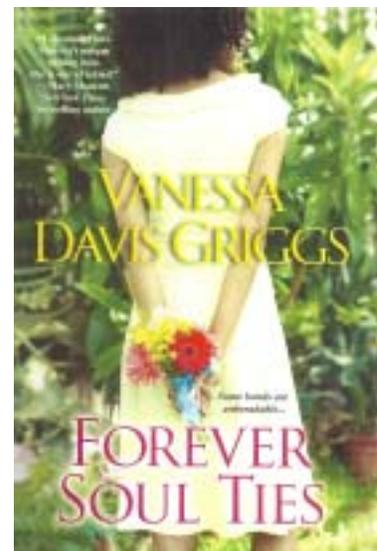
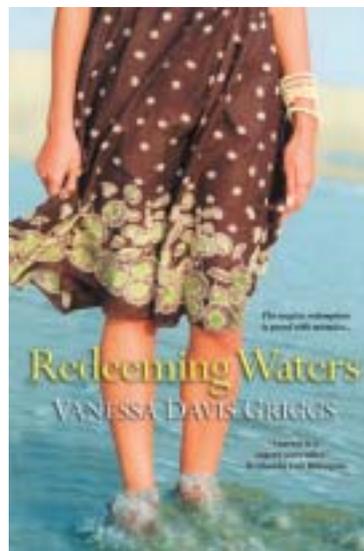
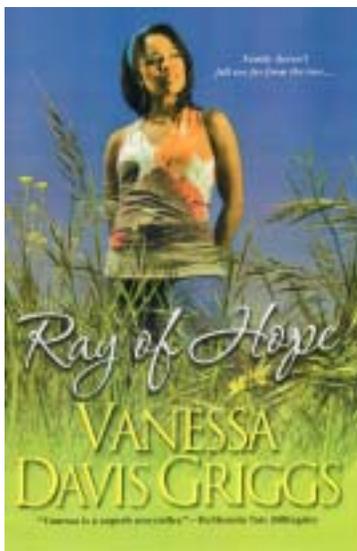
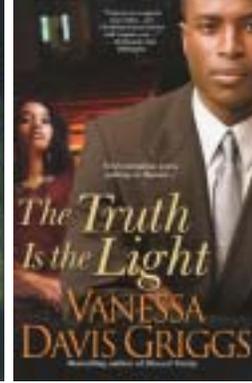
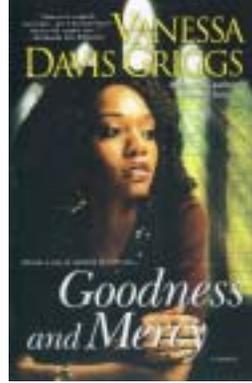
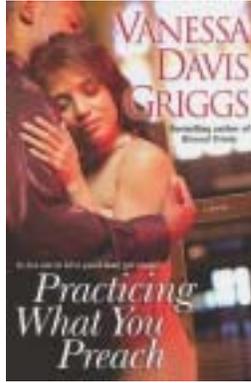
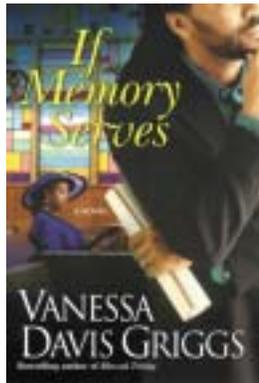
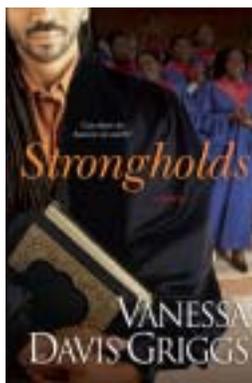
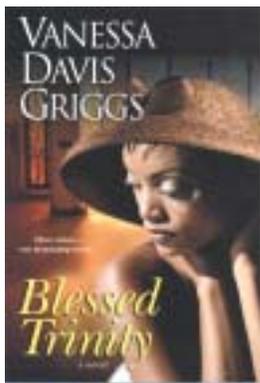
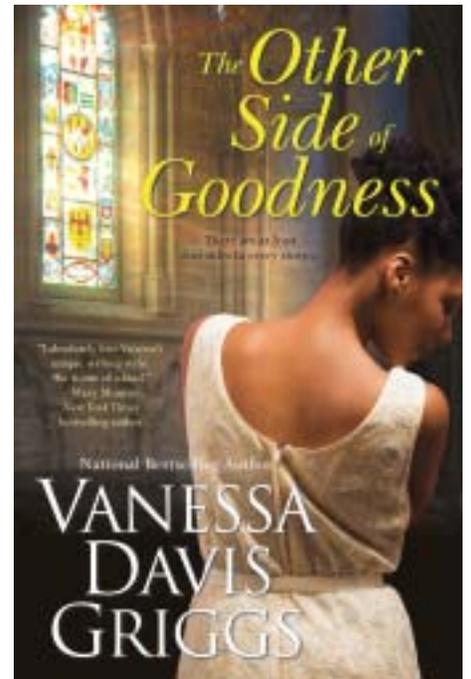


