**CHRISTIAN FICTION**

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| **DEFINITION:** Christian fiction has at its core biblically-based attitudes, values and actions. It is sometimes called inspirational fiction or gentle reads, but these terms can be misleading.  Christian fiction is characterized by explicit or implicit Christianity and little or no sex, violence or profanity. Often written in a series to show the growth of faith over time, these books pose religious questions and answers, show conflict over faith and morality, often emphasize a conversion or crisis of faith and exemplify Christian faith in real life. |

**CHARACTERISTICS:** Christian fiction has little or no sex, violence or profanity.  These books always show Christian values and although there may be a conflict, or a crisis of faith, good and evil (black and white) is very clearly drawn.  The pace may be slower with the emphasis on the characters.

**APPEAL:** Many of the authors currently write series with a stand alone here and there.  Series by favorite authors are a huge attraction.  Also, readers know they can rely on these authors to be consistent in their subject matter.

**READERS:** Most often, the readers are women of an evangelical faith.  Also, you will have requests by young adult girls and their mothers looking for transitional reads in the romance and historical genres.  As Christian fiction expands its subgenres, it draws young adults and adults who want biblical themes in their science fiction and fantasy.  In the past, the readers were generally older women but this has changed over time due to perhaps television programs (7th Heaven, Little House, etc.) and better marketing by publishers.

**SUBGENRES:** Most of the subgenres are what you would find elsewhere:  apocalyptic, contemporary, historical, romance, western, science fiction, fantasy, and suspense, and additionally, biblical themes.

**TRENDS:** Series are more popular than stand alones.   Janette Oke’s books are popular again due to the recent release of movies based on her books.  Many authors are addressing contemporary, often difficult, issues (e.g., divorce, alcoholism, abuse, etc.).

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| Classic Authors | Lloyd C. Douglas, Grace Livingston Hill, C.S. Lewis, Catherine Marshall, Janette Oke, Lew Wallace |
| Apocalyptic | Randy Alcorn, Tim F. LaHaye/Jerry B. Jenkins, Bill Myers, Frank Peretti |
| Biblical Themes | Joseph Girzone, Walter Wangerin |
| Contemporary | Robin Jones Gunn, Robin lee Hatcher, Karen Kingsbury, Beverly Lewis |
| Historical (incl. Westerns) | T. Davis Bunn, Lynn and Gilbert Morris, Judith Pella, Michael Phillips, Francine Rivers, Brock and Bodie Thoene |
| Historical Romance | L.L. Chaikin, Al and JoAnna Lacy, Tracie Peterson, Lori Wick |
| Science Fiction/Fantasy | Karen Hancock, Stephen Lawhead |
| Suspense | Terri Blackstock, Ted Dekker, Linda Hall, Dee Henderson, Patricia H. Rushford |