, or show up, how different they are. Or again, suppose a person who knew nothing about salt. You give him a pinch to taste and he experiences a particular strong, sharp taste. You then tell him that in your country people use salt in all their cookery. Might he not reply ‘In that case I suppose all your dishes taste exactly the same: because the taste of that stuff you have just given me is so strong that it will kill the taste of everything else.’ But you and I know that the real effect of salt is exactly the opposite. So far from killing the taste of the egg and the tripe and

the cabbage, it actually brings it out. They do not show their real taste till you have added the salt" (*Mere Christianity*. 1952).

Jesus used light and salt as illustrations, just as C S Lewis does here.

"I am the light of the world," Jesus said. "Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life." And he added, "You are the light of the world. A town built on a hill cannot be hidden. Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead they put it on its stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven" (John 8:12; Matthew 5:14-16).

Jesus gave a similar illustration with salt. "You are the salt of the earth. But if the salt loses its saltiness, how can it be made salty again? It is no longer good for anything, except to be thrown out and trampled underfoot" (Matthew 5:13).

We are truly ourselves, and true to ourselves, when we most reflect the light and flavour of God in our lives. The more we drift from that into darkness, the less we are truly ourselves and the less we are true to ourselves.

Unfortunately the world often influences us so much that we conform to its mould instead of living as the new creations in Christ Jesus that we really are. "So if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new!" (2 Corinthians 5:17).

Jesus our risen Lord frees us from bondage and by his Spirit brings us into true freedom. We are being transformed. "Now the Lord is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom. And all of us, with unveiled faces, seeing the glory of the Lord as though reflected in a mirror, are being transformed into the same image from one degree of glory to another; for this comes from the Lord, the Spirit" (2 Corinthians 3:17-18).

The Apostle Paul makes this point, linking our freedom to our surrender. "I appeal to you therefore, brothers and sisters, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship. Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your minds, so that you may discern what is the will of God—what is good and acceptable and perfect" (Romans 12:1-2).

Paul also explained it this way. "I have been crucified with Christ; and it is no longer I who live, but it is Christ who lives in me. And the life I now live in the

flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me (Galatians 2:19-20).

God's love, shown most clearly in Jesus' life and death, not only captivates us but also frees us. Perfect love gives perfect freedom.

We see that clearly at a human level. Those who love you truly, free you. They accept and love you as you are, not as they think you ought to be. That love frees you to be yourself, to grow, and to change.

'Smother love' is different. True love frees us, it does not smother us. Those who love us most free us to be ourselves. God's great love, as well as true human love (which of course reflects God's love), set us free to be true – free to reflect the life of Jesus in our lives.

Jesus gives real life: "I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly" (John 10:10). Jesus challenges us to lose our lives to find life. "Then he said to them all, 'If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross daily and follow me. For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake will save it'" (Luke 9:23-24).

So that's the paradox and 'impossible' lifestyle Jesus gives. He changes us by giving us his life. We become new creatures, new people. We reflect his life and love, even though imperfectly. We are being transformed.

So we can be true – true to ourselves and true to our Lord.

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2. Work wise

“I wish I didn’t work so hard.”



“This came from every male patient that I nursed. They missed their children’s youth and their partner’s companionship. Women also spoke of this regret. But as most were from an older generation, many of the female patients had not been breadwinners. All of the men I nursed deeply regretted spending so much of their lives on the treadmill of a work existence.”

Jesus on Dying Regrets

Most of us work for most of our 'working lives'. However, within that working life we have myriads of choices including how long and hard we work.

A dying patient regretted he that had not retired 15 years earlier so that he could have spent that time with his wife doing things together that they both enjoyed.

Jesus worked as a carpenter. That included building in stone and making repairs as well as felling needed timber. Jesus always lived for God even from an early age as when at 12 he surprised his parents by staying in the temple while his relatives headed home.

Then at about 30 he changed work. Filled with the Spirit at his baptism he began to teach about God's kingdom and to demonstrate it. He called others to change jobs and be with him, learning apprenticeship style with no pay. They obeyed in faith as millions of other people have done also.

We have no single pattern of work to follow. There is infinite variety.

Jesus challenged a godly, wealthy young man to give his wealth to the poor and follow him. Zacchaeus, also wealthy, gave to the poor and offered to right wrongs. Lazarus, Mary and Martha's large home at Bethany hosted Jesus and his friends often. Joseph of Aramathea, also wealthy, provided a tomb for Jesus.

The key issue was not the money but its use. Jesus challenges us to use what we have to bless and serve others.

When we consider work options in the light of Jesus' teaching and example, we realise we have many options.

Work is our servant, not our master. We choose how and where and when we work. And in doing so we choose how we relate to others including our family. Many options are available to us now including working from home more often and using our laptops or other media flexibly. Our work may be full time, part time, casual, and in sharing jobs.

I began school teaching at 19 and thoroughly enjoyed it. Perhaps my class of 48 boys was more compliant sixty years ago than now! I soon learned simple tricks such as spot tests which the students marked themselves - and they learned on the spot from their mistakes. We sang together, shared jokes together and I loved telling great stories and introducing students to good literature, including Scripture.

Advice about the Top 5 Regrets of the Dying

Later I taught in schools and Bible Schools in the highlands of Papua New Guinea, sometimes the only white person in the village. Those too were creative times of learning together, often while just sitting in clusters, village style, in the shade of the bamboo or under a cool grass roof. Communal cultures like that emphasize the importance of relating together and caring for one another. We often lose that in our busy, individualistic life style in Western cultures.

Later, when I taught at colleges in Brisbane I was able to shape what and how I taught so that the classroom in the colleges also became times of learning together in ministry. Here is one example.

A student we prayed for one morning in class went to her doctor that afternoon for a final check before having a growth removed from her womb. That afternoon her doctor could find no trace of the growth after checking with three ultrasound machines, so he cancelled the scheduled operation.

“My class at college prayed for me,” she explained to her doctor. “I believe God healed me, and that’s why you can’t find the growth any more.”

“I don’t know if God healed you,” he responded. “But I do know that you don’t need an operation.”

Our class studied Christian ministry in the power of the Spirit. We usually began each class with prayer, and that day our prayer included praying for specific needs such as that woman’s health. One of those praying in class was a medical doctor who prayed with strong faith, knowing that God heals through prayer as well as through medicine. What rich resources we have for helping one another, right there in the group.

Later I realised I could teach part time and have more time to spend with family and in mission travels, usually in teams. These trips provided opportunity to serve and help others. Our children and grandchildren have done this also.

Those are just a few examples of exploring options in work and life.

Jesus said: “Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust consume and where thieves break in and steal; but store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust consumes and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also” (Matthew 6:19-20), and added, “What does it profit them if they gain the whole world, but lose or forfeit themselves?” (Luke 9:25).

Jesus was even more radical in talking about living in God's kingdom: "Therefore do not worry, saying, "What will we eat?" or "What will we drink?" or "What will we wear?" For it is the Gentiles who strive for all these things; and indeed your heavenly Father knows that you need all these things. But strive first for the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well. So do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will bring worries of its own. Today's trouble is enough for today' (Matthew 6:31-34).

Jesus reminds us that the purpose and value of life is not in the abundance of things we possess. Sometimes those things can possess us – we work long and hard just for more things.

Jesus' radical lifestyle of trusting and obeying God and serving others challenges us all. It can free us.

That may not mean we jump from secular to sacred vocations, but that we see all vocation as sacred. Jesus was obedient all his life, even while living most of his life as a carpenter. He would be the kind of carpenter you'd love to have helping you. We can be like him.

Robert G LeTourneau, an inspiring Christian inventor, businessman and entrepreneur and a sixth grade dropout, became the leading earth moving machinery manufacturer of his day with plants on four continents, more than 300 patents to his name and major contributions to road construction and heavy equipment. His contribution to the advancement of the Gospel ranks him among the greatest Christian businessmen of all time. Famous for living on 10% of his income and giving 90% to the spread of the Gospel, LeTourneau exemplified what a Christian businessman should be. Our work is our servant, not our master.

We can work wise. Wise work is also Kingdom work – living more fully in God's kingdom here and now, in every vocation, or none.

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3. Express feelings

“I wish I’d had the courage to express my feelings.”



“Many people suppressed their feelings in order to keep peace with others. As a result, they settled for a mediocre existence and never became who they were truly capable of becoming. Many developed illnesses relating to the bitterness and resentment they carried as a result.”

Dying patients appreciated hearing the truth, not sugar-coated day-dreams. Reflecting on their past relationships many of them admitted that they had been too scared to let their true feelings be known.

Jesus, of course, is the truth and calls us to transparent openness in the context of love and forgiveness. Relationships and bodies are often healed that way. Where there is love, acceptance and encouragement, we are freed to express ourselves more openly and honestly.

God's kingdom is one of truth, honesty and love.

Unfortunately we often live or work in situations where there is tension and conflict, even severe conflict. So we shut down. We protect ourselves from emotional wounding by building barriers, often unconsciously.

Jesus calls us to another way, a way of love, service and care. Jesus himself is the way, the truth and the life (John 14:6). He gives life in its fullness and freedom.

