

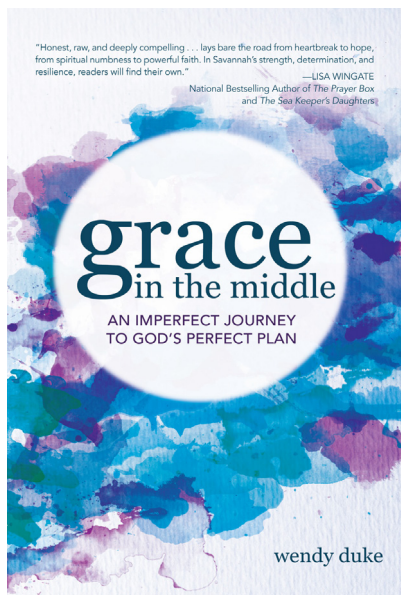


# news release

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## CHILD WITH ONE LEG BEATS THE ODDS AND KICKS CANCER, TOO MIRACLE DAUGHTER CHALLENGES PARENTS' FAITH IN NEW BOOK



RELEASE DATE: July 2015  
TRADE Paperback  
PAGES: 192  
PRICE: \$13.99  
ISBN: 9781620205297

**For immediate release:** After years of trying to get pregnant, Wendy and Scott Duke were finally going to have their first child. But when a dangerous pre-natal diagnosis followed by an even more lethal disease after their daughter's birth threatened to immediately take their newborn away, the Dukes turned to their only hope: God. In *Grace in the Middle* (Ambassador International; July 2015; \$13.99, paperback) Duke encourages readers through the amazing story of her young daughter's victory over some of life's most perilous afflictions.

Wendy and Scott Duke were your typical young married couple who had met in Fellowship of Christian Athletes while in college. But when it came time to grow their family, things became anything but typical. After three miscarriages, the Dukes were hesitant when Wendy conceived a third time. Just when they thought God had given them the green light at an early doctor's appointment, their excitement was shattered by a simple sentence: "Baby has only one leg."

Anxious, frustrated, and scared, Wendy and Scott braced themselves for the unknown. In *Grace in the Middle*, Wendy recounts how her faith was rattled throughout the pregnancy. "I had never had to flesh out this flimsy faith I'd claimed," Duke writes. "It had no meat, no muscles, no substance. I just kept asking, 'What kind of God would let this happen?'" Her book reveals exactly what kind of God He is. When little Savannah was born, the Dukes breathed a sigh of relief; they believed the worst had passed. But another battle was rearing its menacing head: cancer. Wendy writes about her anger toward God after this new development, "I turned to look at Scott, and I screamed as loud as I could—choking on every word—'WHERE...IS...GOD?!'"

*Grace in the Middle* details the physical, emotional, and spiritual struggles Wendy and Scott faced during the pregnancy and the treatments for their daughter Savannah's cancer. Duke reminds us that God was always there for her even when she might not have felt His presence. She continually emphasizes the importance of having the love and support of family and a church, highlighting the richness in spiritual growth that takes place through such difficult trials. The first few years of Savannah's life were difficult—there's no denying that. But, as Duke is attentive to remind, God is stronger and more powerful than any curveballs thrown at a believer. *Grace in the Middle* even includes a chapter written by Savannah, who is now almost 15 and living a normal, busy, teenage life.

**About the Author:** Wendy Duke lives in South Carolina with her husband and two children. She works with her husband in international sports development, using their backgrounds in coaching and telling their story throughout the world. When she's not traveling, she is a Bible teacher, speaker, blogger, sports junkie, and middle school chauffeur. *Grace in the Middle* is Wendy's first book. She writes on her blog at [www.wendyduke.net](http://www.wendyduke.net).

To connect with the author or request a review copy of *Grace in the Middle*, please contact publicist Alison Storm at [media@emeraldhouse.com](mailto:media@emeraldhouse.com).

