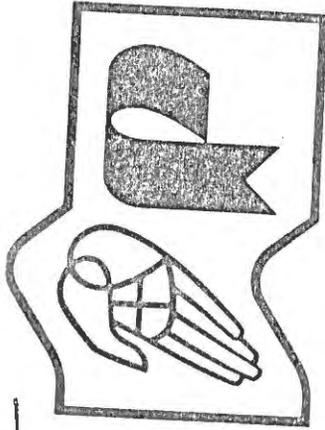


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PROVIDENT BOOK FINDER



March-April 1976

Volume 6, Issue 5

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-Paul Erb

IN AN UPTIGHT
Fleming H. Revell,
HOW NOT TO BE
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IN GOES DOWN--The Story
an Horton Berg. Westmin-
3 pp. Cloth \$6.95. This is
nd development of a black
n in his early life, he longed
iers to a richer and better
la "think process" that help-

ed him accomplish victories and success.
An outstanding turning point of his life came following
an incident which involved a short gun blast in a store where
his wife was present. The blast came from a rival gang
member. Instead of turning his efforts to hate and destruc-
tion, the hero of this story, Herman Wrice, responded in
a constructive manner by mobilizing the assets of the com-
munity. As a result of his creative action he has helped
change the world for thousands of city street kids. Herman
Wrice has served on many committees and organizations.

This is an exciting book and should have wide circulation.
-Edwin J. Stalter

RC IF I DIE AT THIRTY. Meg Woodson. Zondervan,
AD-Y 1975. 166 pp. Cloth \$4.95. Writer Meg Woodson
is the mother of two children--both victims of
cystic fibrosis, a disease in which survival to adulthood is
rare. IF I DIE AT THIRTY is a collection of conversations
between mother and daughter after Peg discovers at 13 that
she has a limited life expectancy. It is a book of hope and
sorrow whose preface states: "We share with you this slice
of our life not to show Peggie's spiritual maturity or her
parents' infallibility, but to demonstrate how even the most
unfinished faith can work to ease--not to eliminate--the most
poignant of human pains."

The tragedy of only starting life and not being able to
finish it, the desire to bargain with God for healing, the
question of "Why me?" the embarrassment of looking dif-
ferent, the physical and emotional strain on the parents,
and anger at God become real as the reader listens to mother
and daughter.

There is ample material for gaining insight into problems
of a family with a fatally ill child and into the child's prob-
lems as well. Ther are numerous examples of helpful re-
sponses toward that child. That adverse circumstances mold
spiritual giants cannot be denied. But human weakness is
present too, helping the reader appreciate one family's
search for meaning in suffering.
-Sara Wengerd

RC -INSTRUMENT OF THY PEACE--The Prayer of
AD St. Francis. Alan Paton. Photos by Ray Ellis.
Seabury Press, 1975. 128 pp. Paper \$4.95.

INSTRUMENT OF THY PEACE is a reflective and sensitive
commentary on the well known peace prayer of St. Francis
of Assisi. The text is written by Alan Paton, known for
his writings on human rights in South Africa. Ray Ellis
provides dramatically effective photographs to support the
basic themes.

Paton writes this book for "sinners, and for those who
with all their hearts wish to be better, purer, less selfish,
more useful; for those who wish to keep their faith bright
and burning in a dark and faithless world; for those who seek
not so much to lean upon God as to be the active instruments
of His peace. . .and for those who are inclined to withdraw
rather than participate, for those who are sometimes tempted
to keep some, or most, or all, of their love and pity for
themselves." Since all of us at times fall into one of these
categories, the book is for us.

Paton lifts up the powerful concepts of the prayer--love
and hate, doubt and faith, despair and hope, anxiety and
courage, joy and sorrow, darkness and light, giving and
receiving, forgiving and being forgiven, dying and eternal
life. In doing this he uses Scriptures, quotations, person-
al experiences and observations, pictures and his own pointed
comments and prayers. Underneath one feels a persistent
plea for the reader to relate and respond to the suffering and
injustices around him and in distant places.

This is a disturbing, helpful, peace hook. It cannot be
adequately described. The contents must be tasted, digested,
reflected upon, reread. It sweeps across the generations
and the world of human experience calling men and women
everywhere to truly become "instruments of Thy peace."

-Atlee Beechy