The first time I discovered spiritual healing (that I remember) happened after I had talked with a friend about the areas in our lives we were most ashamed of admitting. You need a context of love and trust to do that. I felt unusual 'power' as my friend placed a hand on my head and prayed for me. Something pure and strong like gentle electricity touched me. Later I realized I was now free of a fungal disease I had caught in the tropics. Previously creams or tablets would keep it in check. After that confession and prayer it has never returned. We did not ask or pray for healing. I did not know that I had been healed. We just discovered the truth of promises like James 5:16 – "Therefore confess your faults to one another, and pray for one another, so that you may be healed. The prayer of the righteous is powerful and effective."

Catholics are familiar with this in the confessional and reconciliation. We all can benefit from the honesty of confession and reconciliation. Feelings of shame and embarrassment often prevent us from discovering the freedom and liberty that openness and honesty can give us.

Confessing to a priest helps many people. After all, a priest, or minister, has heard it all before – many times. It's harder to confess to a friend and a friend may not have the same experience and confidentiality that a priest or pastor has. However we do it, there is healing and freedom in that kind of openness and honesty.

Advice about the Top 5 Regrets of the Dying

We all need to be forgiven and to forgive. Jesus insisted on it. “For if you forgive other people when they sin against you, your heavenly Father will also forgive you. But if you do not forgive others their sins, your Father will not forgive your sins” (Matthew 6:14-15).

The more we know God – not just know about him – the more we discover the freedom his love and forgiveness give us. Calvary cost him everything, and it was for us. We are reconciled to him through his self-giving love: God loved the world so much he gave his one and only Son.

Jesus, the source of life and freedom, gave himself for us and gives himself to us. He gives us his life as we give ourselves to him. So his divine life lives and grows in us.

C S Lewis put it this way: “Next to the Blessed Sacrament itself, your neighbour is the holiest object presented to your senses. If he is your Christian neighbour, he is holy in almost the same way, for in him also Christ *vere latitat*—the glorifier and the glorified, Glory Himself, is truly hidden” (*The Weight of Glory*).

Christ’s life and Spirit in us enable us to forgive, express our true feelings, and live in greater freedom. Then we are not bound to, or by, our failures, weaknesses or sin. God’s acceptance and forgiveness, along with other people forgiving and accepting us, free us.

Others may not respond to you like that, but you can respond like that. Jesus requires it, and enables it in us.

Jesus calls us to live openly in the light, not in shadows: “I am the light of the world,” Jesus said. “Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life.”

Jesus championed openness and honesty: “Let your ‘Yes’ be ‘Yes,’ and your ‘No,’ ‘No.’ For whatever is more than these is from the evil one” (Matthew 5:37). He calls us to loving relationships: “I say to you, Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, so that you may be children of your Father in heaven; for he makes his sun rise on the evil and on the good, and sends rain on the righteous and on the unrighteous” (Matthew 5:44-45).

God’s love and acceptance are total. None are excluded. So we all can respond to his universal love and forgiveness.

That is not cheap grace. It is, in fact, the most expensive grace in the universe and in all history. It cost God the life of his Son. It meant that Jesus endured the

most excruciating, horrendous and shameful public torture to death ever known.

Jesus Christ, crucified, risen and glorified, is our good news. Through his death he conquered death. Now he offers us life – abundant life.

Eternal life does not start in heaven. It starts here and now. “Now this is eternal life: that they know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom you have sent.” And “God has given us eternal life, and this life is in his Son. Whoever has the Son has life; whoever does not have the Son of God does not have life” (John 17:3; 1 John 5:11-12).

That abundant life sets us free to express our feelings – not only feelings of joy and wonder but also of guilt and shame. We don’t have to carry the burden of our failures or sin. We are forgiven and can forgive others: “Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you” (Ephesians 4:32).

We are set free to express our feelings freely in the context of the kingdom of God – a kingdom of love and forgiveness, now and forever.

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4. Stay connected

“I wish I had stayed in touch with my friends.”



“Often they would not truly realise the full benefits of old friends until their dying weeks and it was not always possible to track them down. Many had become so caught up in their own lives that they had let golden friendships slip by over the years. Everyone misses their friends when they are dying.”

It all comes down to love and relationships in the end.

Jesus emphasized loving relationships: “I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another” (John 13:35).

Retirement homes have a lot of lonely people. Many have lost touch with friends, or their friends have died. Those people, and others, often really appreciate a visit or old friends just dropping in.

We have many ways we can make friends and keep friends. One reason Facebook and other social media are so popular now is because they provide an easy way to be in touch with friends.

Emails, even group emails, help us to stay in touch as well. We can inform one another of recent developments or new ventures.

Texting has become another means of staying in touch without running up huge phone bills. A phone call, however, is often an easy and significant way to stay in touch.

Mostly we share information and update one another these ways. But these media also offer huge scope for sharing God’s love and good news.

Have you prayed with a friend on the phone? It’s easy to do, but often we forget. I remember the first of many times I did that. I began with my eyes closed to concentrate, but as we both prayed I opened my eyes to enjoy the view of the sunny day outside my office. Now, of course, with our smart phones we are often outside while we talk.

I like sharing good news on Facebook and in Blogs. Others appreciate that and often share it with friends, just as I have shared news and inspiring items from other people. It can also generate significant help for people in need in crisis times such as from cyclones or earthquakes.

All over the world this radical kind of service, love and acceptance changes lives as we get in touch and keep in touch. Friendship in God’s kingdom extends beyond our personal friends to others as well.

Around 200,000 refugees fled Northern Iraq due to atrocities. The Samaritan Purse volunteers who distribute aid reported that many of these fugitives turned to Christianity after seeing Christians being true to the teachings of Jesus in Matthew 7:16-20 that they will know us by our fruit: “By their fruit you

will recognize them. Do people pick grapes from thornbushes, or figs from thistles? Likewise, every good tree bears good fruit, but a bad tree bears bad fruit. A good tree cannot bear bad fruit, and a bad tree cannot bear good fruit. Every tree that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire. Thus, by their fruit you will recognize them.”

“Christians now face new confrontations and struggles on many fronts,” the aid workers report. “However, the birth of our faith was borne out of struggle and increasingly brutal confrontation. It’s not the absence of tribulation but the way the Spirit enables us to face those challenges that proves the Word. Even as we are called bigots and worse, we are provided new opportunities to share the Truth with the world and those around us. When we live out God’s Word in acts of kindness and generosity, it will provide a stark contrast ...” In that way, “God is able to do exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that works in us” (Ephesians 3:20).

Jesus gave practical examples of helping one another, even our enemies: “You have heard that it was said, ‘An eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth.’ But I say to you, Do not resist an evildoer. But if anyone strikes you on the right cheek, turn the other also; and if anyone wants to sue you and take your coat, give your cloak as well; and if anyone forces you to go one mile, go also the second mile. Give to everyone who begs from you, and do not refuse anyone who wants to borrow from you.

“You have heard that it was said, ‘Love your neighbour and hate your enemy.’ But I tell you, love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, that you may be children of your Father in heaven. He causes his sun to rise on the evil and the good, and sends rain on the righteous and the unrighteous. (Matthew 5:38-45).

There are, of course, innumerable ways we can help, serve and love one another.

The Churches in one community in Australia decided that they wanted to honour the residents of a large Retirement Village in their community which houses some 650 residents, most of whom were grandparents who were being honoured that year by the church. The Management of this Village had been hostile towards the church, denying any access for the holding of worship services for the residents. When the churches asked for permission to hold a "thanksgiving morning tea" for the residents, after some initial hesitation that it may be an underhand way of getting in to hold a service, management opened the door and welcomed and facilitated the visit by the churches. So the

churches planned a concert including items by pupils from a local school, a formal Thank You Ceremony with short speeches from the Council and Combined Churches representatives, and a prayer of blessing followed by a morning tea.

The Australian Prayer Network reports that more and more churches are undertaking acts of kindness to the needy in their community. The more creative of them are forming teams which will not only do odd jobs required around the house but will also sit down and talk with the residents as a means of forming lasting relationships with them. In larger communities prayer teams are being formed to pray for needs phoned in from the field as the practical and visitation teams do their rounds throughout the day.

We have so many ways we can love and serve one another and stay connected.

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5. Be happier

“I wish that I had let myself be happier.”



“This is a surprisingly common one. Many did not realize until the end that happiness is a choice. They had stayed stuck in old patterns and habits. The so-called ‘comfort’ of familiarity overflowed into their emotions, as well as their physical lives. Fear of change had them pretending to others, and to themselves, that they were content.”

How wonderful it is to be able to let go and smile again, long before you are dying.

Many dying patients regretted the years they had been so serious about the demands of life while deep within they longed to laugh properly and have happiness in their life again.

Laughter is the best medicine, the *Readers Digest* reminded us. Their humour and jokes sold millions of copies. We love to laugh.

Reflecting on happy times with our grandchildren I wrote: Preschoolers often entertained us with creative comments like these gems.

“Somebody is there. Who body is there?”

Sneezing, then adding, “Bless me.”

Playing with someone else’s toy, declaring, “I’m just sharing.”

Playing in a park, “This is sharp grass” (with prickles).

