



Quotes and Endorsements

"Every chapter of Raising Girls brought heartfelt cheers of yes, yes, yes as I read, sometimes laughing out loud, sometimes getting choked up."

Amy Grant,
Recording Artist

"David Thomas is a godsend. I cannot express how valuable he has been to the life of my son. His compassion and love for children is overwhelming. I know that this book will impact parents and children like no other."

Sara Evans,
Multi-Platinum Selling Recording Artist

"God has entrusted a unique and powerful gift to David Thomas to understand the complex language of a boy's heart and to help interpret it for those of us who and lead boys."

Steven Curtis Chapman and Mary Beth Chapman,
Dove Award Winning Recording Artist and NY Times Best Selling Author

"Sissy, David, and Melissa have three of the finest reputations I know. Their impact on the lives of children and parents is truly unparalleled. As personal friends of mine, I can't think of three people whom I'd rather have speak into my life, or the life of every child I know."

Kelly Minter,
Speaker, Women's Bible Study Author & Musician

"Intentional Parenting is a breath of fresh air to the tired parent and an encouragement to the frustrated parent. Occasionally our parenting batteries need to be charged, and this book provides the right combination of helpful reminders and new ideas. It will be a welcome tool in the hands of any parent."

Dave Stone,
Pastor and Author of the Faithful Families Series

"I'm so grateful for this book--for the hours, months, weeks and years and years of conversations with girls that have helped Sissy & Melissa understand, so deeply and completely, what it feels like to be a girl and what tools their parents need to help girls grow into the beautiful, splendid creatures God intended them to be."

Cindy Morgan
Recording Artist, Songwriter and, Author

"*Becoming a Dad* is practical and promising, wise and witty. I think new parents need two copies. One for him to take everywhere and one for her to read to her just after he puts the children to bed, runs her bath and rubs her feet. She'll love the book. I promise."

Angela Thomas,
Best Selling Author, Do You Think I'm Beautiful

"*How to Hit a Curveball* is wildly funny and immensely true to the core of what it means to be a man. Suffering is not an option, but how we engage our struggles will define the kind of men we become."

Dan Allender, Ph.D.,
Author of To Be Told and How Children Raise Parents

“As a pediatrician, I see parents every day wrestling with how to understand and guide their sons. If you’re looking for practical parenting skills, these pages are filled with sound advice.”

Linda Brady,
Pediatrician

“I have my role models. They are truth-sharers and truth-seekers. Sissy and Melissa have not only offered my a relational understanding of myself but have taught and challenged me to grow further in the ways I was specifically designed to.”

Katie,
Age 17

“Melissa and Sissy have helped me so much. I wish I had them on speed dial!”

Molly,
Age 17

“With a heart for the whole development of boys, David Thomas shares his wisdom from many years of interaction with boys. David’s insight from his life and practice imparts a personal touch to the rich body of knowledge he has acquired. He has a unique relational approach to the children with whom he works and a honed skill to share that experience with the rest of us. His is a voice to be carefully heeded by parents and teachers, and all who care about the lives of boys.”

Brenda Boon,
Director of Lower School and Admissions, Oak Hill School

”Wow, what a difference you have made in many families! The parents who came to hear the Raising Girls seminar left with new insight ready to face the challenges of raising their daughters.”

Charlotte Scholl,
Guidance Counselor, Battle Ground Academy

“David has a remarkable ability to remind me what an honor it is to be a part of the story that God is writing about my son’s life. I am so thankful for David’s insights about this wonderful adventure with my son!”

Trace Blankenship,
Attorney and Father of two

“I am so grateful for the wisdom I received from the Raising Girls seminar. I definitely gained an understanding that will help me parent through every season of raising my daughter.”

Elizabeth Hawkins,
Mother of two girls

Intentional Parenting

“As educators and Christians, we bring all of our natal strengths, God-given assets, and distinct personalities into the classroom. However, along with these gifts, we carry our wounds, insecurities, and fears. Our unique persona manifests itself in the way we teach and engage students and surfaces in our approach to the different situations we encounter in the contact of schools. When we deepen our intimacy with Christ, He redeems our character flaws and insecurities, freeing us to be a truer version of the individual He intended us to be. This refinement enhances our impact on our students and strengthens our ability to speak into their lives in authentic and significant ways. *Intentional Parenting* fully captures this complexity through the context of parenting. We parent who we are. This book equips parents at all stages and provides them with a principle-centered approach to parenting that challenges the to be reflective and proactive as the invest spiritually, emotionally and physically in their children.”

