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Reflections, Impressions & Experiences

Lingering in the Word: Author’s take on how daily Bible reading can change lives

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Nina Atcheson is the Adventist Identity Officer for Adventist Schools Australia. But she is also a writer and now published author. In the lead up to the launch of As Light Lingers, she answers questions from Nathan Brown about her new book and how spending time with the Bible can change our lives.

Tell us about your day job.
I’ve spent the past 10 years writing and training teachers in the secondary Encounter Bible Curriculum. This role is focused on supporting leaders and teachers in the areas of spirituality, curriculum and culture.

What inspired you to write As Light Lingers?
Through conversations with people of all ages in different countries, I was struck with how apathy and life’s busyness too often rob us of meaningful time in God’s Word. I’ve felt it myself, and I believe this breaks God’s heart because He wants to connect with us.

How can spending time in the Bible change us?
Jesus says, “You search the Scriptures because you think they give you eternal life. But the Scriptures point to Me!” (John 5:39, NLT). Basking in God’s Word changes us because when we come in prayerful humility, we can know Jesus personally. Truly abiding in Him can change everything about our lives—our attitude, conversations, dreams and plans for the future.

How is your approach to Bible study influenced by your understanding of how we learn?
As an educator, I know we’re more likely to be impacted by something when we reflect, write, discuss and share our discoveries with others. Writing slows down our thinking and allows us to better process what God’s Word is speaking into our lives. We’re also more likely to recall something we’ve written down.
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Not only has sharing what we study deepened my marriage but modelling simple strategies to my children is visibly growing their relationships with Jesus. In addition to personal Bible study, we also dig deeply into God’s Word together as a family, which has added richer conversations to our home.

What has been the initial reaction to As Light Lingers?
People of different ages and stages in life have been sharing how this book is challenging and equipping them to grow in their relationship with God. I’m in awe at how and where He is taking this book and continue to pray it will bless anyone who needs to hear this message. TEACH

Author information:
Nathan is Book Editor at Signs Publishing. He is a former magazine editor, a published writer and an author or editor of more than a dozen books. He is also a co-convener of Manifest, a community exploring, encouraging and celebrating faithful creativity.

Editor’s Note
As Light Lingers can be purchased from Better Books and Food, any Adventist Book Centre, and on Amazon Kindle. Further information and opportunity to contact the book author is available at www.aslightlingers.com

POP cards, authored by Nina Atcheson with design by Elissa Webb, can be purchased from Better Books and Foods, Cooranbong, or directly from the book’s website.

Figure 2: Suggestions for using POP Cards [Copyrighted, supporting resources used here by permission.]

How to use POP [Purpose of Passage] cards:

1. Give a copy of the same POP card to each family member or friend to reflect on.
2. Ask one person to read the Bible passage out loud.
3. Starting with the youngest, invite each person to share their thoughts to a question on the reverse side.
4. Discuss what this passage means to you today.
5. Pray together.

For more information, see chapter 7 of As Light Lingers.