

Book Review

Holy Rover: Journeys in Search of Mystery, Miracles, and God

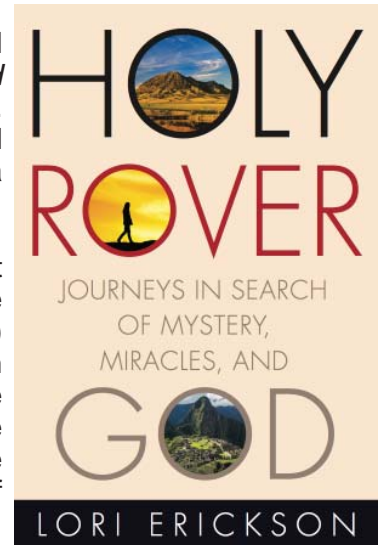
by Lisa Bormann CHTP

Healing Touch plays a prominent role in a new book by travel writer and Episcopal deacon Lori Erickson. *Holy Rover: Journeys in Search of Mystery, Miracles, and God* is a memoir structured around trips to a dozen holy sites around the world. Erickson is one of America's top travel writers specializing in spiritual journeys, and she's also trained in Healing Touch. In each chapter of her book, a pilgrimage to a holy site is linked with part of her spiritual journey.



Lori Erickson, author

For a decade, Erickson directed a Healing Touch Ministry at an Iowa Episcopal church where she served as deacon. The ministry was inspired and nurtured by Jacquelyn (Jackie) Phillips, a mentor to many in the larger Healing Touch community. Erickson links Jackie to another healer: the 12th century abbess and mystic Hildegard of Bingen. She describes a trip to the Hildegard sites in Germany and the ways in which both Jackie and Hildegard modeled lives of service and spirituality.



Healing Touch plays a prominent role in another chapter as well, one that describes the nine-year battle with cancer of one of Erickson's friends. In a chapter tied to a journey to Machu Picchu in Peru, she explores the ways in which illness can be an inner pilgrimage and Healing Touch a valuable addition to hospice care.

Holy Rover, published in September by Fortress Press, is an engaging introduction to both pilgrimage and the use of Healing Touch in a faith community setting. Advance praise for the book (available in hardcover, audio, and Kindle e-book) includes:

- "Reading *Holy Rover* is like hitting the lotto of a road trip with Anne Lamott, Barbara Brown Taylor, and Elizabeth Gilbert - one filled with intoxicating conversations, exciting discoveries, and plenty of spiritual rule-breaking." - River Jordan, author of *Praying for Strangers: An Adventure of the Human Spirit*.
- "The writing is so good that you'll speed through this book and wish it didn't end." - Thomas Moore, author of *Care of the Soul*.
- "Whether describing mystical visions or the rhythms of everyday life, Erickson turns the spiritual journey into a series of exciting transformations." *Publishers Weekly* (starred review)