Touching the vibrating washing machine, observing, “My hand is dizzy.”

Exploring items in the bathroom drawer: “You have this and that, and everything in the whole wide world.”

Two year old creating lilted songs about life’s adventures and achievements while travelling in the car:

“Wee, wee, wee, wee; Wee, wee, wee, wee;

On the toilet; Wee, wee, wee, wee.”

Child, “I want a drink.” Adult, “Please?” Child, “Yes, I want a please drink.”

Then, 6 months or so later:

Child, “May I have a drink?” Adult, “Please?” Child, “Yes you may too.”

Four year old learning to read columns of double digit numbers, 50-0:

“Fivety, forty, threety, twoty, onety, noughty.”

The happiest people on earth, interestingly, are not those with the most possessions or wealth. Happy people know the joy of loving relationships, support and encouragement, especially Christians.

John and Elizabeth wrote a book in 1975 titled ***The Happiest People on Earth*** about the extraordinary life of the Armenian dairyman, Demos Shakarian. His family escaped the 1915 genocide of Armenians because his grandfather responded to a prophecy about the approaching horror. Although initially poor refugees in America, the family constantly sought God’s blessing on their life and labour. Their dairy herd became the largest in California, in not in America,

during World War II. Demos founded the Full Gospel Business Men's Fellowship International which reached more than a billion people a year with the life-changing message of God's love. Demos loved to serve and to help others express their faith more effectively.

That book is not only about Demos and the Armenians from the oldest Christian nation and the one that suffered most for its faith. It also tells of others who caught the Spirit-filled faith and joy the Armenians had found. Out of suffering came insight. It's an insight bigger than any race or nation.

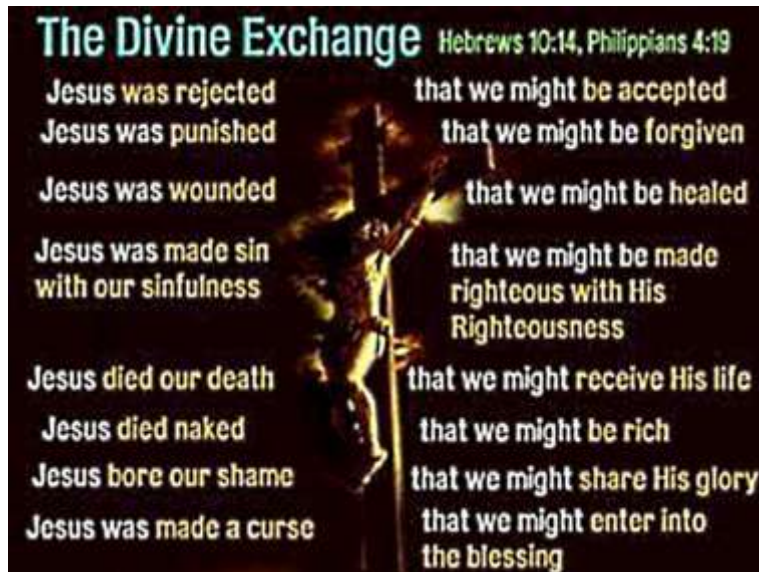
Knowing Jesus and being filled with God's Spirit is a secret every one of us needs to know, for when we do, as Demos days, "no matter what the condition of the world around us, we will be the happiest people on earth."

Jesus reminded us that he gives lasting joy, an everlasting joy found in loving and serving. Jesus' friends, his disciples, argued about greatness on the night before Jesus was crucified. "A dispute also arose among them as to which one of them was to be regarded as the greatest. But he said to them, ... 'I am among you as one who serves'" (Luke 22:24, 27).

After washing his friends' feet that night Jesus said: "I have set you an example, that you also should do as I have done to you. Very truly, I tell you, servants are not greater than their master, nor are messengers greater than the one who sent them. If you know these things, you are blessed if you do them" (John 13:15-17).

Peter objected! Greatness in washing dusty feet? The Lord and Master as the lowly servant? Peter still had a lot to learn about the kingdom of God. Later on he wrote about the 'joy unspeakable' or the inexpressible joy we have through believing, loving and serving Jesus. "Although you have not seen him, you love him; and even though you do not see him now, you believe in him and rejoice with an indescribable and glorious joy, for you are receiving the outcome of your faith, the salvation of your souls" (1 Peter 1:8-9)

Our lasting joy is found in Jesus, crucified for us, risen triumphant over death, and reigning in Glory. Trusting in him we too have life everlasting. That is something to celebrate, to enjoy and to share such good news with others.



For by one sacrifice he has made perfect forever those who are being made holy (Hebrews 10:14).

And my God will meet all your needs according to the riches of his glory in Christ Jesus (Philippians 4:19).

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Conclusion

Our dying days can remind us of the most important things in life. But we don't have to wait till then. We can make adjustments to live more fully and more meaningfully.

This small book offers some guidelines and suggestions to help us do these things, to be true, work wise, express feelings, stay connected and be happier.

Best of all we can know, love and live for Jesus our Lord and Saviour.

I love the way John, possibly the youngest disciple and the one Jesus loved in a unique way, concludes his good news about Jesus. His conclusion applies here also:

Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not written in this book. But these are written so that you may come to believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that through believing you may have life in his name.

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Appendix: Resources

Renewal Journal Publications

See

www.renewaljournal.com

for Blogs on each book

PDF Boks, eBooks, and Paperbacks

Available on
Amazon and Kindle
Most Paperbacks in both
Basic Edition and
Gift Edition (colour)

[Renewal Journal Publications](#)

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[PDF Books, eBooks, and Paperbacks](#)
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[Gift Edition \(colour\)](#)

Revival Books

[Flashpoints of Revival](#)

[Revival Fires](#)

[South Pacific Revivals](#)

[Pentecost on Pentecost & the South Pacific](#)

[Great Revival Stories](#), comprising:
[Best Revival Stories](#) and
[Transforming Revivals](#)

[Renewal and Revival](#), comprising:
[Renewal: I make all things new](#), and

[Revival: I will pour out my Spirit](#)

[Anointed for Revival](#)

[Church on Fire](#)

Renewal Books

[Body Ministry](#), comprising:

[The Body of Christ, Part 1: Body Ministry](#), and

[The Body of Christ, Part 2: Ministry Education, with Learning Together in Ministry](#)

[Great Commission Mission](#) comprising:

[Teaching Them to Obey in Love](#), and

[Jesus the Model for Short Term Supernatural Mission](#)

[Living in the Spirit](#)

[Your Spiritual Gifts](#)

[Fruit & Gifts of the Spirit](#)

[Keeping Faith Alive Today](#)

[The Leader's Goldmine](#)

[Word and Spirit](#) by Alison Sherrington

Study Guides

[Signs and Wonders: Study Guide](#)

[The Holy Spirit in Ministry](#)

[Revival History](#)

[Holy Spirit Movements through History](#)

[Renewal Theology 1](#)

[Renewal Theology 2](#)

[Ministry Practicum](#)

Devotional Books

[Inspiration](#)

[Jesus on Dying Regrets](#)

[The Christmas Message – The Queen](#)

[Holy Week, Christian Passover & Resurrection](#) comprising:

[Holy Week](#), and

[Christian Passover Service](#), and

[Risen: 12 Resurrection Appearances](#)

[Risen: Short Version](#)

[Risen: Long version & our month in Israel](#)

[Mysterious Month – expanded version](#) [Risen: Long version](#)

[Kingdom Life series](#)

[Kingdom Life: The Gospels](#) – comprising:

[Kingdom Life in Matthew](#)

[Kingdom Life in Mark](#)

[Kingdom Life in Luke](#)

[Kingdom Life in John](#)

[A Preface to the Acts of the Apostles](#)

The Lion of Judah series

The Titles of Jesus

The Reign of Jesus

The Life of Jesus

The Death of Jesus

The Resurrection of Jesus

The Spirit of Jesus

The Lion of Judah – all in one volume

Discovering Aslan - comprising:

Discovering Aslan in The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe

Discovering Aslan in Prince Caspian

Discovering Aslan in the Voyage of the 'Dawn Treader'

Discovering Aslan in the Silver Chair

Discovering Aslan in the Horse and his Boy

Discovering Aslan in the Magician's Nephew

Discovering Aslan in the Last Battle

General Books

[*You Can Publish for Free*](#)

[*My First Stories* by Ethan Waugh](#)

[*An Incredible Journey by Faith* by Elisha Chowtapalli](#)

Biographical:

[*By All Means* by Elaine Olley](#)

[*Exploring Israel* – Geoff's family's trip](#)

[*Light on the Mountains* – Geoff in PNG](#)

[*Looking to Jesus: Journey into Renewal & Revival* - Geoff's autobiography](#)

[*King of the Granny Flat* by Dante Waugh](#)

[*Journey into Mission* – Geoff's mission trips](#)

