

# Reader's reactions

**Campbell R Steven**

## **An Anthology of Hope**

**Jamieson & Munro first published October 1988**

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Divesting myself of my large collection of books, as I had recently retired, there was one book over which there was no need to swither, this anthology. It is a book I have used time and time and time again not only in preparing worship but also in personal devotions. In the twenty years since being given it, every two or three years I would work my way through it from cover to cover, reading one of the collected readings every day. And at other times just take the book from the shelf and lose myself in it.

The book moves from Remembering, through desolation to Blessing.

In the introduction Campbell Steven tells us why he put the book together. At a time of deep personal sadness, in fact on the death of his wife, he began to collect fragments of poetry and prose, which had helped him, from a great diversity of authors and poets and from the Bible.



The book is a journey from his desolation to the joy and blessing of finding love a second time. He nearly titled his book “miracles” because of the miracle of his own resurrection from grief and how the book finally and eventually was produced.

At a time of my own deep personal sadness, this book was an immense consolation. And often during my ministry, in all sorts of emotional conditions, including anger, I would open this at random and always find comfort and inspiration!

For leading worship I have used the readings for inspiration and ideas and quoted from the collection. I used it extensively at services other than Sunday Worship, at Evening services, also asking others to read selected bits, I have based services around its themes; for funerals and weddings and I have used it as a basis for devotions at meetings including Presbytery committees, Guild meetings, Kirk Session and Board meetings.

It contains themes such as surrendering, the presence of Christ, trust joy, healing and also contains readings for the Christian year, such as Advent, Holy Week and Easter and Pentecost.

You will find well known passages and new passages, but you will never be disappointed and always inspired.

*Please note that the views expressed in these materials are those of the individual writer and not necessarily the official view of the Church of Scotland, which can be laid down only by the General Assembly.*



## Additional Resources

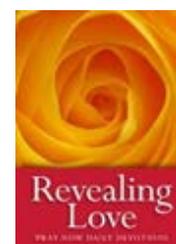
### Resourcing Mission



[Resourcing Mission](#) is host to Starters for Sunday and other key mission resources for download and purchase. Online booking is available for [Mission & Discipleship events](#). Please check back regularly, as new items are being added all the time. If there is something you'd like to see on this new site, please [contact us](#) via the website.

### Prayer Resources

These materials are designed to be a starting point for what you might look for in prayers. [Revealing Love](#) is available now from [St Andrew Press](#).



### Starters for Sunday



[Starters for Sunday](#) offer a range of suggested material which can be used each week for individuals and congregations to develop. All of the material is written by people who are experienced in leading worship regularly though not all are ordained.

### Music Resources

For some excellent articles on church music and ideas for new music resources, please check out our online music resource [Different Voices](#).



### Preaching Resources



These materials are designed to be a starting point for what you might preach this Sunday. [Preachers Perspectives](#) is a resource where we have asked twelve preachers to share the insights they have gathered through their experiences of writing and delivering sermons regularly.

