



Meet Our Authors



Carol Ghattas grew up in Murfreesboro, TN, the youngest of five children of Tom and Helen Brown, who were both active in church and Southern Baptist life. Carol graduated with a BA in French and History from Middle Tennessee State University and then served two years as a missionary in the Ivory Coast before beginning her studies at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, from which she earned her M.Div. in 1990. After marriage to Dr. Raouf Ghattas, they served for twenty years with the International Mission Board, living in five different countries of the Middle East and North Africa and traveling to many more for ministry. The Ghattas family returned to the United States in 2009, with their two sons. In 2011, Raouf and Carol began the Arabic Baptist Church of Murfreesboro, and Carol began working full-time as the Branch Manager of Linebaugh Public Library until her retirement in 2023. Raouf passed away in November 2015. Both of their sons are now married, and Carol has three grandchildren. Carol and Raouf co-authored *A Christian Guide to the Quran: Building Bridges in Muslim Evangelism* (Kregel,

2009) and Carol has authored four books under the pen name Um Daoud, including her latest *The Life I Now Live* (William Carey, 2024). Writing both fiction and non-fiction, her most recent work related to missions is *When Serving Gets Tough: A Thirty-Day Devotional for Missionaries*. Her latest project, *Archived by Death*, published in June 2025, is a cozy mystery set inside a library. Along with her writing, Carol is a regular contributor to *Missions Mosaic*, a publication of the Woman's Missionary Union, SBC, and active blogger at lifeinexile.net. Carol also speaks to groups about Islam, reaching Muslim women, missions, writing, grief, and other topics.

Robert J. Morgan is Associate Pastor of World Outreach Church here in Murfreesboro, and the leader of Robert J. Morgan Ministries with the aim of energizing God's people with a greater understanding and appreciation of the Bible and Christian heritage. Preceding this transition, Rob was involved in pastoral ministry for over 40 years in Nashville, Tennessee. He is a best-selling, writer with more than 35 books in print and approximately 5 million copies in circulation in multiple languages. Rob was also a homemaker and a caregiver for his late wife of 43 years, Katrina, who battled multiple sclerosis and passed away in November of 2019. He and Katrina have three daughters and sixteen grandchildren. In 2014, Rob was awarded an honorary Doctor of Divinity Degree from his alma mater, Columbia International University. You will find an extensive list of additional information about his background, family, ministry, and books at <https://www.robertjmorgan.com/bio/>



Meet Our Leaders

Beth Bruning



Beth Bruning was a school teacher and librarian in several Tennessee public school systems in TN. After 14 years, she retired to care for her family. Several years later she volunteered and was employed by a library in the Franklin Special School District until 2013. At that point she took over the management of the library at ClearView Baptist Church in Franklin, TN, where she lives, and continues that mission now. She and her husband, Tom, have two grown children.

Charles Businaro



Charles Businaro is a retiree of Lifeway Christian Resources where he worked 42 years. While in the Church Architecture Department he assisted churches and libraries with space planning and interior design. Just prior to his retirement he worked with Pat Brown (E. C. Dargan Librarian) to develop a series of displays depicting Lifeway's history. Charles joined Immanuel Baptist Church in 1969 where he serves on the library staff and enjoys creating promotional displays. He also is the Church Historian and develops the exhibits in the Heritage Room. Charles has authored three handbooks concerning library promotion and space planning. These books are: *Promotion Handbook for Church Media Libraries*; *Church Media Library Space, Furnishings and Interior Design*; and *Creating Promotion that Communicates*. In his spare time, he enjoys arranging the altar flowers for his church, collecting art, Tennessee crafts, creches, and Victorian majolica. During retirement he has discovered the joy of painting Icons. He and his wife, Georgina, are the proud parents of two daughters and five wonderful grandchildren.

Linda Hunt



Linda Hunt taught high school History, American History, and English classes for 30 years. She began helping in Woodmont Baptist Church's archive rooms in 2014 when her church was preparing to celebrate its 75th anniversary as a church.

Kacy Darnell



Kacy Darnell has been working in the Crieviewood Baptist Church library for 15+ years and loves working on displays and décor in the library. She pursues many creative endeavors and recently worked part time at AR Workshops leading DIY classes.

Steve Gateley



Steve Gateley is a retiree of LifeWay Christian Resources after 18.5 years of service in various library capacities. He is currently employed by the Southern Baptist Historical Library and Archives in Nashville. He is a member at Tulip Grove Baptist Church and enjoys his part-time job as an usher for the Nashville Symphony. He has two sons and one special granddaughter.

Allyson Long



Allyson Long grew up in Murfreesboro, graduated from MTSU, and taught high school French before becoming a stay-at-home mom. I've been married to Kevin, for 24 years and we share our home with three kids and a Dutch rabbit, Frankie. I enjoy reading, exercising, doing all kinds of puzzles, and being outdoors. I love teaching others about Praying in Color and watching them discover a new and invigorating pathway to prayer!

Jana Magruder



Jana Magruder serves as the Strategic Initiatives Director of Lifeway NextGen. She is a graduate of Baylor University with a background in education, publishing, and ministry. As host of the podcast, Kids Ministry Calling, Jana loves championing and equipping leaders and families in the local church. She is the author of *Nothing Less* and *Kids Ministry that Nourishes* as well as the co-author of *Every Age, Every Stage* and *Flip the Script*. Jana and her husband, Michael, are native Texans planted in Tennessee and love to explore both states with their three kids.

Morlee Maynard



Morlee Maynard is currently the leader of the Forest Hills Baptist Church Enrichment Center Team in Nashville, Coordinator of the Church Librarians Network website, Coordinator of the Nashville Baptist Association Church Library Ministry Network. Former Lifeway Church Library Ministry Specialist for 19 years.

Melanie Sharp



Melanie Sharp has served as Library Director at First Baptist Cleveland for the past thirteen years. She is married to Mike, and they have two married children and four grandchildren. God continues to bless Melanie with opportunities to serve Him while serving others. She looks forward to summers because it gives her the opportunity to go outside the walls of the church to share Bible stories and activities with children in the community. For Melanie, the library ministry is where the love of God and reading meet.