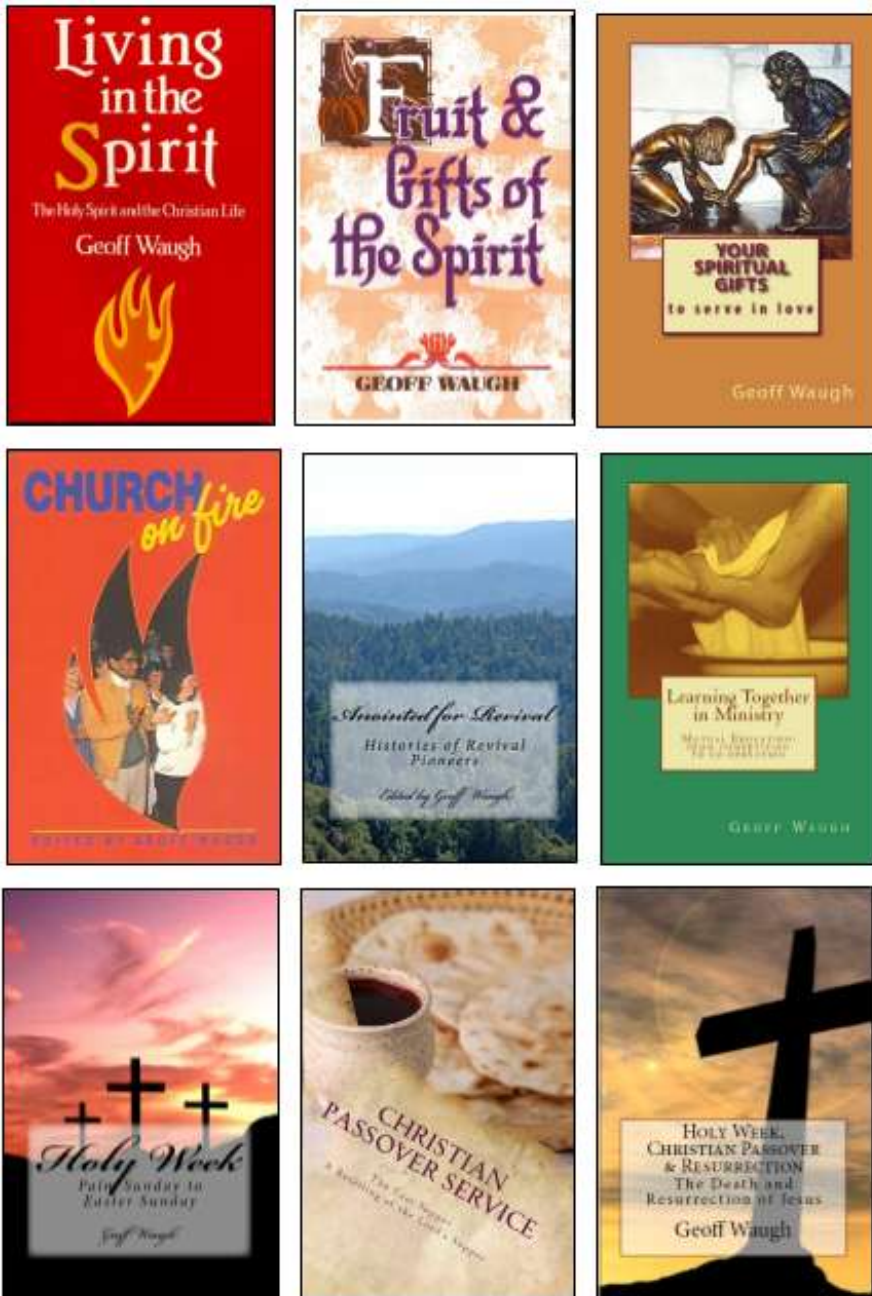
[*Journey into Ministry and Mission* - autobiography](#)

[*Travelling with Geoff* by Don Hill](#)



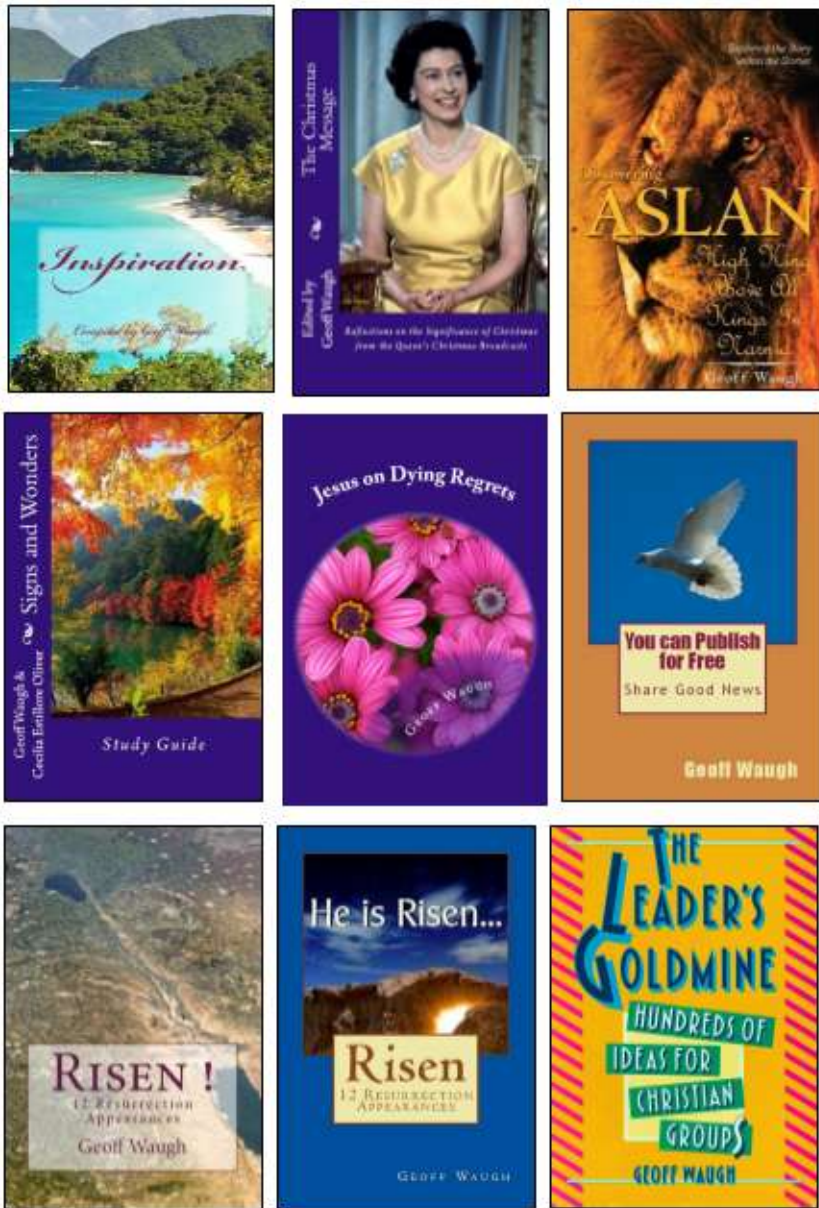
[Renewal Journal Publications](#)

Advice about the Top 5 Regrets of the Dying



[Renewal Journal Publications](#)

Jesus on Dying Regrets



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Advice about the Top 5 Regrets of the Dying



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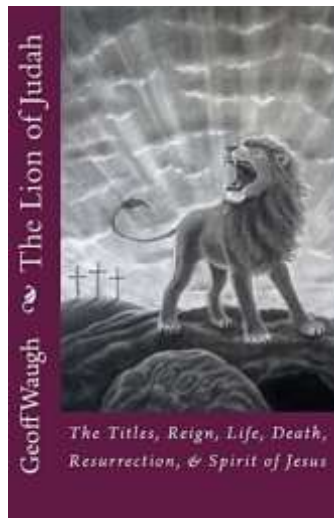
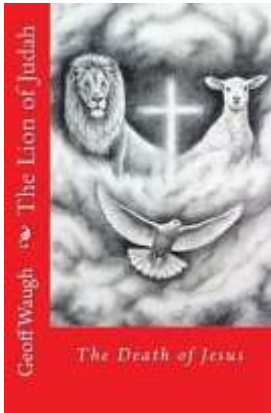
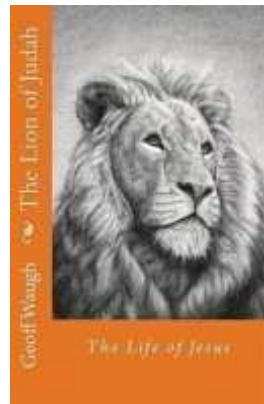
[Renewal Journal Publications](#)