Author & Speaker Vanessa Davis Griggs



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P. O. Box 101328, Birmingham, AL 35210



Vanessa Davis Griggs

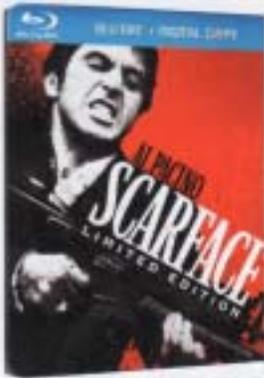
Bio

Vanessa Davis Griggs is an author and motivational speaker who adores the power of words both written and spoken. At the end of 1996, this former BellSouth employee left 18 years of service stepping out on faith and decided to pursue her purpose and passion—writing. Proving out Proverbs 18:16, A man’s gift maketh room for him, and bringeth him before great men, she began her own company (Free To Soar) emphasizing the taking off of limits as she travels around the country inspiring others—young and old—to take flight and do the same.

Vanessa is the recipient of numerous recognitions and awards which include June 2007 recipient of the Arts and Letters Award from Delta Sigma Theta Sorority Birmingham Alumnae Chapter, March 2006 recipient of The Greater Birmingham Millennium Section National Council of Negro Women Inspiration Award, and 2004-2005 Jasper Outstanding Achievement Award. Named Who’s Who in Black Birmingham in 2006, 2008, 2009. Received a Certificate of Special Congressional Recognition March 2010 from Congressman Sanford D. Bishop, Jr. of Georgia.

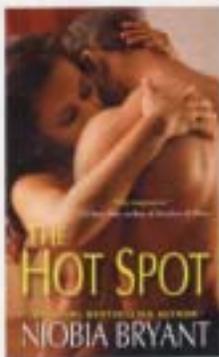
Vanessa periodically writes articles for various magazines and newspapers. She has appeared on TV and radio shows throughout the country and was the guest host of a local Birmingham show “The Almighty Eyes.” Vanessa resides in Irondale (home of the Whistle Stop Café and Fried Green Tomatoes), a community just outside of Birmingham, Alabama.

Vanessa is the author of novels: *Destiny Unlimited*, *The Rose of Jericho*, *Promises Beyond Jordan*, *Wings of Grace*. The Blessed Trinity series published by Kensington/Dafina includes: *Blessed Trinity*, *Strongholds*, *If Memory Serves*, *Practicing What You Preach*, *Goodness and Mercy*, *The Truth Is the Light*, and releasing 8/1/2012 is *The Other Side of Goodness*. Three stand-alone novels are: *Ray of Hope*, *Redeeming Waters*, and *Forever Soul Ties*.



SCARFACE
UNIVERSAL STUDIOS HOME ENTERTAINMENT | BLU-RAY

If you grew up or lived in America for any extended length of time, chances are you have seen, can quote or probably own multiple copies of *Scarface*—VHS, DVD—and on Sept. 6, you can add the Blu-Ray to your collection. The *Scarface* Special Limited Edition Blu-Ray (\$34.98) comes with collectible SteelBook packaging, 10 exclusive art cards, a digital copy of the film and a DVD of the original 1932 *Scarface*. The disc also features bonus materials like a "making of" featurette, deleted scenes and casting secrets from Al Pacino and director Brian DePalma so that you can relive the insane excess of this cultural cinematic classic in hi-def for years to come. —E.M.J.



