



## The Key Publishing House Inc.

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© Ian Barrett ([www.wanderingbeyondthedarkness.com](http://www.wanderingbeyondthedarkness.com))

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*Wandering Beyond the Darkness* is not written from the point of view of an already committed religious theist, atheist, or agnostic. It is a true journey of understanding via a thoroughly researched examination of all aspects of religion and spirituality. It is presented without bias or preconceived religious or spiritual dogma. The book leads the reader to examine his/her own journey of spiritual understanding, without dictating what they should believe. It is a very tough and thorough examination of current religious practice, without embracing atheism as the alternative.

**Among a growing library of books on religion and spirituality, this book is important, especially at this age and time, because:**

1. Ian Barrett takes a singular journey through religion and spirituality, it is essentially everyman's (and woman's) journey because the emphasis is not in following the same path, but striking out on their own journey of discovery;
2. For thousands of years, religious and spiritual comprehension has been defined by a codified doctrine initially established by nomads living in tents. These now faded cultures were attempting to provide some historical consensus concerning their creation, and instead of taking these ancient, verbal stories as symbolic, religious leaders have invested them with literal meaning and now consider them as the words of God;
3. It is unlikely that a directly involved theist God exists, however, that does not negate the fact that it is highly likely that something else exists "*beyond the darkness.*" This book examines those possibilities;
4. In conclusion, religion has little to do with faith or spirituality. Religion has been used as simply a mechanism to control thought, and both faith and spirituality can exist entirely beyond religion.

Author is available for appearances and interviews and can be reached through The Key Publicity, Heather Smith, e-mail: [media@thekeypublish.com](mailto:media@thekeypublish.com), Tel: 416-935-1790.

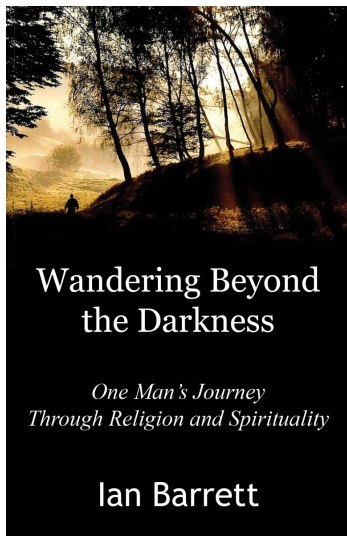


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### Synopsis:

Books of this importance and intelligence come along rarely. *Wandering Beyond the Darkness* is an absolute must-read for anyone who struggles with faith, love, and the continuum of life after death. Whether 19 or 90, we all search for understanding.

For thousands of years, our religious and spiritual comprehension has been defined by a codified doctrine that was initially established by illiterate nomads living in tents. These now-faded cultures were attempting to provide some historical consensus concerning their creation. Instead of taking these ancient, verbal stories as symbolic, we have invested them with literal meaning and now accept them as the words of God.

In *Wandering Beyond the Darkness: One Man's Journey Through Religion and Spirituality*, Ian Barrett uses reason and humour to put religion and spirituality into perspective. After researching thousands of documents, the author has taken a personal journey of awareness and discovery... a voyage that can help others on a similar pilgrimage.

### About the Author:

**Ian Barrett** has been called "a true Renaissance man". His eclectic education in Biochemistry, Administration, Law, Photography, Computers and Chartered Accountancy served as preparation for nine separate careers in education, entrepreneurship, non-profits, charities, and business. The winner of many awards, including 'Outstanding Young Man of Canada' and 'Ontario Teacher of the Year', Ian is a noted public speaker on topics as diverse as Corporate/Community Partnerships, Teachers and the Law, and Group Dynamics. His hobbies include poetry, animal welfare, athletics, stone masonry, and travel. Ian lives in Ontario, Canada with his wife Susan and three rescue dogs.



