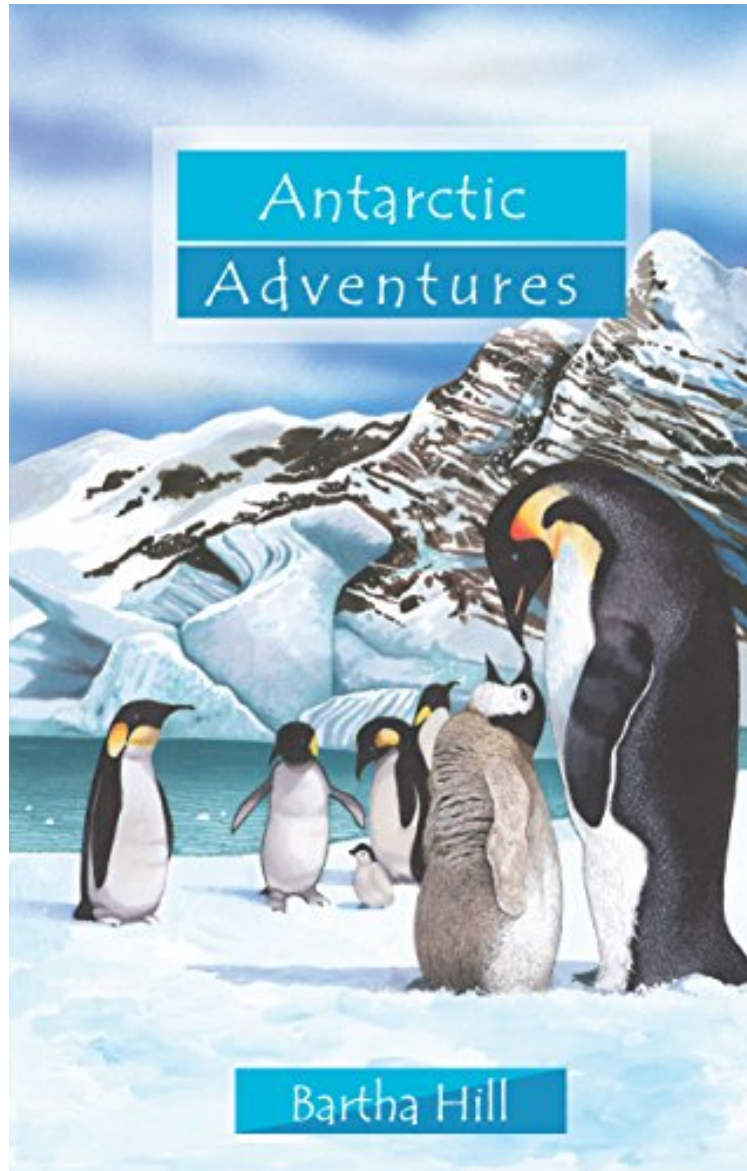


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Antarctic Adventures (Adventure Series)

Bartha Hill

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Bartha Hill : Antarctic Adventures (Adventure Series) before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Antarctic Adventures (Adventure Series):

2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Interesting Informative but Found WantingBy E. HankinsFrom the Publisher: "The Antarctic is a world of snow and ice. It is a cold and inhospitable place to live but many animals including the impressive Emperor penguin live and breed there. Fur seals and albatrosses are also native to this icy

land. However, it is one of the smallest creatures of all - the Krill - that is of vital importance to life there. Find out about the natural habitat, the history of the explorers and the people who are today doing their utmost to protect this sensitive environment. Throughout it all you will see the beauty of creation as well as learning what God can teach you about himself through his world and his word."According to my ten-year-old daughter, Antarctic Adventures is interesting and informative. I agree. Ms. Hill's writing is sure to appeal to a wide variety of youngsters, aged 7-12, as she weaves stories of explorers, scientists, and their expeditions with information about the habitat and creatures of the Antarctic. Some may not necessarily agree with all of the author's assertions (ex. man-made global warming), however, her exhortations (ex. be a good steward of God's creation) are no less relevant. Each chapter of Antarctic Adventures concludes with a spiritual lesson. The lessons would be my only hesitation with this book as they seemed to be somewhat weak (especially when compared to other Christian Focus titles). For example, in the third story, Ms. Hill shares about a scientist who failed to reach his goals but who still contributed valuable research through his failed expedition. She, then, reminds us of Joseph and the trials in his life. She writes: "...he never complained. He did the work he was asked to do and he did it the best way he could. When things went wrong for him he didn't ask 'why', rather he thought 'what shall I do now?' People learnt to trust him and in the end he became the Pharaoh's trusted right hand man, a position of great honour in Egypt. You may sometimes think that something is 'not fair', that you have done your best, but no one appreciates it. All that matters is that God knows you can be trusted to do the very best you can" (pg. 22). While it is Biblical that one "do the very best" he/she can (1 Cor. 10:31), this is certainly not "all that matters". Furthermore, it seems to miss the more valuable lesson that God, in His sovereignty, sent Joseph before his brothers to preserve a remnant for Himself (Gen. 45). "All that matters" is that we trust this sovereign God who sent His Son to die on the cross in the place of sinful man that a remnant might come to Him. It matters little if "God knows you can be trusted..."; He is faithful, even when His people are not. There are many other similar examples throughout this book. Ultimately, Antarctic Adventures did not present a clear Gospel message as do other Christian Focus titles. Although this could be expected from a more scientific work, it was disappointing nonetheless given the more than fifteen "spiritual lessons" throughout the book. :(All-in-all, Antarctic Adventures is a fascinating read. It includes exciting information about scientists racing to the South Pole; helpful scientific explanations (ex. the difference between the fixed South Pole and the Magnetic South Pole and its role with respect to southern lights); unexpected traveling companions; useful inventions; a map, quiz, and more. Antarctic Adventures gives its reader a taste of the subject matter and encourages him/her to do additional research. Young people who are interested in this topic should find it a useful introductory resource. However, one might want to discuss the spiritual applications further.*Many thanks to Cross Focused Reviews and Christian Focus Publications for providing me with a complimentary copy of this book in exchange for my honest opinion!