THE HOT SPOT
BY NIOBIA BRYANT
KENSINGTON | BOOK

In the midst of a divorce to her high school sweetheart of 21 years and parenting kids in college, Zari Ali is now finding herself lonely and looking for love. But will dating 26-year-old Kaleb Strong lead her in the direction she is necessarily looking for? Niobia Bryant takes readers on an explosive roller coaster of emotion in *The Hot Spot* (Kensington, \$6.99). —Marcia Bell



THE GUARD
REPRISAL FILMS | MOVIE

There isn't much that Don Cheadle does that we don't love all the way back to *Colors*, and *The Guard* should be no different. Starting Cheadle as a straight-faced FBI agent, this comedic crime thriller seems to be a refreshing change of pace for the actor. Described as a witty and clever tale about two law enforcement officials who join forces to take on drug smugglers, we can't wait to see the laughs Cheadle will elicit from his adoring fans (July 29). —E.M.J.



THE WEALTH CURE: PUTTING MONEY IN ITS PLACE
BY HILL HARPER
GOTHAM BOOKS | BOOK

What defines your wealth? A home in the Hamptons? Having a different vehicle to drive for every day of the week? Or maybe being able to afford a shopping spree on Rodeo Drive? *New York Times* best-selling author Hill Harper puts a relevant perspective on life and financial foundation in *The Wealth Cure: Putting Money in Its Place* (Gotham Books, \$26). Harper's clear and direct view of wealth versus health and happiness is re-examined after he was diagnosed with thyroid cancer. Speaking candidly about his diagnosis, Harper inspires readers to redefine the more important things in life. —M.B.

REDEEMING WATERS
BY VANESSA DAVIS GRIGGS
KENSINGTON | BOOK

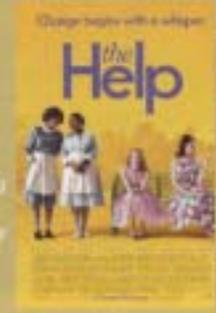
Motivational speaker Vanessa Davis Griggs questions faith and fidelity in her latest novel, titled *Redeeming Waters* (Kensington, \$13). Griggs touches the emotional connection of loneliness, headache and heartache while setting the scene in this biblically challenging quest for love and understanding between two reconnected souls. —M.B.



THE HELP
RELIANCE BIG ENTERTAINMENT | MOVIE

One of the most anticipated movies of summer for the non-teen-ween crowd is *The Help*, based on the best-selling novel by Kathryn Stockett. The film, out Aug. 12, tells the intricate story of race, gender and good old-fashioned pluck in Mississippi. The story centers around maids Aibileen (Viola Davis) and Minny (Octavia Spencer) and aspiring writer Skeeter (Emma Stone) and their

unlikely sisterhood developed over a secret writing project that threatens to turn their small town upside down. This tale of courage, conviction and candor, brought to life by a cast including Academy Award-winning actress Sissy Spacek, Oscar-nominated actresses Carey Tyson and Davis and Anjanette Elie, is sure to be a highlight of the summer movie season. —E.M.J.



Alabama writers offer wide range of spiritual books

By GREG GARRISON
News staff writer

From an established bestselling author to ministers, scholars and a laywoman who share spiritual lessons through books, Birmingham has a variety of religious writers clamoring for attention.

Here is a sampling of some new spiritual books by Alabama authors:

► *God and the Evolving Universe: The Next Step in Personal Evolution* (Tarcher/Putnam, \$25.95), by James Redfield and Michael Murphy.

Redfield, a Birmingham native and Shelby County resident, follows up his trilogy of novels that started with a phenomenal bestseller, *The Celestine Prophecy*, by analyzing spirituality through the prism of Darwin's theory of evolution.

Just as animals evolved into higher life forms, Redfield and Murphy assert, so humanity has continued to evolve to a higher consciousness and more sophisticated view of spirituality.

► *The Evangelist: The Worldwide Impact of Billy Graham* (Word Publishing, \$22.99), by Lewis A. Drummond.

Drummond, who has written 21 books and now holds the title Billy Graham Professor of Evangelism and Church Growth at Samford University's Beeson Divinity School, takes a look back at the career of



Redfield



George



Nored



Griggs

his friend Graham.

Drummond analyzes Graham's view of the Bible and his revivalist preaching style, offering a sweeping appraisal of the evangelist's career as opposed to a biographical play-by-play. The book includes a compact disc with samples of Graham sermons, also an unusual touch in the overcrowded genre of Graham biographies.

► *Theologians of the Baptist Tradition* (Broadman & Holman Publishers, \$24.99), edited by Timothy George and David S. Dockery.

