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**BE THERE!: Making Deep, Lasting
Connections in a Disconnected World**

JOHN TRENT. *WaterBrook*, \$19.95 (240p)
ISBN 1-57856-178-7 (Christianity/Family
Issues)

This heartrending and inspirational guidebook effectively challenges readers to “be there” for family, friends and even the world at large. Trent—author, speaker and chaplain to the Christian Booksellers Association—believes we can and must do more than superficially touch the lives of others. He skillfully tells stories of men and women who should be bitter, angry and resentful because of their unhappy circumstances. Citing his own mother as an example, Trent explains how she overcame neglect by her father, abandonment by two spouses, the trials of being a single parent to three active boys and the crippling debility of rheumatoid arthritis, which forced her to leave a successful career as a corporate vice-president. His mother should have been bitter, writes Trent, but she wasn't. Her secret? She chose to “be there” as a connective presence in the lives of others by gaining strength and energy from the source of strength, God. Through meaningful, engaging storytelling, Trent underscores the blessing of being there for others, discusses how to experience God's presence, offers practical ways to effectively love spouses, kids and friends, and outlines the risks such vulnerability entails, including possible broken hearts and acts of betrayal. Trent's work will inspire readers to “be there” in heart, soul and mind. (Aug.)