

# Conversations with ancient voices on the bookshelf



## Highland Views

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Guest columnist

How's your bookshelf looking these days? Weighed down with heavy reading or a little on the light side? I don't have as many books as I used to. My

Kindle and iBooks shelves are getting heavier, though there's nothing like paper in the palm – a book in the hand.

Books effect our beliefs. And, as we know, beliefs effect our books. What we are thinking about reflects what we're reading and vice versa.

During middle school years, I absorbed any book I could find and afford on UFOs, Bigfoot and eerie mystery stories. I was fascinated by the strange and

weird (when it comes to sci-fi, I still enjoy journeys to the wild edges of imagination).

In high school years all I would read was the Bible and books about the Bible. "God's Word" was all the reading material I needed. I even carried my pocket New Testament to classes to read when I wasn't reading the assigned science, history or Spanish books.

When the Great Teacher assigns a

book, you read it!

In college years I was still reading The Book, even in Greek. Then the classics in history, psychology and literature caught my attention. My bookshelf began to fill with scriptures from world religions and some pretty weighty philosophy. That shelf only grew larger through seminary when the heaviest

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