**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](https://www.facebook.com/AmbassadorIntl).

## Suggested Interview Questions for the Author:

1. What inspired you to write *Grace in the Middle*?
2. Where did you feel God's comfort and peace most intensely when you were struggling with your faith?
3. You talk about how the pull to terminate your pregnancy was enticing during your darker hours. What would you say to encourage other women who are feeling the same pull?
4. In what ways did your attitude differ the second time Savannah had to go in for surgery to re-remove the tumor from her first surgery?
5. What kind of role did holding on to hope play in your faith struggles during Savannah's first year?
6. Who is your favorite example from Scripture to use when faced with what feels like an overwhelming circumstance such as cancer or high-risk pregnancy?
7. Some people never have faced something as formidable as cancer in their own lives, but most people have loved ones or friends who have. What would you suggest these people do to best encourage and care for their friends who are suffering?
8. What words of encouragement do you have for parents expecting a disabled child, particularly as it relates to how these parents had a whole different lifestyle envisioned for their little ones?
9. What's the biggest myth about having a high-risk pregnancy or disabled child that Savannah has proven false?
10. What message do you hope people will take from your family's story?

## Endorsements:

*Grace in the Middle* has just ranked as one of my all-time favorite books--EVER. You will laugh out loud and cry empathetic tears. But there's a story within the story that every believer must tackle for the sake of their own faith; Surrender. "I want to know Him in the power of His resurrection, and in the fellowship of His sufferings" (Phil 3:10). The Holy Spirit will minister to you through Wendy's "fellowship of His sufferings," and if you're willing . . . it will change your life!

—Rachel Lee Carter

Author of *Fashioned by Faith* (Thomas Nelson, 2011),  
Founder of Modeling Christ Ministries

This book touched me deeply. I sat down one night thinking I would just read a few chapters, but I couldn't put it down and finished in one sitting. Throughout the story I found God speaking to me in so many areas that challenged me to examine my relationship with my entire family and most importantly, with Him. The story is an honest look at heartbreak and joy at the same time. It's okay to say "life is hard." Sometimes life doesn't make sense, but Wendy's mad writing skills bring things into perspective. Sometimes men will see a book by a female author and think it's a chick book. This book is for everyone!

—Darrell Cothran

Minister of Media, First Baptist North Spartanburg

How do we react when tragedy unexpectedly rears its ugly head into our lives? Who do we lean on? Who do we become? Wendy and Scott Duke saw their world collapse around them when they heard some frightening news regarding their unborn daughter, but, through it all, they never let go of God, and, most importantly, God never let go of them. This is a must-read book for all of us who have hit tough times in our lives. Wendy shows us in *Grace In The Middle*, that even when there is tragedy, there is also faith, hope, and above all else, love.

—Brett Parks

Author of *Miracle Man: A Bullet That Ignited a Purpose-Filled Life*, Founder and President of Second Shot Ministry

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## **Additional Endorsements**

Honest, raw, and deeply compelling, *Grace in the Middle* is a book for anyone who's ever felt powerless, who's wondered, Where is God in all of this? Wendy Duke lays bare the road from heartbreak to hope, from spiritual numbness to powerful faith. In Savannah's strength, determination, and resilience, readers will find their own.

—Lisa Wingate

National Bestselling Author of *The Prayer Box*  
and *The Sea Keeper's Daughters*

What a terrific reminder of God's grace and love and provision and steadfastness and . . . well, everything HE says in HIS word. Get this book by Wendy Duke, in fact, get it and get another to give to a friend!

—Mickey Henderson

Pastor of Spiritual Development,  
Sunnyvale First Baptist Church, Sunnyvale, TX

*Grace in the Middle* is a MUST-READ for all moms! Wendy Duke beautifully describes the hope that can be found in Jesus regardless of our personal circumstances. Every mom will be blessed to experience this journey filled with struggles leading to the profound mercy of God's sovereignty that is available to each one of us. Wendy is a skilled writer who uses her stones of remembrance of God's faithfulness to issue a tender call for full surrender to God.

—Chimene Shipley Dupler

President/CEO of Passion4Moms  
[www.passion4moms.org](http://www.passion4moms.org)

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## WENDY DUKE

Author of "*Grace in the Middle*"



Wendy Duke lives in South Carolina with her husband and two children. She works with her husband in international sports development, using their backgrounds in coaching and telling their story throughout the world. When she's not traveling, she is a Bible teacher, speaker, blogger, sports junkie, and middle school chauffeur. *Grace in the Middle* is Wendy's first book. She writes on her blog at [www.wendyduke.net](http://www.wendyduke.net).

### Connect with the Author

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