

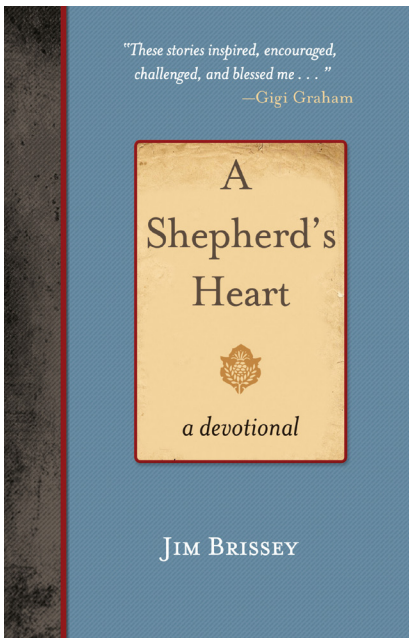


# news release

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## FORMER PBS EXEC SHARES INSPIRATIONAL STORIES IN NEW DEVOTIONAL AUTHOR LEAVES CORPORATE COMFORTS TO SERVE HOMELESS AND PRISONERS



**For immediate release:** Jim Brissey spent 16 years rubbing elbows with Mister Rogers, Captain Kangaroo and Cookie Monster during his time at PBS. But one day while sitting at a traffic light God instructed him to leave his cushy lifestyle and six-figure income to work full-time in ministry. “I resigned from my job the next morning,” recalls Brissey. “It was the best decision of my life.” After nearly two decades in ministry Brissey created a collection of meditations, poems and stories in the new devotional *A Shepherd’s Heart* (Ambassador International; March 2014; \$11.99, paperback).

As the Senior Pastor of Higher Ground Ministries Brissey serves in many areas of the community, including prison ministry. Brissey and his team have held hundreds of meetings in 12 different prisons in the US and two in Honduras. One of the book’s powerful passages tells the story of Manny Valle, a man convicted of killing a police officer during a traffic stop more than 30 years ago. After meeting with Valle regularly Brissey led him to Christ and prayed with Valle’s family during his 2011 execution. “Just a few days before he was executed I spent a few hours with Manny,” says Brissey. “He was clothed in the peace that passes all human understanding.”

*A Shepherd’s Heart* received many endorsements from recognizable names including Bob D’Andrea, Founder of the Christian Television Network; Bill Glass, College Football Hall of Famer and Champions for Life Founder; and Murf the Surf, the world’s most famous reformed jewel thief and Christian speaker. Gigi Graham, Billy Graham’s daughter said of *The Shepherd’s Heart*, “These stories inspired, encouraged, challenged and blessed me.”

**About the Author:** Jim Brissey and his wife Jean are Senior Pastors of Higher Ground Ministries in DeLand, Fl. Jim earned his Bachelor of Biblical Studies through Omega Seminary. Jean is a graduate of Spirit Life School of Theology. The couple has been married for 37 years. Jim and Jean have spearheaded hundreds of outreaches throughout the U.S. and abroad and have witnessed thousands giving their hearts to Jesus.

For more information about the author visit [SteveWhigham.com](http://SteveWhigham.com). To connect with the author please contact publicist Alison Storm at [media@emeraldhouse.com](mailto:media@emeraldhouse.com).

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**ABOUT THE PUBLISHER:** Ambassador International was founded in 1980 in Belfast, Northern Ireland and expanded to Greenville, South Carolina in 1995. Ambassador International’s books and materials have been distributed in dozens of countries and are sold worldwide. For more information visit [www.ambassador-international.com](http://www.ambassador-international.com). You can also follow @AmbassadorIntl on Twitter or check out Facebook.com/AmbassadorIntl.

## **Suggested Interview Questions for the Author:**

1. What led you to write *A Shepherd's Heart*?
2. How did God tell you to leave your job and pursue ministry?
3. How did you begin your prison ministry?
4. Is ministering to a death row inmate different from shepherding anyone else?
5. How does visiting a prison renew your awareness of how amazing God's grace and love really is?
6. You write that the Lord often speaks to you in pictures. What does he tell you through these images?

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## Endorsements/Reviews:

AS I READ THE SHORT devotional chapters in *A Shepherd's Heart*, I thought of Jesus, when He said, "Feed my sheep." These stories inspired, encouraged, challenged, and blessed me; this sheep was fed. Pastor Jim, you are clearly a shepherd with a big and caring heart. Thank you for faithfully obeying the Great Shepherd by continuing to feed the sheep: both those that follow, and those that tend to wander away. Thank you for feeding me!

