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The Life of Meaning Series Companion Book

The companion book to *RELIGION & ETHICS NEWSWEEKLY*, “The Life of Meaning: Reflections on Faith, Doubt and Repairing the Word,” edited by series’ host Bob Abernethy and religion writer Bill Bole, features a collection of insightful, moving and eloquent observations on life and how to live it by some of the most thoughtful men and women in America — and beyond. These observations, culled from show interviews conducted over the past several years and edited into essay form, provide insight into the fears, hopes and faiths of various individuals including Desmond Tutu, Francis Collins, Marianne Williamson, Irving Greenberg, Barbara Brown Taylor, Harold Kushner, Madeleine L’Engle, Seyyed Hossein Nasr, Jimmy Carter and the late William Sloane Coffin. Without preaching or proselytizing, they speak about: doubt and spirituality; the major religions; belief in God in the presence of suffering and evil; prayer and meditation; and the truths of “other” religions. The collection closes with a look at several lives well-lived.

Published in 2007 by Seven Stories Press and available in both hardback and paperback editions, “The Life of Meaning” has received numerous critical acclaim. *Publishers Weekly* describes the book as “a rich feast of accumulated wisdom.” *Library Journal* says that it is “extremely personal and written from the heart. Even well-known religious scholars . . . who could have dazzled us with dense academic theological prose, instead speak quietly and earnestly of their relationship with God or gods, their beliefs concerning good and evil, the place of humans in a spiritual environment, and their ultimate search for meaning in this chaotic universe.” And the *Christian News Service* observes, “Each short selection is the distinctive voice of an individual. There is diversity and humor here as well as wisdom.”

More about “The Life of Meaning” and how to order a copy is available on the program’s Web site: <http://www.pbs.org/wnet/religionandethics/book/index.html>.

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