Advice about the Top 5 Regrets of the Dying



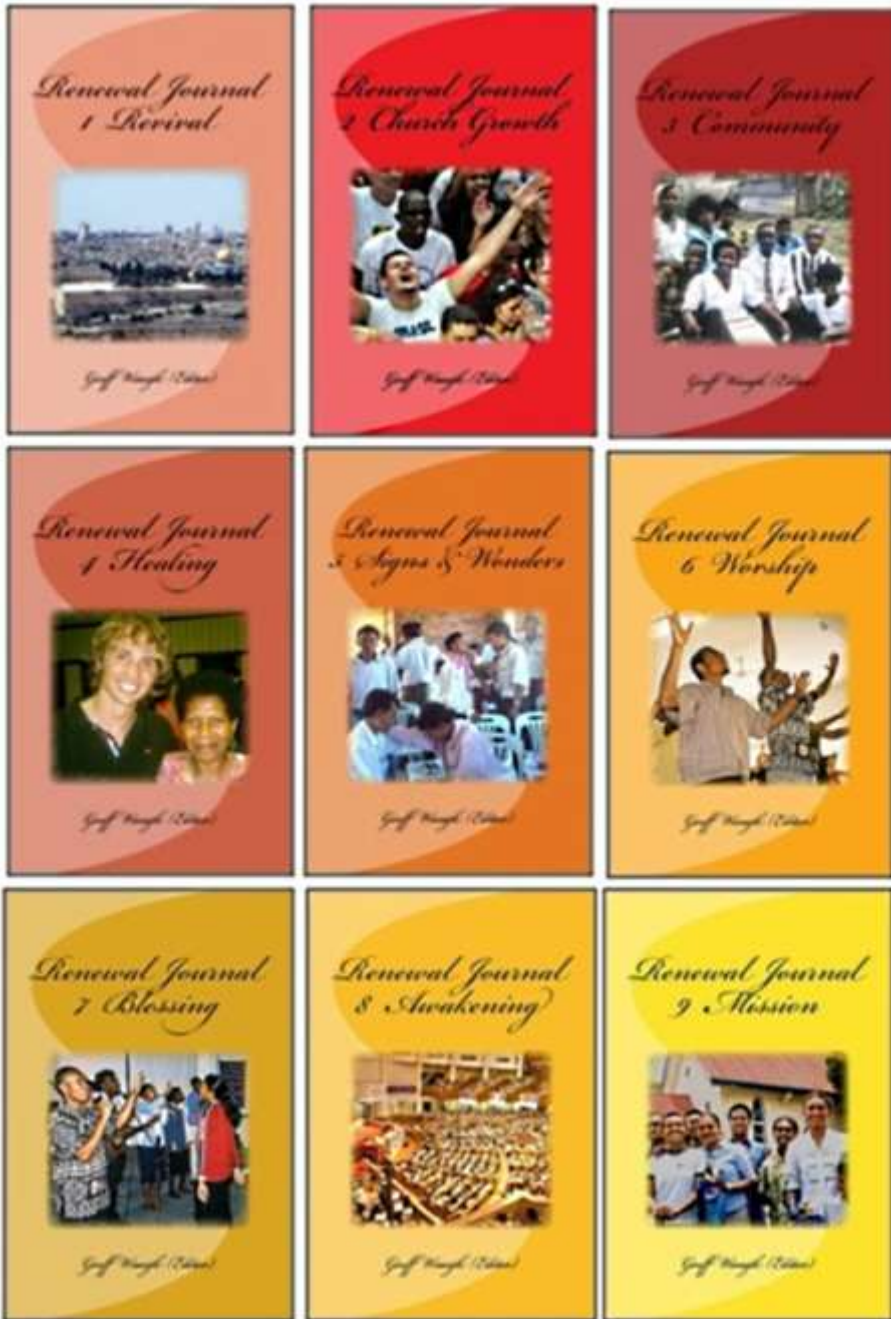
[Study Guides](#)

Jesus on Dying Regrets

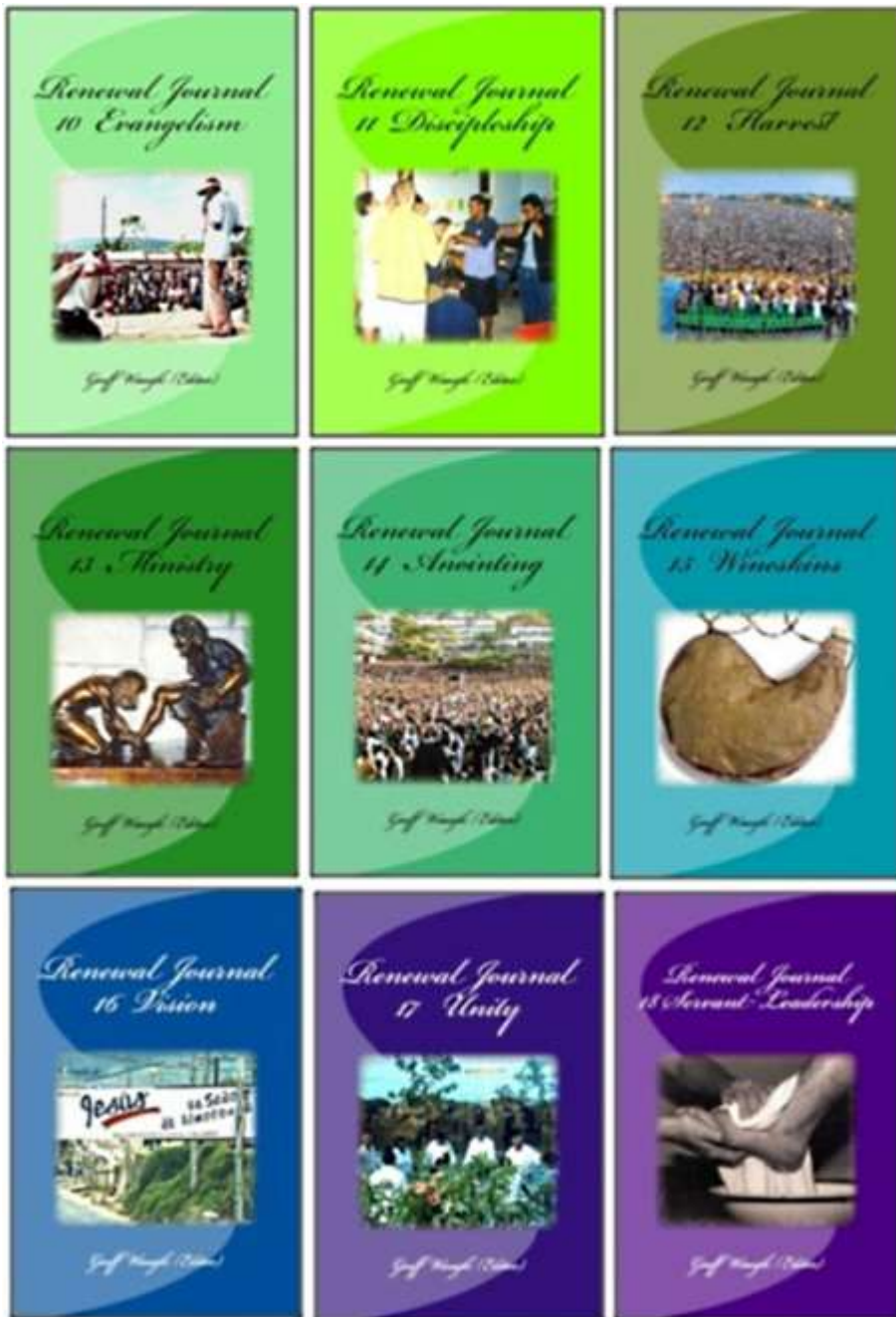


The Lion of Judah Series

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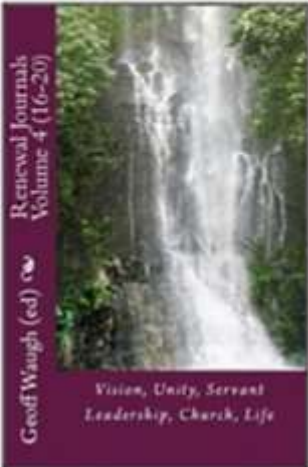
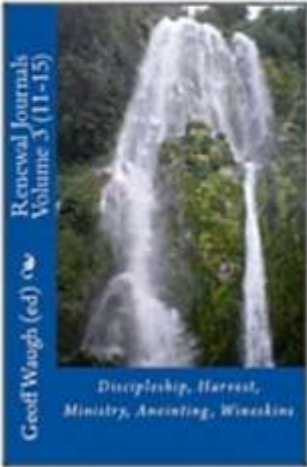
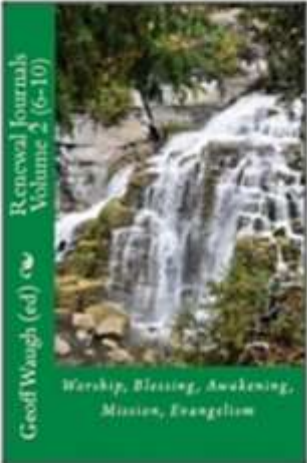
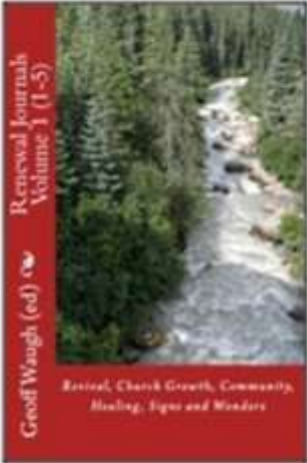
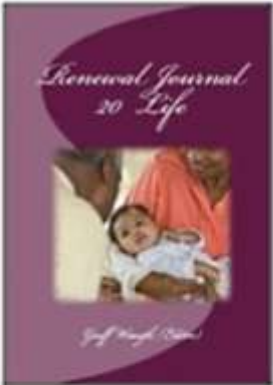
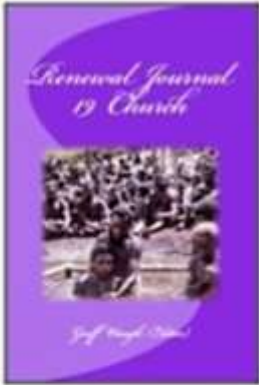


