

TELLING YOUR STORY

In Hebrew the word for written means “engraved.” When the phrase “it is written” appears it carries a deeper image than pen on paper. It’s God’s finger carving into tablets of stone. Words have power; written words have power to change without the barriers of time or distance. We have in the SAC library books containing countless words. We believe these books have the power to change lives. Just like the Bible, which comes from the Latin word *biblios* meaning “little books,” the SAC library has a collection of history , biography, devotional, theological and practical books.

If you haven’t been in to see the library, then take this as your invitation to visit. If you have used the library, we’d like you to honor us by sharing your story. In one or two sentences or a short paragraph tell how a book or books has changed your life. We hope your story will be a testimony and encouragement to others to use the books from the SAC library. You can put your story in the “Library” mail box underneath the staff boxes or email it to lbyeman@salemalliance.org. We’d love to add your story to this web page. May you be forever changed by what has been written!

Actually, it was not one book that made such an impact on me, but the many missionary books that are found in our library. The faith and dedication of those who dedicated their lives completely to God’s service is amazing and each one has a story that brings me closer to Christ, inspires me and encourages me in my Christian walk.

—Margie

One great thing about our church library is... that's it's a whole library! It far surpasses my bookshelves at home in offering me faith-based books on contemporary issues, interpersonal relationships, theology, and more. And they can all be borrowed free! —Jan L

JESUS KNEW THE POWER OF A GOOD STORY!! He used stories to reveal great truths about God the Father, to convict people of their sin, and to draw them to Himself. Today the Holy Spirit still uses storytellers and story to help accomplish His purposes. The SAC library is filled with the writings, stories, and media presentations from people who have studied God’s Word and lived by it. They have shared their scholarly wisdom and insights, life stories and creative writing in books, visual media and magazines. I’m thankful to have access to such a rich body of witnesses!

This library helped us introduce the life and works of Jesus to our nephews, Cameron (age 5) and Curtis (age 3) while they lived with us. Soon, the boys began to memorize the stories and names as they learned more and more about Jesus, God, and the Bible. Thank you SAC library!! —Andy & Krista

The SAC library has excellent books on Islam. They have really helped me understand the issues involved with Islam. —Doug

After experiencing a faith crisis, I determined I needed to build up and strengthen my faith my reading books. I highly recommend reading books on Apologetics, Church History, Christian biographies and books on the historical and archeological reliability of the Bible to fortify the decision to follow Christ, our Savior. —Stacia

I enjoy the services of the library. I’m on a fixed budget. I would never be able to afford to buy or have a chance to read what our library has offered me.

I’d love to live in the library—surrounded by wonderful things to read. I enjoy missionary stories, Christian fiction, Christian historical stories and almost anything else! —A faithful reader, Pat

I love our SAC library and the convenience of checking out books that feed the soul and encourage spiritual growth. The best part of the library is the missionary stories-- those servants and heroes of God. They inspire me to look at my own life and question what I am doing to expand Christ's Kingdom or in support those overseas and at home. —Pete

Books have been VERY IMPORTANT to me. Two have been enormous in developing a vital, liberating faith. *Your God is Too Small* (JB Phillips) cause me to think through my view of God and form an accurate one based on Christ. *Mere Christianity* (C. S. Lewis) established firm rational reason for belief and following Christ. I've also used it to introduce intelligent seekers to see how faith in Christ is the most logical explanation for believing in and following Christ. —Chuck

I love a good story—especially those that help me process my faith and challenge my faith, thereby helping to build my faith!

When I read *The Hiding Place* by Corrie Ten Boom, I realized I needed a relationship with God. —Janet

My life as a man of God has been greatly enhanced by books by John Eldredge. Thanks to SAC library.

How can I measure the influence of the books I've checked out of our library? Over many years, I've checked out books on doctrine, theology, missions, prayer, God, childrearing, biography and works of fiction. Many have changed my life by giving me greater understanding, ever changing my perspective to be in line with God's perspective and/or motivating me in my actions. I tell others about that and encourage them to read, read, read!!!