Nathaniel H. Morrow ,
Assistant Headmaster and High School Principle
Christ Presbyterian Academy, Nashville, TN

“Each day I see parents attempting to complete a day filled with activities for their children. They plan each portion down to the very minute. Sadly, parents are not planning how they can be intentional in casting vision for their children and help launch them into the next season of their life. Our culture is in desperate need of a generation of parents who are willing to sacrifice in a redemptive way and be strategic and intentional in the lives of their children. David, Sissy, and Melissa have provided a great resource for those parents who want to know what it means to be an intentional parent and how that fleshes out on a daily basis. I highly recommend that you read this book, take it to heart, and put it to practice today.

Braxton Brady,
Chaplain and Director of Building Boys and Making Men
Presbyterian Day School, Memphis, TN

“*Intentional Parenting* is a breath of fresh air to the tired parent and an encouragement to the frustrated parent. Occasionally our parenting batteries need to be charged, and this book provides the right combination of helpful reminders and new ideas. It will be a welcome tool in the hands of any parent.

Dave Stone,
Pastor and Author of the Faithful Families series

“Sissy, David, and Melissa have three of the finest reputations I know. Their impact on the lives of children and parents is truly unparalleled. As personal friends of mine, I can’t think of three people whom I’d rather have speak into my life, or the life of every child I know. The words in this book not only spring from decades of counseling experience, but also from a biblical premise which makes this a must read for anyone with children— or for those like me who simply love them.”

Kelly Minter,
Speaker and Author of Nehemiah: A Heart That Can Break

The Back Door to Your Teen's Heart

"Melissa and Sissy have written a book that speaks the language of the heart of both teens and adults. What a valuable resource for those who want to understand how to love across the generations, God's way! We have known Melissa over the years as youth leader, mentor, and friend and Sissy as a gifted counselor and mentor to many teens."

Michael W. and Debbie Smith,
Author, Songwriters, and Recording Artist

"This book represents years, thousands of hours, of rich, life changing involvement with teens. It could become a classic."

Larry Crabb,
Psychologist, Author and Founder of New Life Ministries

"We all want to have good relationships and communication with our teens. In this book Sissy and Melissa share some tried-and-true methods to reach your teen gleaned from their many years of counseling. I think parents reading this will be helped greatly!"

Dennis Rainey,
Author and Director of FamilyLife Ministries

"If you are looking for practical advice coupled with hands-on experience for raising your teen, look no further. In *The Back Door to Your Teen's Heart*, Melissa and Sissy share how to reach your teen with love and compassion. This is a must-read for every parent."

David White, M.D.

"Sissy and Melissa have helped our television audience for years, and now their secrets of loving and living with teenagers are available for all of us! Having children just entering the turbulent teens, I know what it's like to be 'locked out' of their lives at times. This book is like the 'key under the mat'!"

Debbie Alan
NewsChannel 5 Network, Nashville, TN

"I loved the warm, personal 'back door' approach of this book. It is encouraging to parents to know there are dedicated people in this world who are willing to share their expertise in the field of counseling. Thank you both for reminding us that it takes plenty of time, attention, prayers, patience, laughter, and tears to make and keep a family whole! Most of all, thank you for reminding us once again, it takes LOVE—unconditional, Christlike love."

Peggy Benson, Author and Speaker

"This book is amazing! The wisdom, insights and practical advice it contains far exceeds any other parenting book I have ever read."

Cindy Morgan, Recording Artist, Songwriter, and Author

"A must-read for all parents, no matter where you are on your parenting journey. The well-told stories make the wealth of information easy to understand and apply to your own situation. We know that you will enjoy and appreciate this book!"

Brown and Debbie Bannister, Record Producer and Songwriter

"Finally, Melissa Trevathan and Sissy Goff have written down the wisdom and insight gained from their years of work with teens and parents. Since life is too short to learn everything from our own experience, I am so grateful to Melissa and Sissy for passing on their wisdom in such a practical and inspirational way. Their book has the credibility and authenticity that only comes from those who have been doing the heavy lifting that redeeming love requires."

