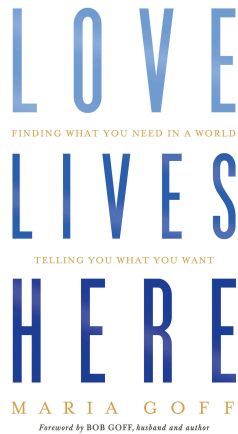


*"I didn't write this book because I think we need more information, more steps, or more instructions on how to lead a meaningful life. Instead, I think we can all benefit from honest times of reflection."*

– **Maria Goff, *Love Lives Here***

## Maria Goff Pens Love Letter to Family and a Life Worth Living in New Book *Love Lives Here*



Nashville, Tenn., March 7, 2017 – The world sends us constant signals about what we should be doing and all we should be wanting. But what if the secret to a truly meaningful life is already ours for the taking—if we're willing to look inside ourselves?

In her first book **LOVE LIVES HERE: FINDING WHAT YOU NEED IN A WORLD TELLING YOU WHAT YOU WANT** (B&H Books; ISBN: 978-1433648915; MARCH 7, 2017; \$17.99), Maria Goff—wife of bestselling author, human rights activist, and attorney Bob Goff—shows us that when we stop to reflect and muster the courage to dive past the surface, we can become wholly and freely ourselves, love others better, contribute more, and live the lives we were meant to

live. A “love letter” to the most important people in Maria’s life, **LOVE LIVES HERE** shares deeply personal stories about childhood trauma, addiction, and sudden loss with grace and generous candor. Maria’s writing voice is warm and vivid, and nuggets of wisdom pepper the text with awe-inspiring consistency.

“I want to find the things that matter,” Maria writes. “Things that don't just work, but last. I'm betting you do too.”

From rest and connecting with others to the beauty only accessed by working through loss and pain, **LOVE LIVES HERE** tackles tough topics with grace. Readers will explore:

### Facing the past

Ignoring what has happened doesn't ensure our wellbeing— it only ensures that we won't heal. “We all need to wake ourselves up once in a while too,” Maria writes. “To take a good look at what's accumulated in the seasons of our lives and deal with it.”

### **Strength found in fear and loss**

While Maria refuses to gloss over the pain of tragedies such as the fire that destroyed her family's beloved lodge or the challenges she endured as a child, she finds redemption and growth in finally staring down fear. She writes, "What I'm learning is that the good news in our faith isn't found in avoiding the pain, but in living through the loss, walking through the ashes, and stacking the logs once more knowing they could burn down again."

### **The importance of rest**

**LOVE LIVES HERE** confronts society's current hypocritical stance on rest, wherein we are encouraged to slow down then chastised for not doing enough. "Rest isn't our keeper," Maria writes. "It's our teacher. It prepares us to deal with the most painful and difficult challenges we'll ever face. It isn't found just in the things we do or don't do. Often, it's best experienced in the familiar rhythms of our lives. The sights, smells, and sounds in our places of rest have a way of nurturing our spirits."

### **The value of independence**

Maria and Bob worked hard to raise fiercely independent children. One anecdote illustrates their approach with humor and ingenuity—and offers an important reminder to adults. When her three kids informed Maria one morning that they were running away, she didn't scold them. She helped them pack—and watched them from the window as they explored but made it home in time for dinner. "For the kids, running away was actually launching out. Even if it was just outside the backdoor, leaving is what we all do at some point," she writes. "Each of us leaves things every day, sometimes without knowing we are. It's the way we were designed by God. The trick is to leave the right things for the right reasons."

### **Connecting with friends and neighbors**

Maria encourages readers to reach out to the friends who will help you see the truth and to the people who live next door. Relationships, both with those we seek out and with those who just happen to live in our neighborhoods, change lives. "Stop waiting for a plan, or the annual barbeque, or a homeowners association meeting," Maria writes. "Just go love people."

### **Ordinary people in an extraordinary love story**

**LOVE LIVES HERE** takes a close look at the Goff's more than 30 years together. Through both breathless beauty and painful setbacks, Maria and Bob have fallen in love, raised children, and built a life. Maria is quiet and intentional, while Bob is gregarious and always on the move. Together, they are unstoppable.

### **Accepting and pursuing our individual callings**

Each of us has a purpose. When we embrace the longing of our hearts and focus of our talents, we are set free, better partners, and able to contribute to the world in impactful ways. “If you feel like your ambition isn’t big enough because it’s not the same ambition someone you love has, don’t buy the lie and change who you are,” Maria writes. “Don’t screw it up by trying to change who the person you love is either. Celebrate the differences.”

Moving and relatable, **LOVE LIVES HERE** pushes readers to stretch as it reminds us we’re not alone. In the midst of today’s discordant environment, Maria reminds us that hope and healing come from striving to truly know one another and ourselves.

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### **About Maria Goff**

Maria Goff has made a career out of loving her family and neighbors, raising her children, and turning houses into homes. She is married to Bob Goff, whom she calls the most helpful and interesting man in the world. The couple has traveled around the globe in an effort to aid children who are marginalized, and the two have made especially significant impacts in Uganda and Northern Iraq, where they started schools. The Goffs have three adult kids, who are starting families of their own. The couple lives in San Diego, where they continue to dream about and plan new adventures yet to be had with their growing family. Maria’s first book, **LOVE LIVES HERE: FINDING WHAT YOU NEED IN A WORLD TELLING YOU WHAT YOU WANT**, will be available everywhere March 7, 2017. <http://lovelivesherebook.com>

**About B&H Publishing Group** (Nashville, TN) is an imprint of LifeWay Christian Resources, a team of mission-minded people with a passion for taking God’s Word to the world. Because we believe Every Word Matters® we seek to provide intentional, Bible-centered content that positively impacts the hearts and minds of people, inspiring them to build a lifelong relationship with Jesus Christ. Among our print and digital releases for the trade, church, and academic markets, titles include The New York Times No. 1 bestsellers The Love Dare and The Vow, #1 CBA bestseller I Am a Church Member as well as the newly-revised Christian Standard Bible (CSB) version.