

CONFESSIONS OF A BOOKAHOLIC May 14, 2026

'You will be the same person in five years as you are today except for the people you meet and the books you read.' - Charles 'Tremendous' Jones

I first heard those words in the mid-1970's when Jones was a guest on the 700 Club, hosted by Pat Robertson. Jones was a top insurance salesman from Pennsylvania that had more enthusiasm than any one you would ever meet. While his kids were growing up, he wanted them to read powerful books that would change their life. He gave them an incentive: the more books they read, the better the first car he would purchase for them.

As I look back over my life, I realize the truth of the above quote. Certain people and various books have changed me profoundly. My mother was a busy one with four kids and also as farmer's wife. However, she did like to read Christian books, as I would later do as a young teenager, where we had several adventure fiction stories that had a Christian theme. My brother and I also liked fictional stories about horses and dogs from authors such as Jim Kjelgaard. For my 16th birthday, Mom gave me *World Aflame* by Billy Graham. By my mid-20's, I became a bookaholic. Just as an alcoholic finds it hard to avoid a few drinks when passing a tavern, I found it difficult to pass a book store without buying a few books, usually Christian ones. Some people have said to me, 'Why don't you just read the Bible?' That is a fair question for human authored books should never replace the Bible, but many Christian books are like 'sermons in print' where authors have explored more deeply certain topics from the Bible. That is basically the characteristic of our website, jesusreigns.net

It was from January - April 1978 that I read the whole Bible through for the first time.

It was in the paraphrase called *The Living Bible* which I took from the housekeeper's closet at Peek'n Peak ski resort hotel. I felt a little guilty while reading the 'stolen Bible', however I was relieved to eventually find a card at the back of the Bible that said the Bibles were a gift from local churches and people could keep the Bible. One housekeeper Brenda had an important influence on my life. She gave me a cassette by Josh McDowell re: the Proof of the Resurrection of Jesus. This solidified my intellectual belief in Christianity.

(My weekend houseman job: I carried luggage to rooms, delivered room service orders of food, assisted guests in building fires in the fireplaces and also acted as chauffeur to the Erie, Pa. Airport for conference guests)

Over the decades I have filled notebooks with writings and research that I and others have done. I got frustrated trying to locate various subjects to review as I sorted through boxes of notes.

Finally, one day I decided to lay them all out on the floor and separate them according to subjects and then created categories on the website so that I could easily refer to them.

However, God did not intend this to be just for me, but for sharing with the world.

Over the past 5 years the site has grown, not only in depth but also in reach. As a missionary, my greatest pleasure was personal discipleship, especially among those who would have great influence on others, which included church leaders. My prayer has been that our website would reach many continents and nations. Several weeks ago I received a message from Kevin in Kenya, who gladly discovered our website. In our coming message, we will share more about how God has used us to bless him and others in rural Kenya.

In our [Kingdom Wisdom](#) section on our site, I list some key books and resources that impacted my life that inspired me to become a world changer. A few days ago God impressed me to gather many of my books and send them to places in the USA that disburse books or DVD's overseas to places like Kenya and other poorer nations. Books live on after we are gone.

Alcoholics often destroy their lives and others. However, bookaholics have the potential to see great benefits for their life and even for others. That's my confession! jesusreigns.net