

Living Lord Book Club

Book Review

by Brad Baker, Living Lord Book Club

On Tuesday, April 6, 2010, the Living Lord Book Club reviewed *Have a Little Faith*, by Mitch Albom. This book is nonfiction and was copyrighted last year, in 2009. It is the story of a request by a Jewish rabbi, Albert Lewis, to Mitch Albom, that Mitch deliver his eulogy when the time came. The rabbi had been Mitch's rabbi from the time he first started attending the synagogue as a little boy with his parents.

The book spans 8 years, which is how long it took Lewis, nicknamed "Reb," to age to the point of dying at 90 years old. During that time the author, who lives in Detroit, Mich., met with Lewis, who lives in New Jersey, many times to get to know more about him. It was most interesting. At the same time, the author became acquainted with a black Christian minister in Detroit, Henry Covington, who ran a shelter for poor people and also a church that was in dire straits financially.

We learned a lot about the two religious figures in the story, quite different each of them, but with similarities in the depths of their faiths. They were both super salesmen for their respective congregations and supported them unfailingly. We came to understand how Rabbi Lewis built his synagogue from a small house to a huge congregation sandwiched between two Christian churches, and how he stayed there as the rabbi for 50 years. His congregation loved his dedication, steadfastness, and humor. His trait was that he sang continuously. Everything he communicated seemed to be always conveyed as a song. Cheerful!

Henry Covington, the other figure in the story, was a former drug dealer and an ex-con who saw the light. He knew what it was like to be hooked on dope and spend time in prison. His story was a sad one, but his life experiences turned him into the passionate Christian that he is now.

The author, Mitch Albom, gave us a great book with many experiences with these two religious men. The wisdom and wit of Rabbi Albert (Reb) Lewis was the heart of the book. We learned enough of the man that we could have done a decent eulogy ourselves. The story of Henry Covington was sad beyond belief. But he overcame his past and dedicated his life to God and his parishioners.

The book gave us many accounts of the souls of these two men and what made them tick. At the end, we read the eulogy to Rabbi Lewis. It was a testament also to Mitch Albom, the author of the book, and the 8 years he spent in getting to know his rabbi better, so that he could fulfill his obligation.

The Living Lord Book Club gave *Have a Little Faith* an Enjoyment Index of 8.2 out of a possible 10. We really liked the book and highly recommend it. It was a good read and did a lot to expand our faiths a bit. We saw what a couple of religious zealots had done with their lives and that inspired us to look upon our faith as a more central part of our lives.

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