



The Masked Saint: Husband, Pastor, Hero

By Chris Whaley

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The Masked Saint revolves around the life of Chris Samuel, a professional wrestler and family man who realizes he needs something more. His calling to become a pastor prompts him to retire from wrestling and move with his wife and daughter to a small town. Yet the battles he faced in the ring are minor compared to the challenges he must overcome at his new church. From an overbearing congregant and failing attendance to mounting bills for church repairs, Chris has his hands full.

Chris finds an ally in Miss Edna, an elderly woman from his church, who gives him sage advice and shares her wisdom in a book of writings. Unbeknownst to him, she is also a wrestling fan and encourages him to use his talents to take action, tricking him into reconnecting with his old colleagues—including a shady wrestling promoter. When Chris stumbles onto a fight on the seedy side of town, his wrestling skills take down the assailant and a masked vigilante is born.

In order to raise some funds, Chris returns to the ring professionally, and things begin to seemingly improve for the church. His life as a pastor and wrestler soon take up most of his time though—not to mention Samuels' shrouded crime-fighter is now being sought by the police. His talent, as well as his violent secret identity, begins to overshadow his calling as a Pastor, and it takes his faith, family and Miss Edna to remind him about grace, goodness and the truth.

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The Masked Saint: Husband, Pastor, Hero By Chris Whaley Bibliography

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Editorial Review

Review

“As a kid growing up my heroes in life were the Lone Ranger and Tonto, "The Masked Rider of the Plains!" I just discovered another lone ranger?Chris Whaley. If you're in need of encouragement and you love it when truth overcomes evil and when the underdog rallies to pull out a win, you're going to love *The Masked Saint*. It's a good one.” – Dr. Kevin Leman, author of *Have a New Kid by Friday*

“Having read *The Masked Saint* by Chris Whaley, I can commend this book to you as an enjoyable and sometimes humorous recounting of a young pastor's life and ministry even though that life and ministry follow a different path than most. His style and presentation encourage believers to put away prejudices and to accept the life transforming power of our Lord Jesus Christ. I recommend this book to you and pray you will enjoy it as I did.” – Dr. Frank Page, President, Southern Baptist Convention, 2006–2008

“Body-slamming a deserving criminal? Now that is a fleeting image to which almost every pastor can confess. Whaley, a former professional wrestler turned Baptist pastor, gives us an entertaining and fictional peek at what might happen if pastors actually did some of the things they wished they could do. Many a pastor will sympathize readily with this shrouded champion who rights wrongs and defends the defenseless though the Scriptures prevent us all from imitating his costumed combat in real life.” – Dr. Paige Patterson, President Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Fort Worth, Texas

“For his maiden voyage as an author, Chris Whaley has done a superb piece of work. Writing as a minister he captures great truth in a pragmatic way. This is an excellent read for parents and young people. He brings tributaries of ethics and experience together and forms a river of moral truth. I like it!” – Dr. John Sullivan, Executive Director-Treasurer, Florida Baptist Convention

“Growing up watching professional wrestling and fulfilling my own dream of wrestling for WCW and the WWF you always somehow knew the good guy wins in the end! Everyone has a little Chris Whaley in them! Who would have ever thought of combining a wrestler with a superhero could be so entertaining. I thoroughly enjoyed this book; he says and does what many of us wish we had done. His honest look at himself and his life is a testament to a stand up guy that loves God and his family. You inspire me!” – Marc Mero, WWF Intercontinental Champion/Johnny B. Badd/WCW World Television Champion

“Everyone has a story. My friend Chris Whaley tells his with humor, transparency, honesty and insight. His is a unique story of God's grace and faithfulness. He shares both the joys and challenges of serving Christ. I believe spiritual seekers, committed believers, and church leaders will all be encouraged by his story. There are lessons to learn and principles to glean from this journey of faith. Thanks, Chris, for pulling off the mask and letting us inside.” – Dr. Willie Rice, President, Florida Baptist Convention, 2007-2008

“A novel about a wrestler turned Baptist preacher brought to mind a few non-fiction church business meetings I've unfortunately witnessed where the pastor may have wished he could have employed the moves of the Masked Saint! Although "The Masked Saint" exposes the sinfulness that is all too common in churches, Chris Whaley's entertaining novel intersperses those sad episodes with encouraging lessons of God's grace?often from the lips of a common while profound elderly woman. It turns out, the Masked Saint is no superhero; like the rest of us, he is a sinner saved by grace seeking to share that message of hope with other sinners in need of a Savior. That's what makes "The Masked Saint" a novel all can enjoy.” – Dr. James A. Smith, Executive Editor, *Florida Baptist Witness*

“Chris Whaley reminds us that pastors, like many of us, have previous lives of varying backgrounds. His first book, “The Masked Saint,” blends, in a fictional account, the unique perspectives of a professional wrestler, now pastor, as he confronts right against wrong and good versus evil. When the final bell rings, we find ourselves in his corner.” – F. Robert Radel, II, J.D., Butler Pappas, Tampa, Florida

“Chris Whaley has written a fascinating adventure of a man coming to grips with who he is, and who God is. It is challenging, entertaining and heart warming. Every pastor and every man should read this book!” – Patrick Moody, Former Hollywood Actor/Director, Senior Pastor, The Village Baptist Church, West Palm Beach, Florida

“A fascinating story with colorful characters and a story theme that warms the heart.” – Dr. Paul R. Corts, President, Council for Christian Colleges and Universities, former Assistant Attorney General

About the Author

Chris Whaley is a former professional wrestler and has been a Southern Baptist pastor for 30 years. *The Masked Saint* is based on his own life; he wrestled under the ring name, The Saint, from 1978 - 1988. He was trained by the Great Malenko, and wrestled such greats as Rocky Johnson (father of Dwayne Johnson) and the Undertaker. Chris married his high school sweetheart; they have two daughters and live in Florida.

Users Review

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