



History – A Great Teacher

As we grapple with today's polarizing views on many topics, it is helpful and relevant to learn from the lessons of history. This month Pastor Mike shares his review of a story set in one of the darkest times in recent history, World War II.

"We Were the Lucky Ones" by Georgia Hunter

Review by Pastor Mike Anderson

Mission:
To expand the intersection of intellect and spirituality while holding physical space in our busy world for prayer, introspection and study.

Georgia Hunter was in her mid-twenties when she joined her extended family for a reunion in New England and heard, for the first time, that her great uncles and aunts had experienced the full fury of Hitler's hatred of the Jews. Georgia had no idea her relatives had experienced such harrowing dangers in occupied Poland during World War Two and was so intrigued she decided to interview all of them, do research and produce a book about their stories.

The book begins as Hitler rises to power and then invades Poland. The family life of Hunter's relatives is described as filled with music, meals, and religious devotion. Slowly prejudice and hatred seeped into the German and then Polish society. Hitler and other leaders described the Jews as dangerous, subversive and alien. Soon the Jewish family of two parents and five children were confronted with a world filled with hatred toward anyone of their faith.

As Hunter tells how the family dealt with the evils of the Nazi regime she follows each family member in subplots that sometimes are a little confusing for the reader. The reader is encouraged to make a little family tree with names, spouses and children to follow the story more clearly. As you enter the life of this extended family you will feel their anxiety and fear and you will celebrate their small triumphs. It will also be obvious to you that the evil of Hitler's Final Solution began slowly with good people failing to speak out when leaders denigrated minorities.

Pastor Mike is also currently reading *"The Righteous Mind"* by Jonathan Haidt.

The introduction to the book describes Haidt as a social psychologist who studies why people can have such wildly different opinions and politics and, at the same time, assume that only they and their group are right – righteous.

Note: This is our third in a yearlong series of book reviews by Holy Spirit pastors and staff. All books are available in your church library.