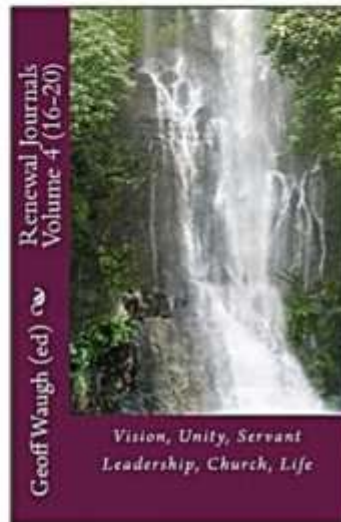
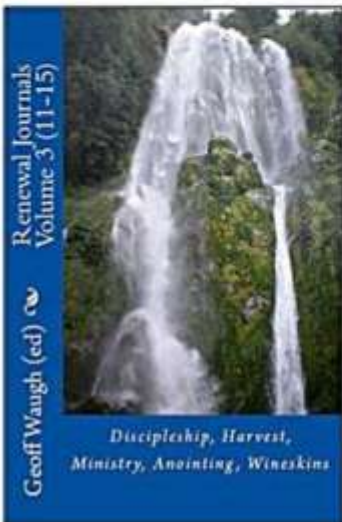
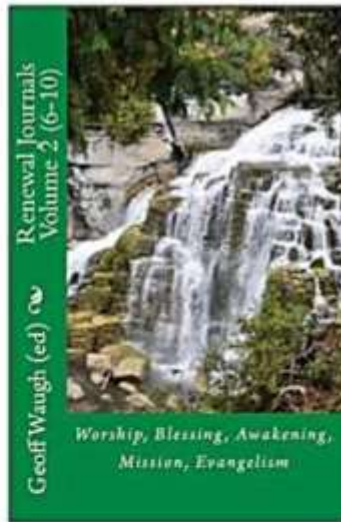
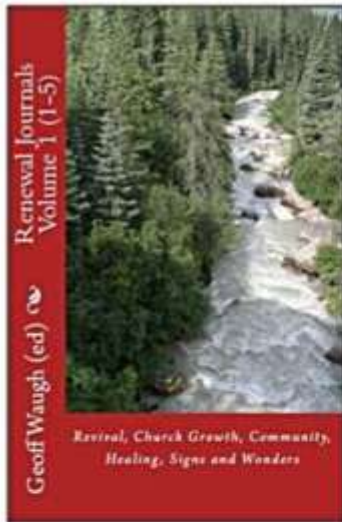
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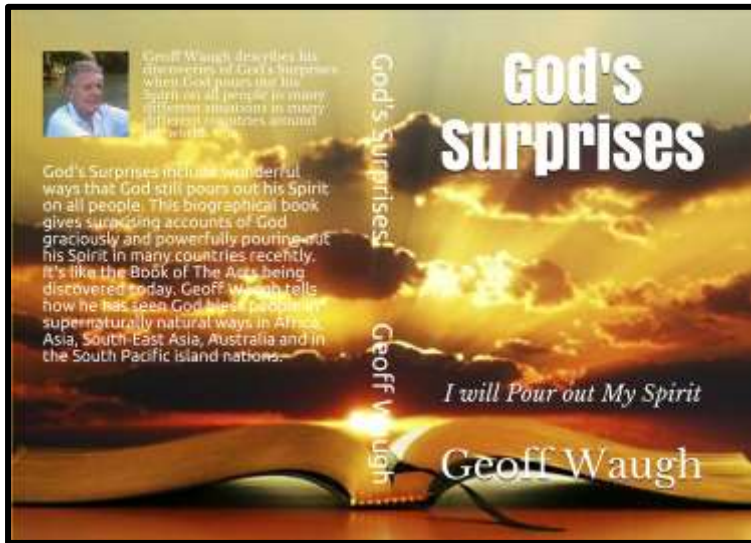




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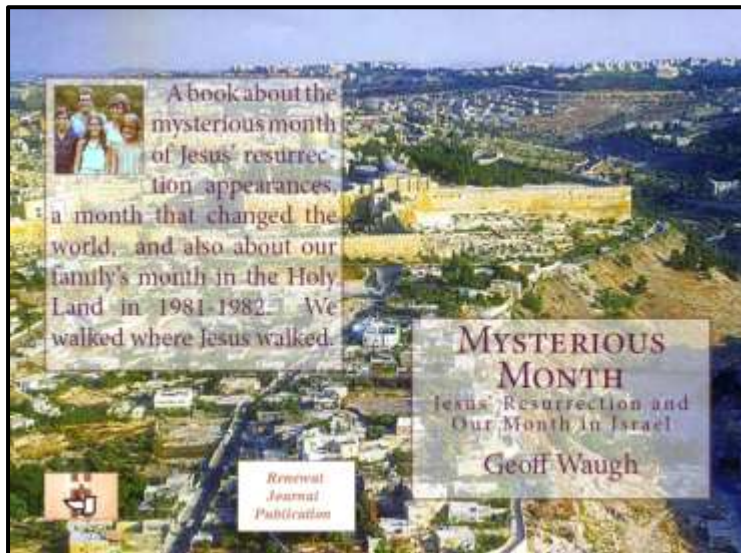
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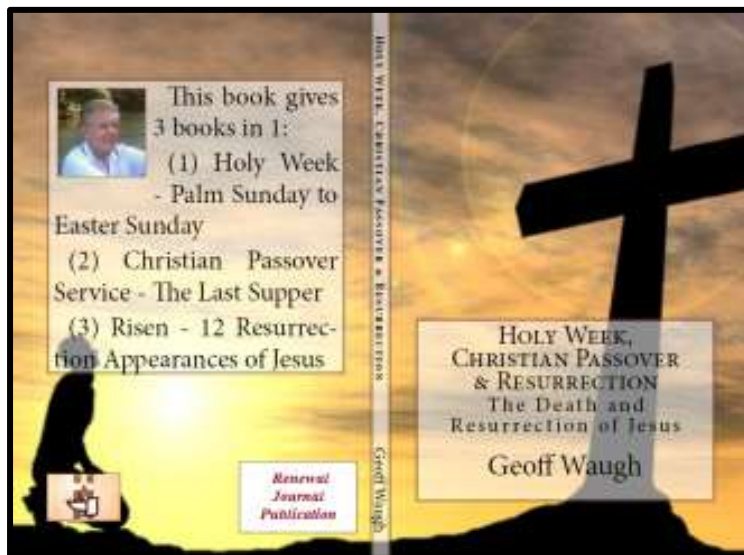
[God's Surprises](#)



[Risen!](#)

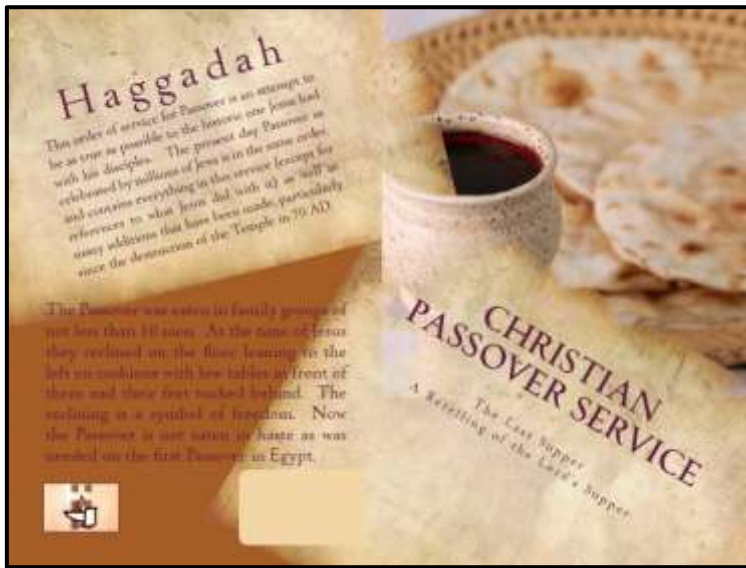


[Mysterious Month](#)



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Advice about the Top 5 Regrets of the Dying

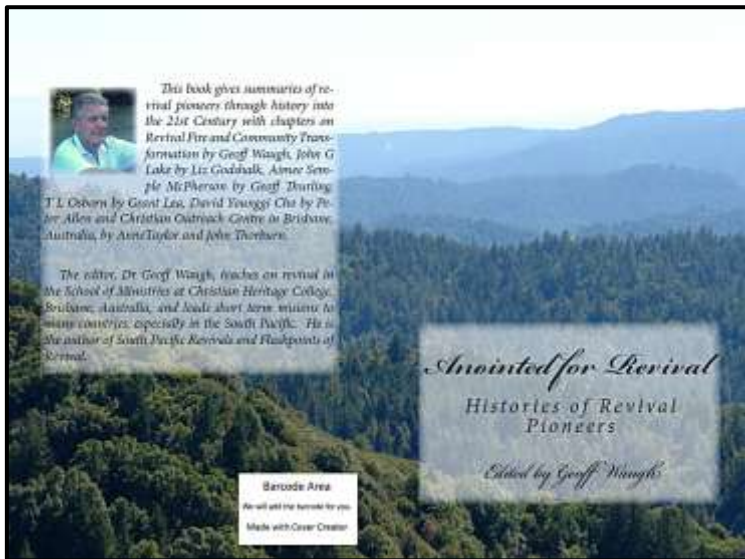


[Christian Passover Service](#)

