

Title: Grace Abounds: A Call to Awaken and Renew Your Faith	Author: Edith Prendergast, R.S.C.
Media type: (check one) X Book <input type="checkbox"/> CD/Audio book <input type="checkbox"/> DVD	Call Number: 248.4 PRE
Review submitted by: Ramona Kar	Date: February 5, 2014
Subject (e.g. Prayer, Family Life, Sacraments, Saints, Bible Study, Moral Conduct, Social Justice) Prayer/Spirituality	
<p>1. What is this book about? (describe briefly) This book serves as a rich reference book on God's grace, a gift the Holy Spirit pours into our hearts while we are wrapped in God's love. The author describes in detail the abundant advantages of being open to God's grace, and takes us on a journey to explore all the other virtues that go hand-in-hand with grace, namely, hope, mercy, faith, love, peace, and a passion for justice.</p>	
<p>2. What main message does the author convey? The author shares the various miracles of grace in day-to-day life. Because we can freely enjoy the gift of grace, we have strength to face our fears, anxieties, and sufferings. Regardless of the degree of disillusionment that assails us, God's grace is always present. The author presents a multifaceted face of grace – for example, "Grace hits us in joys and sorrows;" "The path of grace is marked by gratitude;" "Grace is personally transformative, but at the same time, makes us agents of transformation for others;" "Grace calls us to solidarity with the suffering, with those seeking justice and peace." The author reminds us that grace does not exist in isolation; it blooms in the context of our loving relationship with others. Grace is intertwined with service.</p>	
<p>3. What inspired you the most about this book, and why would you recommend it? This book is one of the best multipurpose spiritual books I have ever read. One can use it as a daily inspirational, or a reference book, or as a straight-through read. The author uses simple, readable sentences to explain the concepts, and beautiful poems, literary quotes, and anecdotes to express her messages. She refers to Emily Dickinson, Rabindranath Tagore, Tony D'Mello, John Donne, Immaculee Ilibagiza, and various other notable literary and spiritual giants. The quotes woke me from my complacency, and made me aware of changes I need to make to stay spiritually alive, for example, "We become so mesmerized with external voices and the expectations of others that we bury the inner voice of God's word under a mound of preoccupation;" "To be awake to grace is to remain anchored in God's presence." The author asks readers to explore questions like, "What are our demons?" and "What are the forces that alienate us from Jesus?" I recommend this book as a powerful wakeup call!</p>	
<p>4. Who would benefit from reading this book? Every person who wants to explore the gift of grace will benefit from this book, especially those in pastoral and social justice ministries, those encountering difficult life transitions, and those who need a spiritual pick-me-up. God intends for grace to be enjoyed as a gift in the context of community. The author presents a strong case for grace as a beacon in promoting social justice, and in living the Sermon on the Mount. We are called to extend God's grace spiritually and materially.</p>	
<p>5. Any other impressions: Every line in this book struck a chord in my heart. My heart leapt with joy when I read sentences like, "The path of grace is marked by gratitude," "Do not surrender your power to anxiety," "... these flaws and defects are the very crevices through which grace finds entrance;" "With God's grace we can move beyond the little deaths we endure." I needed to be reminded of these truths. This book is short yet packed with intense material, simply written, yet infused with beautiful poetic excerpts, and jolts the reader out of his or her complacency. All I can say is, do not waste time, check the book out!</p>	