George, dean of the Beeson Divinity School, laments the erosion of consensus in an essay on the future of Baptist theology. He also offers up profiles of theologians John Gill and J.P. Boyce and has

pulled together biographical portraits of more than a dozen other Baptist theologians. This will probably be mostly of interest to Baptist ministers.

► *Beyond the Wall: Meeting Community Needs, Finding Necessary Resources*, by Ron Nored.

Nored, pastor of Bethel AME Church in Ensley, has compiled this slim volume as a practical guidebook to applying for grants and organizing a neighborhood revitalization plan. Bethel AME Church, which organized the non-profit Bethel-Ensley Action Task, or BEAT, has been a textbook example of how to revitalize a slum area known for drug deals, decayed houses and vacant lots and turn it into a unified neighborhood with new, attractive homes and a positive sense of com-

munity.

► *Legends of Hiawatha, Visions of De-ganawidah, and other Stories I Love to Tell* (\$13.95), by John Franklin Phillips.

Phillips, a retired United Methodist minister, turned his fascination with arrowheads into a remarkable collection of Native American memorabilia that astonishes and delights Alabama schoolchildren.

Along with being a prolific arrowhead hunter who has found thousands of relics across the state, Phillips has tirelessly studied the history of Indians in the South and conveyed his knowledge of their culture and religion into a series of self-published books that he hawks at pow-wows and bookstores.

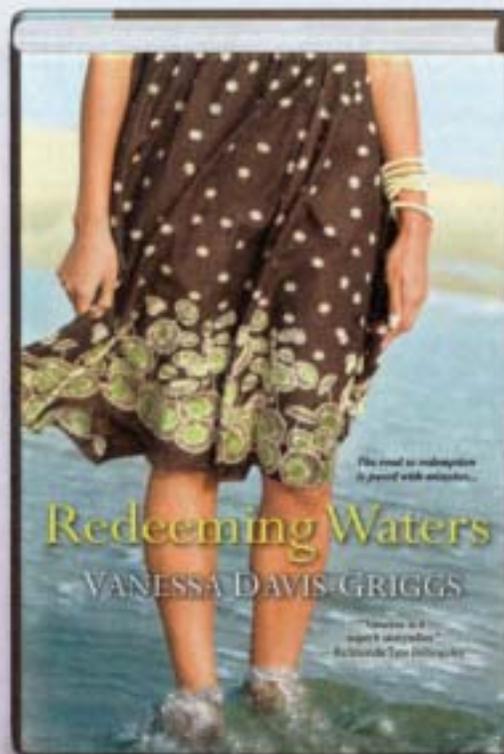
► *Promises Beyond Jordan*, by Vanessa Davis Griggs.

In this novel, a minister about to be married finds his true love elsewhere, along with deep lessons about what's important in life. Mrs. Griggs, a self-published author, lives in Birmingham and worked at BellSouth for 18 years. This is her third novel that blends a romantic story with spiritual overtones — but don't call it a Christian romance novel, Mrs. Griggs said. "Mine is not syrupy," she said. "I want to give you real-life situations. These aren't perfect people. It's not the preachy kind of stuff."

This young wife's faith, forgiveness and fidelity are about to be tested...

NEW! Brianna first met David R. Shepherd, a devout and gifted gospel recording artist who would ultimately become world renowned megastar, King d.Avid, when she was ten and he was twenty-five—and she never forgot him. Brianna's best friend, "wild child" aspiring video vixen Alana Norwood, has always been a good friend to Brianna, and now in their twenties, each face their own drama. Alana's quest for fame puts her on an empty, self-destructive path, while Brianna, now married to Unzell, grapples with a marriage strained by broken dreams. When Brianna meets up with King again, his companionship offers her the deep emotional connection she longs for. But in the end, will she have to choose between her faith or her marriage?

13-383526 Exclusive Hardcover
Member's Edition \$15.99 OR \$3.99*

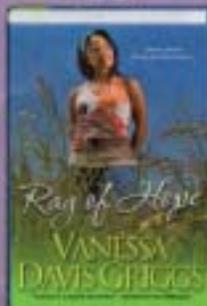


“For whatever reason, this woman was all that filled his thoughts now. And she absolutely took his breath away; she was just that beautiful.... He was utterly and completely, at this point, oxygen deprived and mesmerized.... She then walked straight into the ocean waters with her robe on, until the waters reached her shoulders. Around that time, King d.Avid thought she might possibly be crazy, maybe even suicidal, and that instead of looking on, he should get down there and save her before she did something

foolish. But for whatever reason that he couldn't explain, he didn't move. He merely stood there... watching...watching. And as he watched, he saw her disrobe (her body concealed by the waters), then submerge her whole self, including her head, into the waters.... She then bounced up the wooden steps to the house and equally into his beating heart.”

