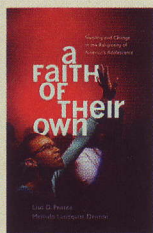


Best of the Best

Our reviewers examined hundreds of resources in 2011. Here are the ones they chose as the "Best of the Best."

A Faith of Their Own: Stability and Change in the Religiosity of America's Adolescents

Lisa D. Pearce and Melinda Lundquist Denton
Oxford University Press, 2011, 248 pp., \$24.95, OUP.com



The concept of social scaffolding in *A Faith of Their Own* is leading the way in creating a new kind of faith formation—a faith that is fruitfully nurtured in community as parents, peers and faith

communities strengthen the developmental context for creating a sustainable faith in teenagers.

MARK CANNISTER, Professor of Christian Ministries, Gordon College, Wenham, Massachusetts.

The Mentoring Project Toolkit

The Mentoring Project, 2011, \$99.00, TheMentoringProject.org



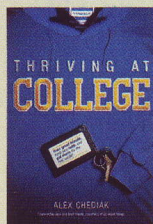
This box of goodies offers immense value: multiple books,

promotional materials, training DVDs and most importantly a comprehensive and field-tested guide for starting a Christ-centered mentoring community near you. I'm in the process of using the Toolkit with men at my church, and it is amazing to see so many guys coming alive at the thought of mentoring youth in our community. I can't recommend the work of TMP enough.

DAVE STUART JR., educator and freelance writer, TheOtherCriminal.com, Cedar Springs, Michigan.

Thriving at College

Alex Chediak
Tyndale House Publishers, 2011, 272 pp., \$14.99, Tyndale.com



"Well done" doesn't scratch the surface of how good this book is. It's explicitly Christian in the purest sense, enabling its truths to speak to non-Christians. Although this resource is written for

emerging adults, it's a valuable read for anyone wanting to consider every area of life with a sound biblical lens. My best summary of Alex Chediak's brilliant work here is simply, "Thanks."

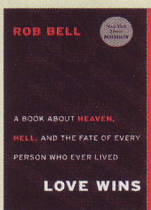
TONY MYLES, author, ministry coach, lead pastor, Connection Church, Medina, Ohio. See review page 50.

Love Wins

Rob Bell
Harper Collins, 2011, 224 pp., \$22.99, HarperCollins.com

Erasing Hell

Francis Chan and Preston Sprinkle
David C Cook, 2011, 208 pp., \$14.99, DavidCCook.com



The topic of hell has jumped to the forefront of conversation this year thanks to Rob Bell and Francis Chan. These two books are the perfect companions for one another as they bring to light two sides of a very important conversation. Don't read one without reading the other.

JAKE KIRCHER, youth pastor, U.S. Rep for We Love Our Youth Worker, writer and speaker from Connecticut. Follow him on Twitter @jakekircher or find out more about him at JakeKircher.com.

Soul Surfer: Catch God's Wave for Your Life (Church Kit)

Outreach, 2011, \$44.95, Outreach.com



Outreach's *Soul Surfer* is a one-stop resource that brings a wave of good stuff. This DVD-based study is packed full of customizable sermons for adults

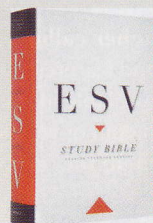
and youth, promotional materials, a planning guide for outreach events, and PowerPoint templates. The backbone to this kit is a 30-minute documentary of the story of Bethany Hamilton—an up-and-coming surfing prodigy whose career was forever changed by a shark attack in the shallow waters off Hawaii in 2003. The documentary includes interviews of family and friends and surfing footage, as well as displays the unwavering faith of a determined girl who never lost hope in her dreams. The video is well done and keeps viewers engaged. Outreach serves this documentary to churches and youth groups to dive deeper into topics such as trusting God, perseverance and seeking God's will. This study can be done in four weeks or as the highlight of a church outreach event.

This resource is very multi-layered but maybe not as much as it appears to be. Whether youth or adult, the designed resources are nearly identical. The kit doesn't include a copy of *Soul Surfer* released by TriStar Pictures in 2011, starring Dennis Quaid and Carrie Underwood. However, this is still a product worth checking into for use with your group. While it is designed to reach multiple generations and communities, it would be best used in preteen and middle school ministry settings.

—JEFF TILLSON

ESV Study Bible

By Crossway Bibles
Crossway Books, 2008, 2560 pp., \$44.99, ESVStudyBible.org



More than 95 evangelical scholars and teachers helped form the English Standard Version Study Bible. Together they formed more than 20,000 notes, 50 articles, 200

YOUTHWORKER

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