Billy Sprague,
Author, Songwriter, and Recording Artist

"*The Back Door to Your Teen's Heart* is an excellent resource! Filled with sage insight and penetrating examples, this book will instill confidence, understanding, and compassion in parents and others who love teenagers. As a parent of teens, I was deeply encouraged and helped by this fine work."

Reverend Michael E. Ellis

“For years, Melissa Trevathan and Sissy Goff have played an enormous role in helping families in our community. Their book speaks to the realities of the lives of teenagers and those who love them. It will engage your imagination and inspire you.”

Andi Ashworth,
Author of *Real Love for Real Life*
Charlie Peacock-Ashworth,
Record Producer and Author of *At the Cross*

“This is a book that is so well-written and enjoyable that I read it in one sitting. But the insight on each page is so profoundly helpful that I went back again and again to reabsorb it, a bit at a time.”

Sigmund Brouwer,
Author

“I would say without hesitation that for me the hardest part of parenting an adolescent is holding on to the slender thread of relationship. Melissa and Sissy offer much wisdom in this area. Their suggestions are worthy companions along the mysterious and often alarming path that leads our children (hopefully) to adulthood.”

Ashley Cleveland,
Songwriter, Recording Artist

“These two counselors understand both the pulse of a teenager and the heart of a parent. This is a must-read for parents, teachers, and youth workers.”

Susan Alexander Yates,
Author of *And Then I had Teenagers: Encouragement for Parents of Teens and Preteens*

“This book takes a thoughtful look at the art connecting with and understanding an adolescent. Melissa and Sissy have provided a useful tool to reach a teenager’s heart in a way that builds a relationship based on respect and unconditional love.”

Carter Crenshaw,
Pastor, West End Community Church, Nashville, TN

“Piercing the walls and confusion that surround the heart of each adolescent often seems an impossible task. *The Back Door to Your Teen’s Heart* offers real wisdom and meaningful insight, but most of all, hope. If your desire is to be the parent God intended you to be, join Him at The Back Door and enter your teen’s heart.”

John E. VanHooydonk, M.D.
Vanderbilt University

“Wise, rich, biblical and practical, this book will be for parents, grandparents, teachers, pastors— an essential resource for understanding a teen’s heart. It is an excellent tool to help guide us on how to move in and out of their lives through the back door.”

Rhonda Smith,
Principal, Christ Presbyterian Academy

“As I read this book, I felt as if Melissa and Sissy had given me the rare privilege of eavesdropping on their conversations and relationships with teenagers. Their thoughtful words, loving spirits, and distilled wisdom combine to make this book a compelling and valuable guide into the hearts of youth.”

Al Andrews,
Counselor, and Coauthor of *The Silence of Adam*

“Through the years of knowing Melissa and Sissy, I have seen their constant commitment to the emotional healing of teens and their families. The way they open their hearts to the children and the parents involved in Daystar paves the way for truly miraculous things to take place. They offer ‘real’ love and hope in a time when no one’s life goes untouched by tragedies— big or small. The passion they share is contagious, their wisdom life changing!”

Kim Hill,
Recording Artist

“This book gives tangible, Christ-led ways to engage and relate to adolescents. Through stories, Bible verses, and experience, Melissa and Sissy have written a handbook that every parent of teens should read. It gives parents hope, encouragement, and awareness into the mind and heart of teenagers.”

Meg Clark,
Director of Camp Waldemar, Hunt, Texas

Growing Up Without Getting Lost

“Melissa and Sissy wisely and gently uncover some of the most complicated years of our growing up. With unmatched counseling experience, vulnerable story-telling and Biblical foundation, this book shines a much needed light on the intricacies of what it means to be a teenage girl today. While perusing its pages I couldn’t stop thinking - If only I had a book like this during my teenage years! I would have devoured it.”

Kelly Minter,
Speaker, Author, and Worship Leader

Forward:

“Dear Fellow Travelers,

Life is strange and abstract. Life as a girl perhaps even more strange and abstract. We are messy and determined, lovely and lonely, needy and stressed out.

The first time I met Sissy and Melissa I realized that my strange life as a girl meant something. It meant I was wired and designed to long for relationship and purpose. It also meant that, because life does not always provide perfect relationship or patent purpose, I was, as the old hymn goes, “prone to wonder.”

