



A Journey to Waco: Autobiography of a Branch Davidian

By Clive Doyle, Catherine Wessinger, Matthew D. Wittmer



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Nearly twenty years after they happened, the ATF and FBI assaults on the Branch Davidian residence near Waco, Texas remain the most deadly law enforcement action on American soil. The raid by Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, and Firearms agents on February 28, 1993, which resulted in the deaths of four ATF agents and six Branch Davidians, precipitated a 51-day siege conducted by the FBI. The FBI tank and gas assault on the residence at Mount Carmel Center on April 19 culminated in a fire that killed 53 adults and 23 children, with only nine survivors. In *A Journey to Waco*, survivor Clive Doyle not only takes readers inside the tragic fire and its aftermath, but he also tells the larger story of how and why he joined the Branch Davidians, how the Branch Davidian community developed, and the status of survivors.

While the media and official reports painted one picture of the Branch Davidians and the two assaults, *A Journey to Waco* shares a much more personal account of the ATF raid, the siege, and the final assault that details events unreported by the media. *A Journey to Waco* presents what the Branch Davidians believed and introduces readers to the community's members, including David Koresh. *A Journey to Waco* is a personal account of one man's journey with the Branch Davidians, through the tragic fire, and beyond.

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- Sales Rank: #705557 in Books
- Brand: Brand: Rowman Littlefield Publishers
- Published on: 2012-08-17
- Original language: English
- Number of items: 1
- Dimensions: 9.28" h x 1.03" w x 6.21" l, 1.30 pounds
- Binding: Hardcover
- 298 pages

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Editorial Review

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Right or wrong, for many people the word Waco has become shorthand for massacre. In April 1993, an FBI assault on the Branch Davidian residence in Waco, Texas, resulted in a fire that took 76 lives (nearly half of them children). Doyle, this book's primary author, is a survivor of the events at Waco—the fire was the final incident in nearly two months of conflict between the Branch Davidians and the FBI—but the book isn't, as many might expect, a condemnation of the FBI and the American government. Of course, there is criticism and a certain amount of finger-pointing, but, mainly, this is the author's personal story—a story of his faith, his chosen way of life, and his relationship with David Koresh, the community's charismatic and controversial leader. The events at Waco, even though they took place two decades ago, haven't faded into memory yet, and the book should see immediate interest from readers seeking a better understanding of what happened and why. --David Pitt

About the Author

Clive Doyle is one of nine survivors of the Mount Carmel fire in Waco, Texas, which killed seventy-six members of the Branch Davidians. He lives in Waco, TX.

Catherine Wessinger is the Rev. H. James Yamauchi, SJ, Professor of the History of Religions at Loyola University in New Orleans. She lives in New Orleans, LA.

Matthew Wittmer is a librarian specializing in the collection and preservation of primary sources about the Branch Davidians. He lives in Los Angeles, CA.

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Alicia Hendrickson:

In this 21st hundred years, people become competitive in every single way. By being competitive currently, people have do something to make all of them survives, being in the middle of the crowded place and notice through surrounding. One thing that occasionally many people have underestimated this for a while is reading. That's why, by reading a reserve your ability to survive improve then having chance to stand up than other is high. For you personally who want to start reading the book, we give you this A Journey to Waco: Autobiography of a Branch Davidian book as beginner and daily reading book. Why, because this book is usually more than just a book.

Dan Villanueva:

Nowadays reading books become more and more than want or need but also become a life style. This reading practice give you lot of advantages. Advantages you got of course the knowledge the actual information inside the book which improve your knowledge and information. The details you get based on what kind of reserve you read, if you want get more knowledge just go with knowledge books but if you want truly feel happy read one together with theme for entertaining such as comic or novel. The particular A Journey to Waco: Autobiography of a Branch Davidian is kind of book which is giving the reader erratic experience.

Jennifer Case:

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