

# *The Authors*

Maralene and Miles Wesner are multi-talented teachers and prolific writers. They have published more than 150 Audio-Visual Education aids, and pioneered new reading methods with their Phonics in a Nutshell (1965).

They have written articles, and mission studies for Southern Baptist periodicals. They were in the original group of writers to develop WMU's Big "A" Club material.

They've published several books with Broadman Press: *A Fresh Look at the Gospel* (1983); *You Are What You Choose* (1984); and *How To Be a Saint When You Feel Like a Sinner* (1986) and self-published 30 books by Diversity Press.

They are noted for their no-nonsense style, their clear illustrations, and their willingness to face controversial issues. From the dual perspectives of both academic and religious professions, they seek to be a bridge between the spiritual and the intellectual worlds.

They hold Masters Degrees (MEd) from Oklahoma University plus work toward a Doctorate. Miles also attended Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, and served as a high school counselor. He has been the bi-vocational pastor of a small rural church for more than 50 years.

Both Maralene and Miles taught in public school and colleges and served as educational consultants. Maralene taught Psychology and Speech for Southeastern Oklahoma State University for 32 years. She was chosen Oklahoma Teacher of the Year in 1975.

They have planned, led tours, and done research in all of the 50 states, Canada, Mexico, Europe, Egypt, Japan, and the Holy Land. In 1985, they were among a small group of Americans who were invited by Dr. Joseph P. Kennedy of the US/China Education Foundation and Bishop Ting, leader of the Three Self Movement, to participate in the First Symposium on the Church in Nanjing, China.

Now, they use their lifetime of varied experiences to write insightful sermons, essays, and books.



Titles by Maralene & Miles Wesner  
published by Nurturing Faith

*Sermons for Special Days*

*Life More Abundant*

*Do You Really Know Jesus?*

*If Jesus Were Here Today*

*101 Sparks of Inspiration*

*When God Can't Answer*

*Think (Or Else!)*

*Stumbling*  
**TO ZION**

**Today's Church in Today's World**

**Maralene & Miles Wesner**

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# *Rationale*



We've pastored churches for more than fifty years and taught in public schools and universities for many years. We've also published both religious and educational materials. Our whole life has been dedicated to bridging the gap between the spiritual and the intellectual worlds. Therefore, when we were asked to develop and teach a course in religion for a state college, we viewed it as an exciting challenge.

We believe faith must be practical and religion must be relevant. With these principles in mind, we wrote a course that surveys today's church. It's not our purpose to compare religions or prove doctrine. Instead, this book examines the "other side." It avoids the orthodox party line. It seeks to disturb complacency, override conditioning, and challenge mindset. It moves parables out of the first century and presents new spiritual models.

We encourage readers to analyze and actualize their faith. Some observations may be provoking and disturbing, but any criticism comes from concern rather than from cynicism.

Whether you are religious or not—whether your views are liberal, conservative, or fundamental—we believe you will profit from information concerning these vital issues. It's our objective to eliminate spiritual illiteracy and enable individuals to speak intelligently when doctrinal and ethical questions arise.

We hope this book will help both leaders and churches to begin truly marching—instead of stumbling—to Zion!