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### Author's Q & A

#### **Q. What inspired you to write *Wandering Beyond the Darkness*?**

1. The desire that each of us has to arrive at a personal understanding of what happens to us after death;
2. The inability to rationalize the extreme dichotomies inherent within Christian teaching as they relate to a cruel and demanding deity, versus a gentle and humane one;
3. My unwillingness to accept the dictums of others as the only religious and spiritual truth. Acceptance should be based on reason and understanding and not on blind adherence to another's point of view.

#### **Q. What surprised you most while writing this book?**

1. The manipulation of the Bible and its core passages in order to address the needs of a religious hierarchy;
2. The ability of anyone to take quotes from the Bible in order to support often contradictory points of view;
3. How violent, misogynistic, homophobic, racist, and malevolent is the Bible – throughout;
4. That spirituality has been shunted aside because of extreme religious dogma and its need to control thought (and therefore finances), and yet may have more answers than religion per se;
5. That Christianity was around for almost 5,000 years... just under the guise of other named religions;
6. The fact that it is unlikely Christ even existed, other than in the metaphorical.

#### **Q. What were the challenges (research, literary, and logistical) in bringing this book to life?**

1. The need to understand the entire Bible, even within its different translations. This required reading two different translations in their entirety;
2. The tens of thousands of books and articles written on both religion and spirituality from specific viewpoints... and to accept all different viewpoints as legitimate if they can show an evidential basis;
3. To try and get past the absolute righteous dogmatism of both the committed religious writers and the atheists... and try to understand their points of view within a spiritual journey;
4. To find a publisher that accepted a treatise that is often contradictory of present religious doctrine.



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### **Q. What are the most important points that you would like readers to have gained and appreciate after reading your book?**

1. That the codified religious doctrine of our ancestors was an attempt at symbolism and to metaphorically examine their creation. Unfortunately, we have taken this symbolism literally and call it the word of God;
2. Christianity is not a unique religion... it has been around for almost five millennia under different names;
3. Individuals must avoid following the religious dictum of others and take a spiritual journey of understanding for themselves;
4. There is positive evidence that points to... though it doesn't confirm... an existence beyond our mortal bounds.

### **Q. Why is your book unique?**

1. It is a thoroughly researched treatise (a journey of understanding) without initially having a point of view to express. The understanding (and conclusions) comes from the actual research... not the research being forced to conform to a previous understanding;
2. It's one man's journey of understanding and will allow others to take a similar journey of understanding on their own;
3. The book analyzes both religion and spirituality... and was not oriented in its creation to one or the other concept.

### **Q. What is your response to those who are surprised by your findings?**

I have had more than a dozen extensive conversations on this topic after completing the book. Most have been supportive, in that the book has helped them on their own journey of understanding... though all have been surprised by both the depth of analysis on the Bible and the concepts surrounding spirituality. A couple of them have been aggressively supportive of their Christian religious teachings.

In all cases my response has been that I am simply the messenger... that I am not preaching one viewpoint or the other, but simply presenting scientific truth. The interpretation is up to the individual... but my part is simply providing the information so that an honest decision can be made.

### **Q. What is the most controversial issue in relation to religions in our current era?**

The Bible is not the word of God... it was formulated by ancient nomads living in tents and brought forward as God's word by men who had their own controlling agendas. It was originally meant as symbolism, but made literal by men who wanted to control the populace by controlling their thought processes.



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### **Q. How did you organize the book?**

Since I decided to start with a blank slate (i.e. a journey without preconceived conclusions), I first had to consider the religious agenda. After reading two separate versions of the Bible and thousands of research pages, I then decided to consider the Bible as it relates to certain topics... then the religious overtones associated with this perceived word of God. After that I tackled the concepts of spirituality that could potentially fill in any missing voids in the religious analysis.

### **Q. What advice would you offer your readers so they can make the best of the out of your story?**

Do not take the same journey as me. Use what I have done to take a journey of discovery of your own. If you blindly follow my conclusions, then you are doing nothing more than transferring one form of control to replace another. This is the most important topic in existence... and each of us must carefully analyze our own place in the cosmos, and come to our own conclusions about life after death. The book serves as a guide to that search for understanding; it is not a manuscript outlining absolute truths.

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