

# Investment Returns

BY LYNN WALDREF

THE LINE OF PEOPLE waiting for a book looked as if it stretched to Tampa. The crowd at the Orlando Convention Center were industry insiders who knew books better than most anyone, bookstore owners attending the annual Christian Booksellers Association International Convention. Now they were lined up almost 50 deep to get their own autographed copy of *Kids Can Talk to God* (New Hope, 1999) by Denise George.

Denise hurried in to meet the crowd from behind a music vendor's display of multiple video screens two stories high.

She scurried into her chair behind the New Hope table and began signing. Denise spoke with each individual, furthering our partnership with Christian booksellers. Together New Hope, our authors, and bookstores are communicating that there is hope: Christ changes lives.

He changes them beyond Orlando. New Hope authors tell stories of what goes on all over the country. Denise tells of a phone call she received one night from a woman who had read Denise's book, *God's Heart, God's Hands* (New Hope, 1998). The caller's husband had just knocked out her front teeth. "She identified with what I had written about spousal abuse and decided to call me. I had a long talk with her and then prayed for her. The last I heard, she was making good progress."

Another writer, Renee Holmes Kent, had an unforgettable encounter with a reader at a Kentucky women's conference

"This story meant so much to this mother that she was crying as she spoke about how it had made an impact on her child."

after Renee wrote *Mollie's Miracle* (New Hope, 1997), a children's book that deals with prejudice. "One woman said that she and her daughter read *Mollie's Miracle* together. She was crying as she spoke about how it had made an impact on her child, who had physical disabilities and struggled with self-esteem and loneliness."

Renee is delving further into the arena of self-esteem in children with her new "Adventures in Misty Falls" fiction series for preteen girls. (The first title in the series, *Cassie, You're a Winner!*, is available this month.) It's too early to know how successful we will be in helping young girls see themselves as God made them, not as Wall Street says they should be. But we're working and praying.

Could any work investment be more humbling? ■■■

New Hope books are available at your local Christian bookstore or through [www.newhopepubl.com](http://www.newhopepubl.com).



Denise George placed New Hope books in the hands of bookstore owners at a recent Christian booksellers convention.