



## *Recommended Reads From Michelle Blood*

### ***1000 Gifts (Ann Voskamp)***

I read this book while in Lancaster PA. It was a perfect time to do so with more quiet time available I was able to reflect and be still, counting the many blessings in my life. Ann says, "When I realize that it is not God who is in my debt but I who am in His great debt, then doesn't all become a gift?" I often go back and read my list of gifts. I think, it's time to start a new one in this season of COVID-19.

### ***Break Shot, My First 21 Years (James Taylor)***

This is a short audio book made available via my Audible subscription. I always gravitate toward true life stories mostly because I'm fascinated by what makes people who they are, but I also want to be moved emotionally. James Taylor's music always seems to be telling a story, but until hearing him share his early years, that thought is very much an understatement. This is an incredibly raw (and often sad) accounting of his life before his music career took off.

### ***The Case for Grace (Lee Strobel)***

This book was a beautiful essay of lives transformed by God's grace. No one is far from receiving it and that's evident by the story of a Cambodian who was an executioner during the 70's, becomes a Christian and baptized by another Cambodian who actually lived through those horrors but forgives him of his past.

### ***Chronicles of the Kings Series (Lynn Austin)***

Recommended by Sheri, these books of biblical fiction brought to life in a new way the OT Kings in the Bible--Hezekiah, Ahaz, Manasseh. Because they were so compelling, I found these books an easy read that led me back to read the scriptures. Now, I need to finish the last book.

### ***The Friendship Factor (Alan Loy McGinnis)***

When I was 18 my dad joined the Amway family. I bought into the dream with him (sadly, I was the only one in my family that did) and read many of the books recommended to grow the business. But even after that stint ended, this book left a lasting impression. Bottom line if you want friends you have to "be a friend first" and at the time this book showed me just what caring and loving someone looks like, as well as finding the best in people.

### ***Holiness (Nancy DeMoss Wolgemuth)***

After attending the 2008 True Woman event in Indy I bought a couple of books including this one. That event changed my heart toward God and I wanted a deeper more intimate relationship with Him but I couldn't do that without understanding what it truly meant to pursue holiness.

### ***Just Do Something (Kevin DeYoung)***

Recommended by Philip De Courcy as a way of encouraging his congregation to get involved, I found this to be more than that. How often in our search for God's perfect will for our lives, we Christians spend too much time not doing anything. We become paralyzed with worry about making the wrong decisions. Before I read this book, I found myself asking "What's next, Lord?" This book didn't answer the question but reminded me to continue to love God with my whole heart, obey His word, and just do what I like.

### ***Long Obedience in the Same Direction (Eugene Peterson)***

Recommended by Evelyn, this book was a revelation of just how shallow my walk with Christ had been and what it really means to be a disciple. I came away understanding that it isn't just about what is required of me but the steadfast commitment to follow Him. There was so much to digest I've gone back to read it again.

### ***Traveling Light (Max Lucado)***

This book was a welcome encouragement at a time when I felt like I was carrying way too much "baggage" in my life. Trying to be all and do all for everyone. My heart was exhausted. Max took me on a journey through Psalm 23, showing me how to lighten my load ... but mostly how to lean into my Shepherd for all my needs.

### ***Unbroken (Laura Hillenbrand)***

The story of Louie Zamperini was riveting to the core. His commitment and resilience during horrific circumstances was a reminder of what so many POWs suffered. And like so many other true war stories, it was a testimony of the commitment of our armed forces to protect and defend our country. Of course, his testimony of finding Christ and extending forgiveness to his captor made this read all the more powerful.