—from *Redeeming Waters*

ALSO FROM
Vanessa Davis
Griggs



RAY OF HOPE

In this inspiring book, the first in a series, Vanessa Davis Griggs puts a new spin on the biblical tale of Rahab in a modern tale of family ties, and how wisdom borne

from experience can truly save lives....

13-200118 Exclusive HC
Mem. Ed. \$15.99 OR \$3.99*

Black Expressions
August 2011

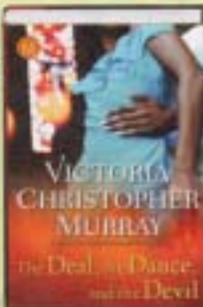
TOP authors



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Original Feature



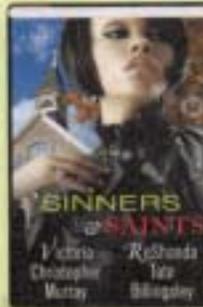
THE DEAL, THE DANCE AND THE DEVIL

Eva and Adam Langston have been together for decades, but their bond is about to be tested big-time as they struggle to keep it together

dealing with bribery, betrayal and the ultimate temptation.

13-370367 Exclusive HC
Mem. Ed. **\$14.99 OR FREE**

Victoria Christopher Murray



SINNERS & SAINTS

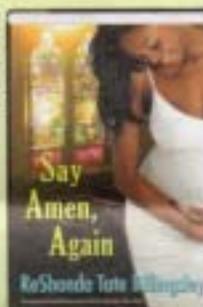
Two of our favorite vixens together in one deliciously devious read! Pastors' wives Jasmine and Rachel have to stop tangling with each other when

the even nastier First Lady Cecelia tries to grab power for herself.

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Mem. Ed. **\$15.99 OR FREE**



Original Feature



SAY AMEN, AGAIN

Rachel's world came crashing down when she learned her husband had been unfaithful; but when it's discovered she's pregnant with

Lester's child, it's almost too much even for a woman of deep faith to bear....

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Mem. Ed. **\$12.99 OR FREE**

ReShonda Tate Billingsley



A GOOD MAN IS HARD TO FIND

The bestselling author departs from her regular Christian fare to serve up a dishy, exotic romance as a magazine reporter covers a pop star's

wedding—and ends up getting dragged down by the duplicitous diva!

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Mem. Ed. **\$15.99 OR FREE**



Original Feature



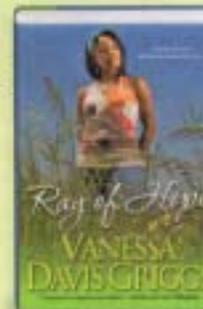
FOREVER SOUL TIES

Unhappily married church leader Butterfly finds comfort in the arms of her old friend Ethan—but the deacon knows, and he's determined to

use Butterfly to bring down a new, young preacher. Will forgiveness save them all?

13-462528 Exclusive HC
Mem. Ed. **\$15.99 OR FREE**

Vanessa Davis Griggs



RAY OF HOPE

In this inspiring book, the first in a series, Vanessa Davis Griggs puts a new spin on the biblical tale of Rahab in a modern tale of family ties, and how wisdom borne from

experience can truly save lives....

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Mem. Ed. **\$15.99 OR FREE**



Get the CROSS LAPEL PIN for FREE when you buy 1 book. See page 28 for details.

FAITH WATCH



Rev. Moore Rev. Sellers

TRANSITIONS

Rev. Moore retires after 50 years

The Rev. Louis James Moore Sr. will retire as he marks his 50th anniversary as pastor of St. Mark Baptist Church, 4000 Second Ave. South in Avondale.

He and his wife, Ethel King Moore, will be honored at a noon Saturday luncheon at the Harbert Center and Sunday at 2 p.m. at the church. Moore turns 82 today.

Rev. Sellers installed at Friendship

The Rev. Robert Sellers Sr. will be installed Friday as pastor of Friendship Baptist Church in Homewood. The installation service will be Sunday at 4 p.m. at the Harbert Center.