The library has been invaluable to me growing up. I think I had every single kid's book read at one point. I continue to use it quite often now because it is the only library I have access to. I really appreciate having Christian books available to read since I can't afford to be buying them all the time. I think the most memorable books I have read through the library are the ones written by Corrie ten Boom. Whenever I don't have faith, I think of her experiences and how God showed up in her life, in amazing ways. I hope the church continues to value the library. I know I am so thankful for it! —Erin

I was sitting with Linda in the lobby one morning when we were promoting the library. We had several books on display. One of them was Phillip Yancy's *Reaching for the Invisible God*. Linda suggested I take it home and read it. I said, "No." She said, "Yes." I said, "No," but she finally convinced me to take it. That book helped me understand God when He's silent, understand faith when I don't feel anything, understand steadfastness in the face of complacency. I am thankful for that book. Thankful to the Holy Spirit who prompted Linda to suggest that book to me and thankful the library has such books! —Lisa

Fiction isn't just a good story for entertainment. Some of my favorite authors (Kingsbury comes to mind) have a way of making their characters come to life: teenage girls struggling with purity, pregnancy, abortions, receiving love and forgiveness from believers pointing them to God and His forgiveness; struggling marriages and God's healing touch, etc. These "stories" have helped me to empathize, to understand, and to look at new ways of handling situations. These "stories" are oftentimes just as God-inspired as sermons! And the volunteers are awesome! —Karen

I have found a good variety of books at the SAC library, both for myself and my kids. From theology to apologetics to biographies of missionaries, there's a great range of topics. It's only natural to want to donate my books since I've saved so much by reading SAC library books. —Pete J.

The library has those old-fashioned thingies (library cards) in the back of books that show when it's due (a novelty for someone not used to that. Nostalgic to see who has checked out the book, too). —Katie J., age 7

If it weren't for our SAC library, I'd never get a chance to check out a book! Life is so busy for me that a trip to the city library never happens, but I can easily walk over to our SAC library before or after a service to grab a book to read. I love our Alliance missionary books (Jaffray Series, one of which is about a former member of Salem Alliance), the large selection of Christian fiction, and wonderful books for my grandchildren. Keep up the good work!! —Darlene

When I was a high school student I read *Through Gates of Splendor* by Jim Elliot. I was a fairly new Christian and had checked out the book at my church library. It completely changed my thinking about serving God and challenged me to consider being a missionary. I was ready to go wherever God wanted me to be! When I later went to Bible college, I was amazed by the number of peers who had also read Elliot's book and whose lives had also been challenged. A **book** gave me a heart for missions! I'm grateful for the SAC library with its many missionary biographies, as well as the historical fiction and children's books. —Bev

I think my favorite parts of the SAC library are the biographies and missionary stories. I read every book in the Jaffery Series and was sorry when there were no more! It is so encouraging and inspiring to read how God works in and through others. Since reading the series I have been on one mission trip and soon will go on another. I'm thankful for the inspiring reading. —Lori

The library —it's arguably among our Church's most valuable ministries. The library was started about 35 years ago by Betty French, a pastor's wife, which makes it one of our longest running ministries. It is home to 5,000-7,000 books and other materials.

Now, you're probably asking "**Why do I care?**" My answer is "**Because our library is unique**" —especially among local libraries. Seriously, it's the only library that lets you check out materials without having to pay an annual fee or taxes to use it, and charges a minimal fee if you turn in something late. **How many other libraries do that?** Try *zero*. For me personally, I know that I wouldn't have the same level of interest today in being a missionary or in missions work if it weren't for the books in our library. I'm eager to learn about such people as Eric Liddell, the Olympic runner who ran hard after God's call on his life, and learning about the Bible from such teachers as Ray Vander Laan who explains such things as the English word for 'carpenter' is more closely translated from the Aramaic word as 'stone mason.' His point being that there wasn't a lot of wood in Israel. —Don

The library cart with used books for sale is wonderful. I have bought books off the cart to donate to the state prison library for the last 12 years. —D.F.

Over the years our family has used the resources in the library for multiple purposes. Whether it be books for entertainment and recreation, study, learning or videos, DVDs or audio tapes, the numerous resources available in the SAC library have benefitted me and my family more than these words can express. —Mark

Get the word out! The SAC library is a great resource for fiction and non-fiction materials—quality children's books, and movies, too! — Mrs. M