

WESTMINSTER BOOKSTORE



A Westminster Bookstore Author Interview *Prone to Wander: with Barbara Duguid and Wayne Houk*

What is the story behind how these prayers were written?

In 2008, the Lord called us to plant a church in Grove City, PA (Christ ARP). We were asked to craft the liturgy for the worship service, and felt that original prayers driven by the sermon text and supported by the language from the hymns and worship songs we were singing would be an asset to our worship service. We were surprised by the effusive response of many of our congregants, some of whom saved their bulletins to use in private devotions throughout the week.

The subtitle of your book *Prone to Wander* is “prayers of confession and celebration.” In the book, readers will discover this does not describe two separate sections of prayers in the book, but in fact describes *every* prayer. Tell us about that.

It's our conviction that corporate confession of sin is a valuable and beautiful gift to the church, but can often lack both specificity and confidence in the Gospel of God's free grace to really sinful people like us. So we crafted these prayers for our congregation hoping to provide honest, realistic, down-to-earth words to describe our sins and sufferings, and to bridge the gap between morbid introspection and joyful delight in our forgiveness found in Jesus' life, death, and resurrection.

How did you arrive at the title *Prone to Wander*, and how does it reflect your thoughts about the Christian life?

*It was definitely a community project. We sought help from family, friends, and colleagues at CCEF, Westminster Bookstore, P&R, and did a lot of brainstorming. Over several days of vacationing with friends, Wayne finally had the inspiration (OK, it was in the hot tub) to use a line from a hymn since our prayers are highly connected to our musical worship. *Prone to Wander* became everyone's top choice pretty quickly after that.*

Each prayer is titled according to its main theme, and includes with it a thematic call to confession, an assurance of pardon, and suggested hymns. How have these been used in public worship in your own church, and how can churches use these in their own services?

We've had many requests for the confessions to be used in other worship services. This compilation offers worship leaders and pastors the opportunity to use the prayers based on themes (like love, pride, anger, or forgiving others), biblical texts, or songs, using the indices at the back of the book.

In the forward, Iain Duguid describes how these were organized to also fit into a cycle of personal prayer? How do you think people will benefit from these in personal and small group prayer?

Sometimes we find it hard to pray — to find the words with which to approach God, especially when struggling with guilt or shame. These prayers seek to connect Biblical commands with real-life struggles, and usher readers into a deeper understanding of the imputed righteousness of Christ in their own lives. The prayers seek to move readers (whether privately or corporately) from theoretical knowledge of sin and God's forgiveness, to keen awareness and real delight in the finished work of Christ on their behalf.

Do you have any favorites among the many prayers?

“Stubborn Blindness” on page 40 is a favorite of ours. Also “Pride” on 142 and “Love (I)” on 146.

You can read the authors' favorite prayers online, or buy *Prone to Wander: Prayers of Confession and Celebration* in print or digital format.