—Gigi Graham  
Daughter of Reverend Billy Graham

*A SHEPHERD'S HEART*: REAL PEOPLE, real situations, real victories. What an encouraging read. Like taking fresh vitamins for the soul. I love these inspiring stories about everyday folks who overcome struggles through the love and guidance of Jesus and His people.

—Jack "Murf the Surf" Murphy  
CEO, Sonshine Adventures, Inc.

THE SCRIPTURE OFTEN USES THE term Shepherd as a metaphor to describe our Lord Jesus. A thorough study of the history of shepherds throughout the Middle East offers a perfect illustration of the preeminence of the Chief Shepherd who lovingly cares for His sheep. Likewise, the importance of the Under Shepherd, as outlined in 1 Peter 5, is one who carries out the will of the Chief Shepherd. Pastor Jim Brissey, along with his devoted wife, Jean, has faithfully demonstrated the valued qualities and unfathomable influence of the office of the Under Shepherd. Their leadership, now approaching 1000 ministry outreaches from Higher Ground Ministries in Central Florida, stands as an authentic testimony to their resolute quest to follow in the Lord's footsteps.

I count it a distinct privilege to recommend to you *A Shepherd's Heart*. As you peruse this sweet devotional, you just can't help but sense the heartbeat of the Good Shepherd.

—Bob D'Andrea  
Founder and President,  
Christian Television Network

FROM THE CELLBLOCKS OF AMERICA'S prisons to the poverty of Honduras, Pastor Jim Brissey has poured out his mind and heart to lost people. This wonderful book, *A Shepherd's Heart*, is filled with exciting testimonies and miracles of God. Walk with Jim and meet many exciting Biblical personalities. Read, learn, and enjoy the ride!

—Bill Glass  
Founder, Champions for Life Ministries

MY WIFE AND I ARE truly blessed starting each day with a Spirit-filled message from *A Shepherd's Heart*. This collection of life lessons is anointed by the Holy Spirit, and it reflects the ministry to which Pastors Jim & Jean have been called. Our lives have been truly blessed and enriched over the last ten years by knowing Jim and Jean. Jim's personal transparency and real-life approach to sharing the Gospel provides the authenticity to allow him to spread the word to anyone who is willing to listen. With her exuberance and unbridled passion, Jean exemplifies someone who is filled by the Spirit. They have both made an indelible mark on our lives. *A Shepherd's Heart* is a must-read for those who wish to experientially apply God's word to daily living and to enjoy His riches and glories in the fullness of life.

—William T. Morgan, M.D.  
Bible Teacher & Internist

JIM AND JEAN BRISSEY HAVE regularly volunteered at Putnam Correctional Institution in East Palatka, Florida, for over fourteen years. With a prophet's cry in his voice and as a highly gifted evangelist, Pastor Brissey has faithfully preached the Gospel of the glorious grace of God. Higher Ground Ministries has been one of the most popular program events at this prison and has been used by the Lord to cause many inmates to turn to faith in Christ as an answer to their incarceration problems. Anyone dedicated to ministry will find Jim's words encouraging, thoughtful, and challenging. The LORD can truly lift us all up to Higher Ground through reading this book.

—David K. Miller  
Senior Chaplain, Putnam Prison

AN EXCELLENT BOOK. A TRULY heart-touching story that will stretch you to new possibilities in places you were not looking to go. When you find yourself boxed in by unendurable circumstances, you will remember how those who must live in the small box of a jail cell can still find their joy. Be prepared to have your compassion expanded to new borders after you read this book.

—Dr. Kevin McNulty  
Global evangelist;  
Co-founder of Christian Adventures International



# author bio

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## JIM BRISSEY

*Author of "A Shepherd's Heart"*



Jim Brissey and his wife Jean are Senior Pastors of Higher Ground Ministries in DeLand, Fl. Jim earned his Bachelor of Biblical Studies through Omega Seminary. Jean is a graduate of Spirit Life School of Theology. Jim & Jean have been married for 37 years. They are ordained through Revival Ministries International in Tampa, Fl. Jim & Jean have spearheaded hundreds of outreaches throughout the U.S. and abroad and have witnessed thousands give their heart to Jesus. They have a passion for revival, evangelistic outreach and training outreach ministers.

### Connect with Jim Brissey

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 <http://www.highergroundministries.org/>

 [Facebook.com/JimBrissey](https://www.facebook.com/JimBrissey)

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