I have known these two women for six years now, and their encouragement and advice have changed my life. They have a rare combination of wisdom and humor, depth and simplicity and straightforwardness. I am proud to call them my mentors, my role models, and my dearest friends— and I am proud to share them with you.

May we take the time to listen!

— Chelsea, 19

Modern Parents, Vintage Values

“Melissa and Sissy are women who have spent a lifetime caring for adolescents and their parents. Their ministry is unquestionably one of the premier bridge building tools between teens and their families. Their life passion is to see young men and women grow up in the maturity of Jesus Christ.”

Dan B. Alexander, Ph. D.,
Author and President of Mars Hill graduate School

“This is it! The book I’ve been waiting for as a mom! *Modern Parents, Vintage Values* answers every question I’ve thought about as a concerned and invested parent, giving practical and biblical solutions to each situation. Raising three children in today’s technology driven world isn’t an easy task. Teaching and maintaing the values I was taught as a child is even harder. But today, my life just got a little easier. I need two copies of this book. One for my nightstand and one for my purse.”

Candace Cameron Bure,
*Actress, Author, *Reshaping It All**

“Like an ice-cold glass of lemonade taken from your rocker on a scorching hot summer day, this book refreshes a parent’s heart and gives them permission to return to what God meant us to spend our time doing all along: instill virtues into our children. You’ll love the practical ideas! I did.”

Dannah Gresh,
*Secret Keeper Girl, and coauthor, *Lies Young Women Believe**

“*Modern Parents, Vintage Values* is a treasure of a resource and I recommend it to anyone with children. We need to know what they’re up against! Thank you, Melissa and Sissy, for being beacons for us mommies who want to know what we’re up against.”

Angie Smith,
*Author, *I Will Carry You**

“As a mom, I’m glad to read a book from authors who recognize the dangers to children of new media, pop culture, and more. As a blogger, I also appreciate Melissa and Sissy’s awareness of those media benefits. *Modern Parents, Vintage Values* will help parents protect their children by developing their character, thereby preparing them to be good stewards of the technologies of today and beyond.”

Cadice Watters,
*Author, *Start Your Family*, FamilyMaking.com*

“In their mission to help kids and their families, Sissy Goff and Melissa Trevathan have a history of success. Their expertise in helping children through tough times on their way to adulthood, through a psychological and spiritual approach, has been proven time and time again.”

Michael McDonald,
Songwriter and Recording Artist

“Through the years of knowing Melissa and Sissy, I have seen their constant commitment to the emotional healing of teens and their families. They offer ‘real’ love and hope in a day and time when no one’s life goes untouched by tragedies—big or small. The passion they share is contagious, their wisdom life changing!”

Kim Hill,
Recording Artist

Wild Things: The Art of Nurturing Boys

“David and Stephen have once again demonstrated the beauty and power of fraternal collaboration in their newest book, *Wild Things*. If I didn’t know otherwise, I would assume these two guys were granddads, not young dads, when I consider the depth of wisdom and breadth of practical applications captured between the covers of this volume. How I wish I’d had this book when my son was younger, yet the same principles of loving well are applicable from generation to generation. If you want hope and not hype, buy this book. It is a joy to unequivocally endorse it, and I look forward to putting it in the hands of many dads, and moms as well.”

Scotty Smith,
*Founding Pastor, Christ Community Church
Franklin, TN*

“As a pediatrician, I see parents every day wrestling with how to understand and guide their sons. If you’re looking for practical parenting skills, these pages are filled with sound advice. The authors break down each stage of a boy’s journey, and the book is filled with effective, simple tips that you can implement now. This is one of the best parenting resources I’ve seen.”

Linda Brady,
Pediatrician

“I loved this book! As a single mom for the past seven years, I couldn’t wait to dive into Stephen and David’ timely work. This mom of two wild things and two softer things needed their road map and driving instructions for the dangerous journey we are traveling. Bless you both for the wisdom you have given to me. May all our boys be nurtured and loved until they are honorable men God intended for them to become.”

Angela Thomas,
Speaker and Best-Selling Author of My Single Mom Life

“These two men are deep with an honesty that touches the heart without being sentimental. I am many years older, but not wiser; they simply offer truth that transforms my passions so that I walk away wanting to know God and amazing that he knows me.”

Dan Allender, Ph.D.,
*Professor of Counseling at Mars Hill Graduate School
Author of How Children Raise Parents*