Please submit items about personal changes at religious institutions to Greg Garrison at The Birmingham News, P.O. Box 2533, Birmingham, AL 35202. Items may also be faxed to 325-2337 or sent by e-mail to ggarrison@bhamnews.com.

TELEVISION

SATURDAY

"St. Peter — Icon for Lent" St. Peter as a model for Christian discipleship. (1:30 p.m., EWTN, 30 min.)

SUNDAY

"The World of Faith and Values" Sikh community forgives the youths who burned

More than romance



By Greg Garrison, THE BIRMINGHAM NEWS

Birmingham native novelist Vanessa Davis Griggs signed a two-book deal recently with Black Entertainment Television's book publishing division. She collects dolls and angels, such as the one shown below right.

Christian novelist says she writes real life

By GREG GARRISON

News and writer

Vanessa Davis Griggs keeps a china cabinet stuffed with dolls in her Irondale home. Angel figurines sit on her coffee table and angel faces gaze out from paintings on the walls. Aside from collecting dolls and angels, Griggs also loves to write novels filled with characters as vivid as the cakes that adorn her shelves.

She self-published three novels, "Destiny Unleashed" in 1993, "The Rose of Sorcha" in 2000 and "Promises Beyond Jordan" in 2001.

That last one got her noticed by Black Entertainment Television, which recently signed her to a two-book deal for its publishing division. Although she liked the control of publishing her own books — one other publisher offered her a deal if she would change a major storyline, and she refused — she seems happy with the higher profile.

"BET will get my name out there," Griggs said. "I want my name out there."

BET's version of "Promises Beyond Jordan" came out this year, and Griggs has turned in the manuscript for a follow-up called "Wings of Grace" that will be published next year.

Both books feature an unconventional romance. George Landis, pastor of Wings of Grace Faith Ministry, is her hero.

"He's a preacher with dreadlocks," Griggs said. "He was a minor character in 'The Rose of Sorcha'."

she."

Landis struggles with issues of integrity, sacrifice and keeping promises.

"He's not set in tradition," Griggs said.

Born in Birmingham, Griggs grew up in the Village Springs community of north Jefferson County and helped integrate Pason Valley High School in the 1970s.

She went out for cheerleader every year from sixth grade through her senior year of high school and never made the team. Whenever a panel of judges or the student body selected her for the team, the rules were changed again so she couldn't make it, she said.

Eventually the school did have its first black cheerleader, and her younger sister was among the earliest black cheerleaders at the school.

"I never got to be a cheerleader, but because of what I did, others could," she said. "I never wanted them to be able to say the reason there were no black cheerleaders was because no one tried out. I



Friday, March 26, 2004

NOVELIST: Irondale writer has BET deal

► From Page 1H

went out every year."

Griggs graduated from Pason Valley High in 1977 and went to work as a stenographer at BellSouth. At 18, she married Jeffery Griggs, who has a law-care business. They have been married 25 years and have three grown sons. Griggs left her job as a database specialist for BellSouth in 1996 to focus on writing novels.

Some might call them Christian romance novels. Griggs doesn't really care to put her books in that genre.

"I don't label them Christian fiction or Christian romance," she said. "People think you're going to preach to them. I just write real stories with real-life

people."

But the books are filled with an underlying Christian message and they deal with romance, although in a restrained way.

"This book has no cursing and no lewd sexual scenes," she said. "It has the Word in it. It has a powerful sermon in it."

The messages are subtle, though, she said. "You can have a preacher preaching and not be preachy," she said.

"I don't think the way to win people is to go behind them saying, 'You better do right.' If a person is doing something that's not right, you're going to see consequences. I don't necessarily write to get people saved. It's more about what's next, how do you live your life. It's about living an abundant life, understanding you're important."

Friday
March 26, 2004

Religion Briefs	2H
Comics	6H
Religion Calendar	8H

H



Sonia Sanchez and Vanessa Davis Griggs



Mark Victor Hansen (Chicken Soup for the Soul)
and Vanessa Davis Griggs



Vanessa with Tavis Smiley



Vanessa with Ernest J. Gaines



Vanessa with
the late
E. Lynn Harris

Vanessa Davis Griggs while doing some speaking and book signings



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Vanessa Davis Griggs while doing some speaking and book signings