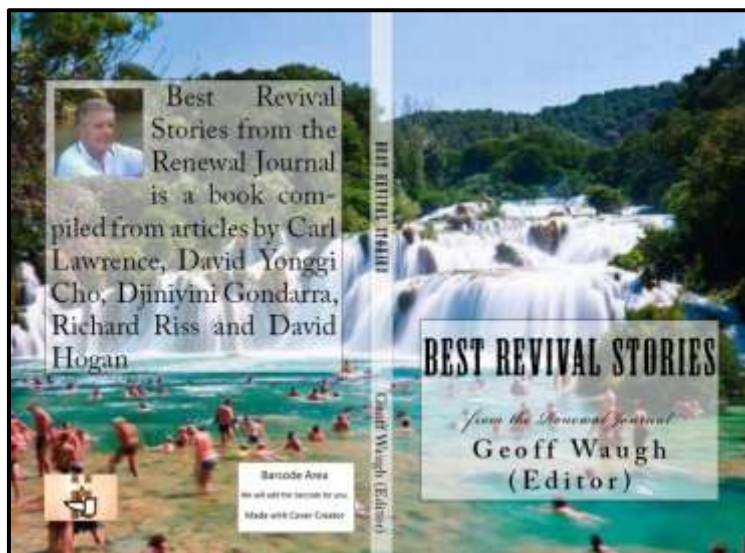
A Retelling of the Lord's Supper



[The Christmas Message](#)

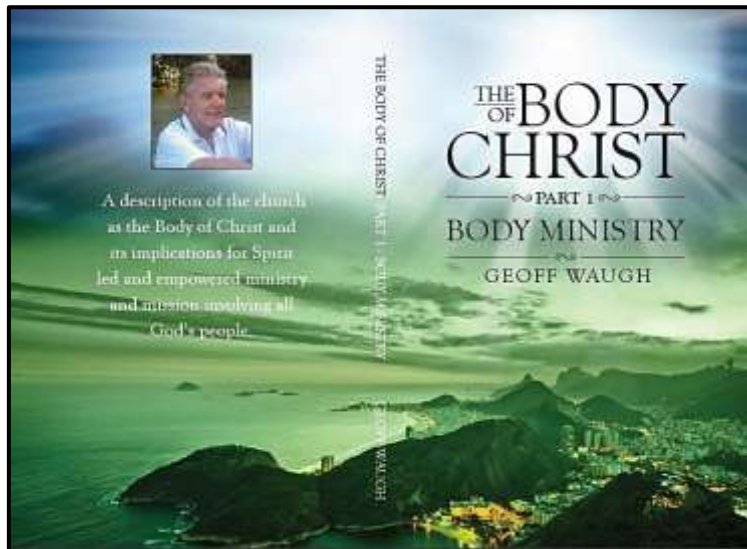


[Anointed for Revival](#)

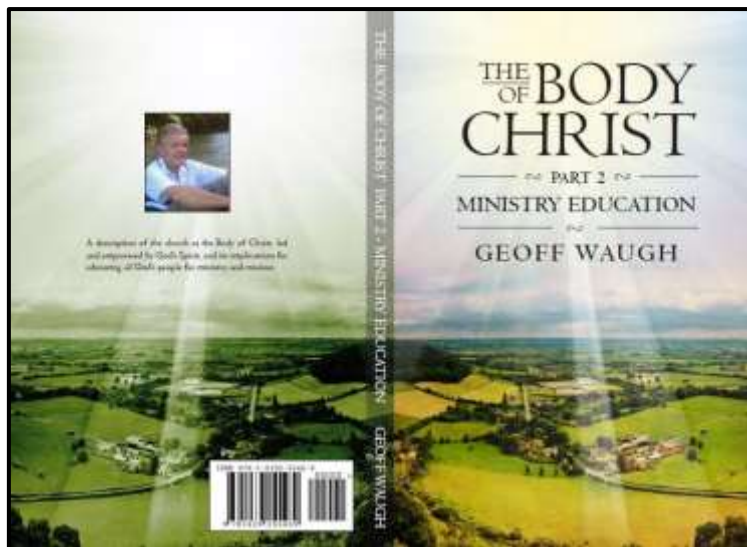


[Best Revival Stories](#)

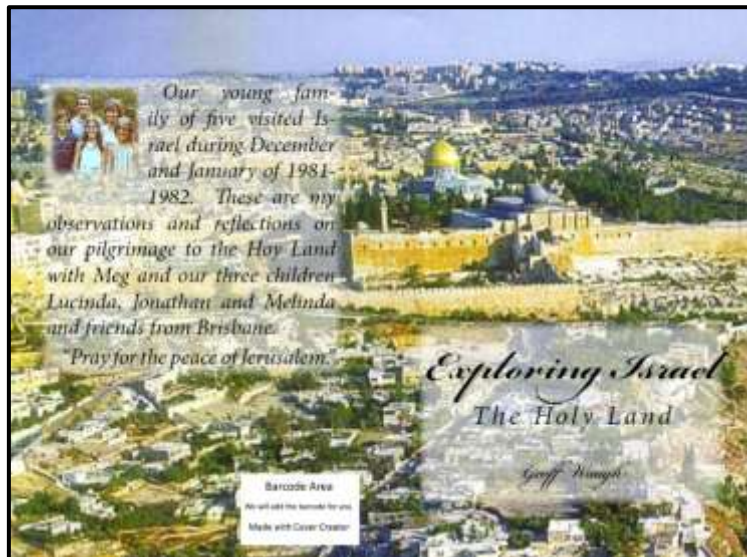
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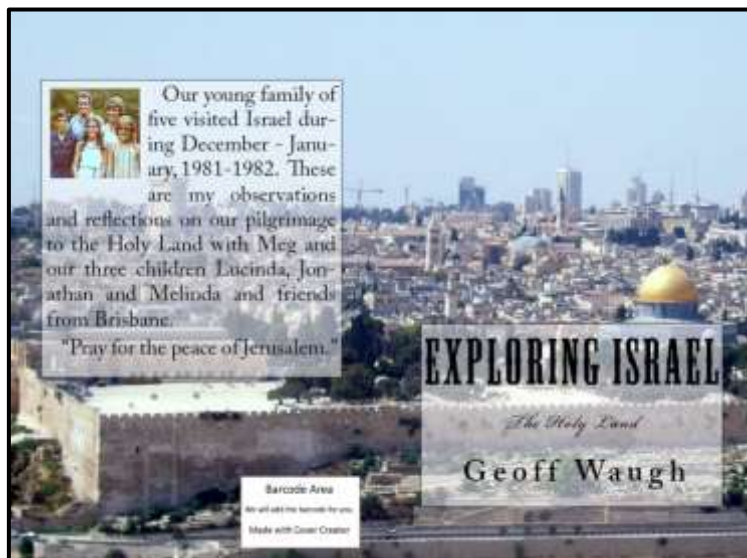
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[Exploring Israel \(colour\)](#)

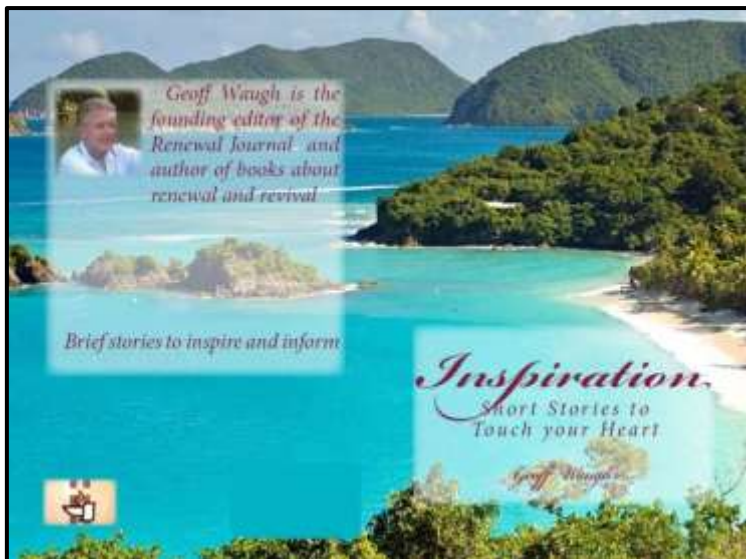


[Exploring Israel \(black & white\)](#)

