

Max Lucado – Biography

Author of *You Are Never Alone:
Trust in the Miracle of God's Presence and Power*



You can't read Max Lucado's writing and not be changed. You can't hear his words and not come away encouraged. You see his words on the page, you hear his words on social media, your brain processes them, but they end up planting themselves in your heart, somehow creating beautiful blossoms of hope and encouragement in the process, helping you see God's love more clearly than you ever imagined. With poetic storytelling combined with a familiar, downhome tone, Max is committed to making known to all the grace and acceptance found in Jesus. You could grab any book from Lucado's extensive catalog and hand it to a friend going through challenging circumstances, knowing they'll be helped, and not preached at. These are the qualities that have made Max one of the world's most popular authors. Entering his 35th year as a published author, with 140 million books in print, Max has occupied spots on every major national bestseller list. During the COVID crisis, Max became a rich source of pastoral wisdom, with more than 10 million views of his daily video check-ins and online church in less than 45 days. In addition to pastoring virtually, Lucado continues to serve as Teaching Minister at Oak Hills Church in San Antonio, TX, where he has been on staff since 1988.

His writing has been translated into more than 54 languages and has been featured in countless national media outlets. Lucado was dubbed "America's Pastor" by *Christianity Today* and Fox & Friends, *Reader's Digest* called him "The Best Preacher in America," and *The New York Times* named him one of the most influential leaders in social media. In addition to books, Lucado's writing has been shaped into an additional 20 million products sold, including videos, devotionals, songs, greeting cards, booklets, Bible studies, commentaries and theatrically-released movies.

Growing up in a conservative home in a small West Texas town, Max hit his teens years and rebellion kicked in. After one specific drunken night, Max had an awakening and began to wonder if there was more to life than parties and chasing girls. It was not long after that when his heart was moved toward the unconditional love of God through a Bible class while attending Abilene Christian University (ACU).

After gaining a master's degree in Biblical Studies, Max set out on his mission to communicate the love and mercy of God he had discovered. His first assignment was as the associate pastor of a small church in Miami, Florida, where he was able to develop his passion for people, ministry, and writing through a column in their weekly newsletter. In Florida, he also married Denalyn, now his wife of almost four decades.

In 1983, Max and Denalyn moved to Rio de Janeiro to help plant churches. During their five years in Brazil, Max continued to write, updating friends and family about their ministry. Eventually Max gathered the Rio newsletters and Florida columns into a manuscript and sent them off to fifteen publishers. After multiple rejections, one publisher finally said yes. That first book, *On the Anvil*, was published in 1985.

During 2020, Max wanted to encourage people sheltering at home and uncertain about the future so he started daily video check-ins and an online church. During that time, he was featured on countless media outlets including Fox News, Dave Ramsey Radio, KLOVE, TBN, CBN, Moody Radio, The FISH and Extra TV to name a few. He with his publisher started free online Bible studies on his bestselling books *Anxious for Nothing*, *You'll Get Through This* and *Facing Your Giants*.

You Are Never Alone: Trust in the Miracle of God's Presence and Power (September 2020, Nelson) is the perfect "next step" for anyone struggling with the new reality of social isolation and distancing. Based on the miracles of Jesus found in the gospel of John, ***You Are Never Alone*** shows the power of God in today's uncertain world. "The hope of John, the hope of his book," Lucado explains, "indeed the hope of God, and the hope of this book is that we would believe, not in our power, not in humanity's ability to help itself, not in tarot cards or good fortune, not in good looks or good luck. But that we would believe in Jesus. Jesus as the Christ, the Messiah, the Anointed One. Jesus as the Son of God."

In 2016, more than 80 boxes of Max's manuscripts, journals and personal correspondence had been curated at his alma mater, Abilene Christian University, as a part of the new Max Lucado Collection to be archived and displayed at ACU's Brown Library. Adds Max about the honor: "It is heartening to think that some of these materials might encourage somebody else in their faith or lead someone to discover the great grace of God."

Max and Denalyn have been married for 39 years in August 2020, live in San Antonio, Texas and have three grown daughters, two sons-in-law, and two grandchildren.

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You Are Never Alone:

Trust in the Miracle of God's Presence and Power

By Max Lucado

Thomas Nelson * September 2020 * Hardcover * 240 Pages

Price: US \$26.99 * ISBN-13: 978-1-4002-1734-2

BISAC Category: Religion/Christian Life