2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Antarctic Adventures By Kicker Antarctic Adventures is a neat little book that talks about the continent of Antarctica and gives a brief historical account of the adventurers through the years that sailed to it, around it, and walked/drove across it. I was thoroughly delighted with the historical background provided by Bartha Hill on the many different individuals who have been apart of the rich history of Antarctica...people like Captain Robert Falcon Scott, Ernest Shackleton, and Roald Amundsen to name a few. I found most of the tie-ins from the historical narratives to the Bible to be fairly weak theologically speaking. It was almost as if the author was trying to force a biblical application onto the story. Also, the brief mention of "global warming" on Page 37 was interesting as the author did not expand on their belief concerning global warming (and there are a variety of different beliefs about global warming in the world today). I would have liked a little more clarification on what the author was trying to convey with that statement rather than a brief sentence claiming it was true (but not telling the reader any reason why they believed in was true and in what capacity the author believes in global warming). I received this for free from Christian Focus Publications via Cross Focused Reviews for this review. I was not required to write a positive review. The opinions I have expressed are my own. I am disclosing this in accordance with the Federal Trade Commission's 16 CFR, Part 255 : "Guides Concerning the Use of Endorsements and Testimonials in Advertising."

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Antarctic Adventures By Sheep23 Antarctic Adventures by Bartha Hill is a wonderful children's book designed to explore the geography, history, and culture of Antarctic. Most of the book looks at the various voyages to the Anarctic, the trials men faced in getting there, and the extreme conditions they were met with when they arrived. The determination and long suffering that men like Ernest Shackleton faced when traveling to this region was a vivid reminder of the perils they faced. The book is divided into 16 chapters with each chapter weighing in at about between 3-7 pages. This book is great for readers wanting an action packed book that they get work through easily. The early chapters tell of the voyages of Captain Robert Falcon Scott and Ernest Shackleton setting out for the South Pole. Hill notes that, "They were the first to see a penguin rookery (nest), set up a base in McMurdo Sound, and travelled farther south than any explore had done so far" (13). Scott knew that other countries were setting up voyages for the South Pole but he failed to realize that a Norweigan explore named Roald Amundsen set off for the South Pole as well. Amundsen reached the South Pole first with his team while Scott's team was stricken with illness and bitter weather conditions (16-17). The plight of Scott's team was remarkable sight of determination and focus, even in the worst of circumstances. One of my favorite chapters was The Story of Mrs. Chippy. Shackleton came up with an idea to pilot

two ships, one for to set up a base at Weddell Sea and the other to set up for his journey across the continent of Antarctica by dogsled. The ship's carpenter, Henry McNeish decided to bring his cat and hide her in one of his toolboxes. Hill writes, "Actually when he heard about it, Shackleton was quite pleased to have a cat on board to keep mice and rats under control. The cat became known as Mrs Chippy (carpenters were often called `chippies') ...All the sailors loved him, but no one more than the carpenter who had brought him on board" (40-41). You can imagine how difficult and monotonous the job of a carpenter or seamen on a boat like this would be. Mrs Chippy served as a kind of good friend to many on the boat. Word had got out that Shackleton and his team had all died but when they reached the Norwegian whaling station, the captain was overjoyed. Finding out about penguins and their nesting habits was also quite illuminating. The male sits on the egg for 3-4 months until the baby cracks out of its shell. The mother and father take turns bringing food for the family. Overall, I think this is a great introduction for kids about some of the voyages, animal life, and conditions of both the South Pole and Antarctica. Thanks to CFK4 and Cross Focused Reviews for the copy of this book in exchange for review.

Find out about the natural habitat, the history of the explorers and the people who are today doing their utmost to protect this sensitive environment. Throughout it all you will see the beauty of God's creation as well as learning what God can teach you about himself through his world and his Word.

About the Author Bartha Hill is a long term journalist and author, writing for both children and adults. She lives in Dunedin, New Zealand, and participates in the 'Writers in Schools' programme. As a journalist her work has appeared in the Otago Daily Times, DayStar, sPanz, NZ Woman's Weekly, Harvest Field Reality. Her stories for children are in the School Journal, Choices and the Children's Christian magazine Discovery.