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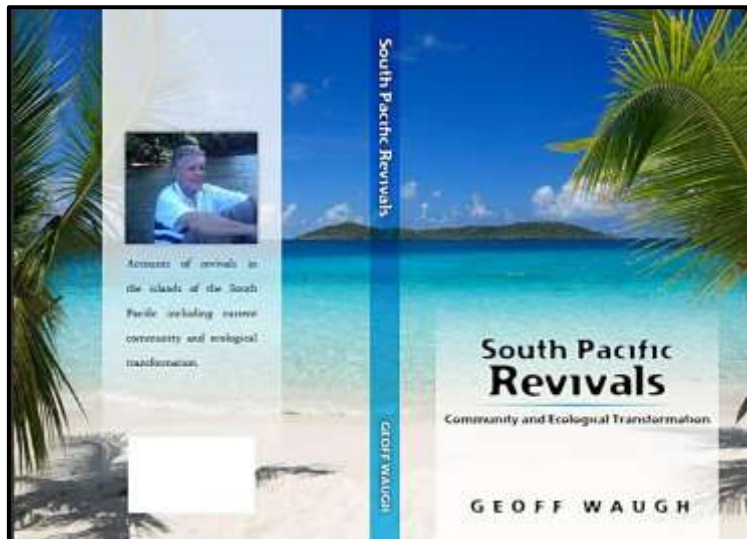
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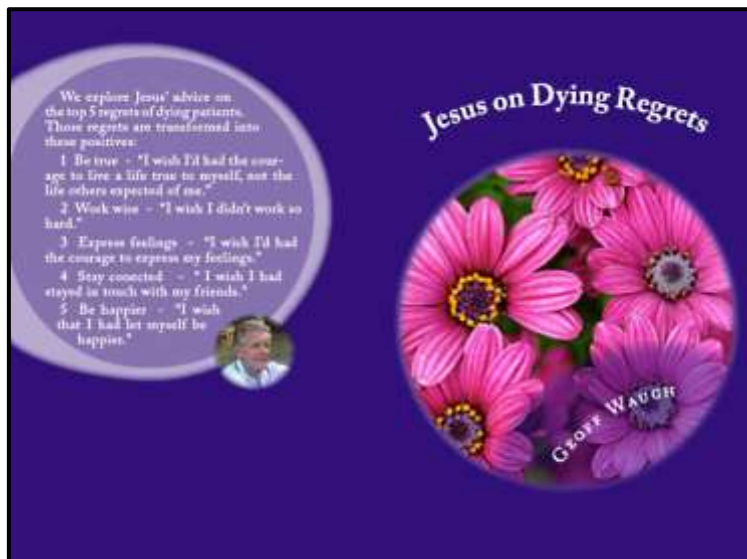


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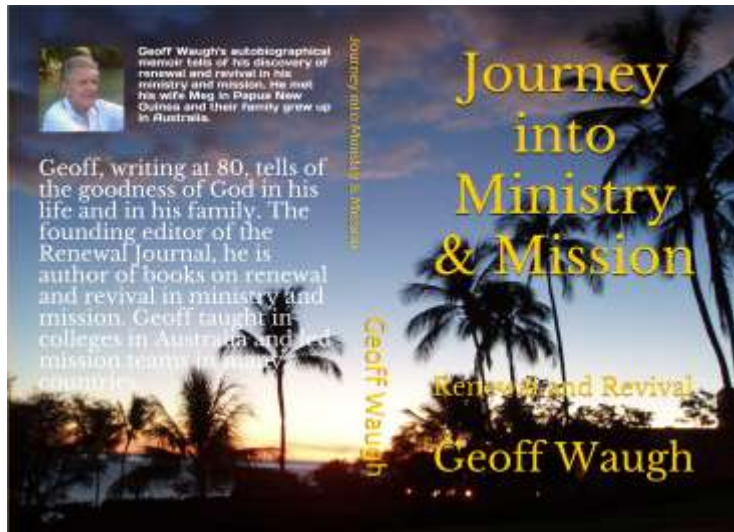
Jesus on Dying Regrets



Jesus on Dying Regrets



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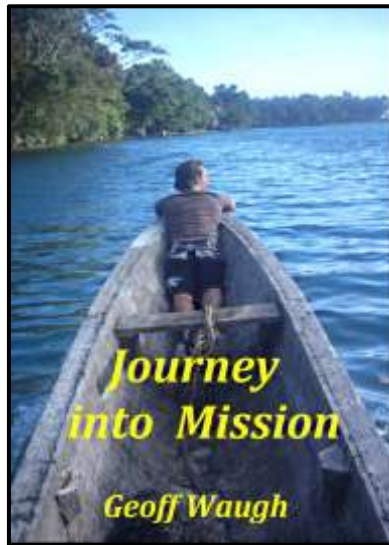


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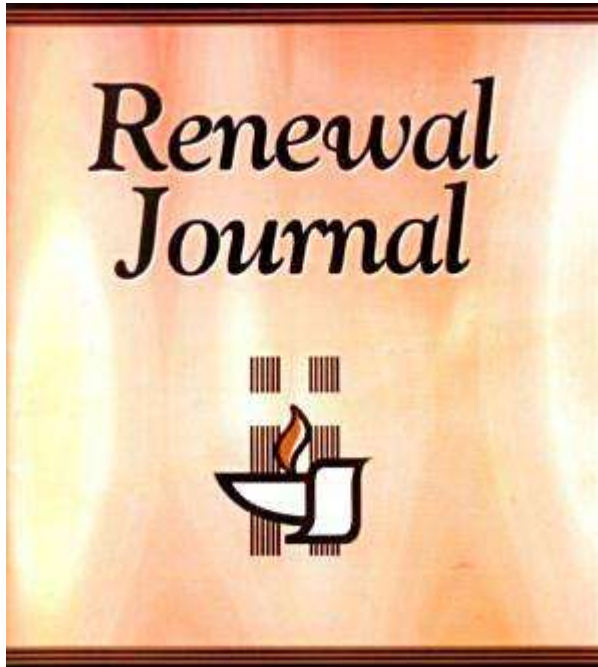
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Looking to Jesus: Journey into Renewal & Revival

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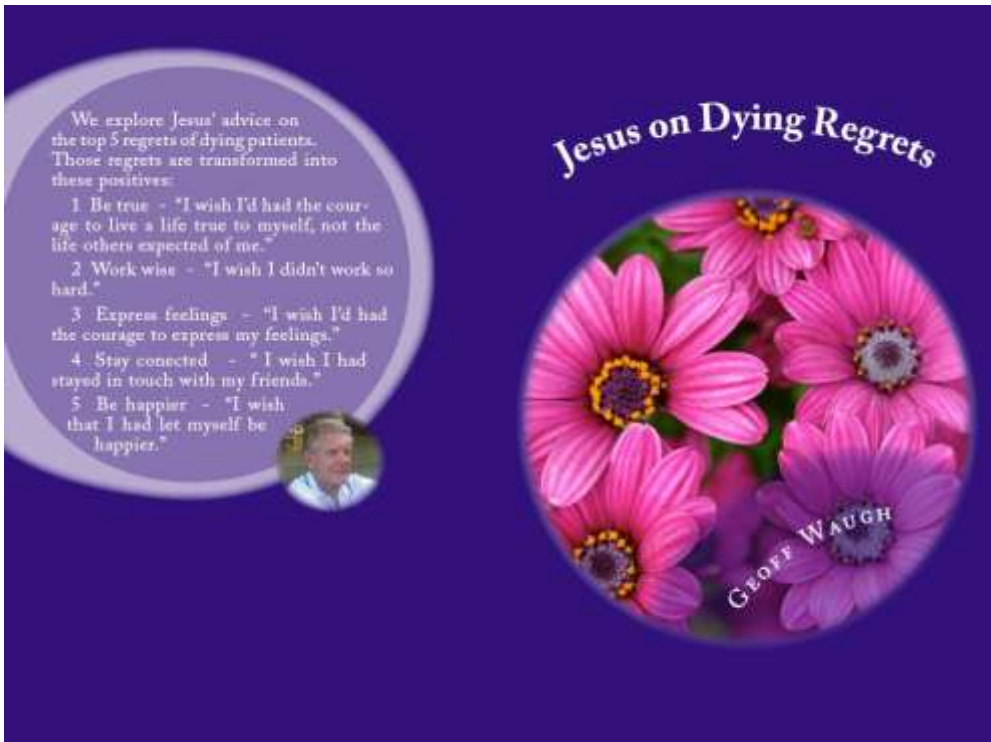
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About the Author

Geoff Waugh taught on renewal and revival at Alcorn College (Methodist), Trinity Theological College (Uniting, Anglican, and Catholic) and Christian Heritage College (Charismatic) in Brisbane, Australia, as well as in Bible Schools in Papua New Guinea (Baptist) and in the South Pacific Islands (with Churches of Christ and United Churches). He led short term missions and taught church leaders in Africa, Nepal, India, Sri Lanka, Burma/Myanmar, Thailand, Malaysia, the Philippines, China and in the South Pacific in the Solomon Islands, Vanuatu and Fiji. He is the founding editor of the *Renewal Journal* and is an author of books on renewal and revival including *Flashpoints of Revival* and *Revival Fires*. Geoff is father to three adult children and grandfather of eight, lives in an extended household with two of those families, and is grateful to his family and to God for his strong evangelical heritage and for enriching fellowship with God's wonderfully diverse people.

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