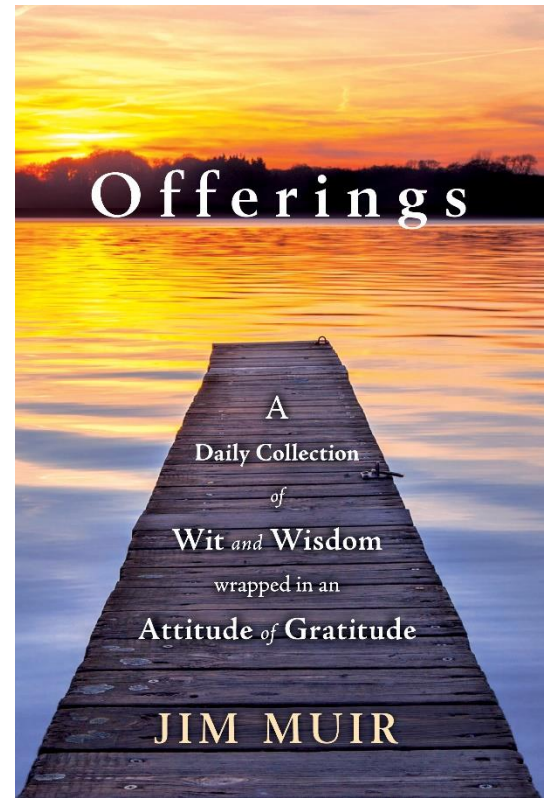


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Offerings

A DAILY COLLECTION OF WIT AND WISDOM
WRAPPED IN AN ATTITUDE OF GRATITUDE

JIM MUIR



Every person, regardless of who they are or where they live, goes through difficult times. But it's what we do with those difficult times that shows our character and resolve, and determines the roads we choose in life. *Offerings* is a year-long guide to help deal with the inevitable adversity in life.

Signs of struggle are all around us, and negativity is not hard to come by. Everyone needs hope, and *Offerings* provides that hope, one day at a time, all year long. It only takes a few minutes to read each offering, and there is one for each day of the year, allowing the reader to start each new day with a positive outlook on life.

Dated daily entries begin on January 1st and continue through the end of the calendar year. Each day's offering includes an inspirational quote and a personal application opportunity. This year-long journey invites the reader to leave the past where it is, count blessings daily, and keep focused on the big picture.

For more info please contact media@deeperiverbooks.com

Deep River
B O O K S

About the Author

JIM MUIR



Jim Muir has had a unique life with a work history that resembles a roller-coaster ride. Jim is a 1971 graduate of Sesser-Valier High School (Illinois). Shortly after graduating, Jim started working at Old Ben Coal Mine 21, traveling 650-feet underground each day to earn a living. Swing shift, coal dust, and danger was his life for 20 years until the coal industry bottomed out and nearly all the coal mines closed. Jim then enrolled at Rend Lake College, uncertain of what he wanted to do, taking his first college class at the age of 38. While at Rend Lake, Jim discovered that he had some ‘raw’ talent for writing and speaking, so after graduation he carved out a dual-career as a writer and broadcaster. He cut

his teeth in the newspaper industry at the Benton Evening News and then later at the Southern Illinoisan as a reporter/columnist. At the same time he landed a job as sports director at WQRL in Benton where he hosted two weekly two-hour radio shows and did play-by-play for Benton High School football, basketball, baseball, and softball. In all, his career in newspaper/radio covered nearly 25 years.

Jim decided in 2016 that he wanted to pursue a lifelong dream to run for public office. He threw his hat in the ring for Franklin County Circuit Clerk and defeated the incumbent by a wide margin – thus launching his third (or is it his fourth) career. Jim and wife Lisa Kay are the parents of six children, 11 grandchildren, and one very needy Daschund named Dearie.

Jim has no plans to retire and hopes to work a half-day on Judgment Day!

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Suggested Interview Questions

For Jim Muir, author of

Offerings

A Daily Collection of Wit and Wisdom Wrapped in an Attitude of Gratitude

Q: You've had a unique work history – tell us about the roads you've traveled that bring you to this point in your life?

A: I've had a very unique work history that I have often likened to a roller coaster ride – lots of ups and downs. I went to work at age 18 working 650-feet underground in a coal mine and that was my job for 20 years until all the coal mines in Southern Illinois shut down. I started college for the first time at age 38 and found I had some raw talent for writing and speaking. From that I carved out a career that spanned nearly 25 years as a writer and columnist at a couple of local newspapers and also as sports director and broadcaster at a regional radio station. And then in 2016 I decided to launch a new career and I ran for Franklin County Circuit Clerk and I won, defeating an incumbent. So yeah ... roller coaster ride best describes it!

Q: With your diverse work history it seems you've experienced a wide variety of people and circumstances. How has that benefitted you writing this book?

A: I think it has benefitted me greatly, particularly given the type of book I wrote – a daily motivational. You see, I know better than most that not everybody's life is easy, in fact some people have a hard time on a daily basis. I can make that statement because my own life has not always been easy. I have had more than my own share of ups and downs. Whether it's dealing with work-related matters, finances, relationships, family, addictions or just hang-ups, everybody struggles from time to time. I think my book is geared to help these folks.

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Q: You embarked on a new and challenging career at age 63 – you ran for county-wide public office and were elected. What prompted you to take on a new challenge at this point in your life?

A: I have always liked and been fascinated by politics and this was something I always wanted to do. I knew I was taking on a monumental challenge to go against an incumbent but I just decided that I would rather run for office and get beat than to look back 20 years from now and say: “I wish I would have done that.”

What I didn’t know about politics I made up for with hard work. I just outworked my opponent! And certainly winning and the feeling that I had on Nov. 8, 2016 will always rank as one of the best days of my life. It was a real sense of accomplishment that I had overcome great odds and won. I still get excited just thinking about it!

Q: Your book is made up of 365 daily motivational quotes and each quote is followed by inspirational words that you added. What made you decide to write this book?

A: I think it’s kind of a neat story. One morning I got up and opened my Facebook page and somebody had made a profanity-laced post, ranting about another person. I thought to myself: “There has to be a better way to start the day than this.” So, I decided to (quickly) find a positive quote and write a few words under it, sort of a counter to the post I mentioned. I made my post and the response was amazing. People seemed to really like to read something positive. So, I did the same thing the next morning and the next and it just continued. I didn’t miss a day for two years.

Q: Was there a particular “light bulb moment” or inspiration behind your decision?

A: As I mentioned, I kept making posts on Facebook and nearly every day I had somebody tell me that I should put all these daily quotes into a collection. I gave

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that some thought and I really liked the idea so instead of talking about it or just dreaming about it ... I decided to do it. And I have not had a single doubt that I made the right decision!

Q: Who do you hope to reach with this book?

A: I really don't think there is a limit to who this book can reach. One thing I've learned in life is that everybody—let me say that again—everybody has troubles. Some people do a great job of hiding them and pretending everything is all right, but everybody deals with issues in life. I think I recognize and can relate to many of those issues. I think that is the most exciting aspect of this project—the unlimited number of people this book and these daily quotes can help and provide a boost and positive shot of energy. I believe there are countless people across the nation just like me and the audiences I attracted through Facebook—people who get up early, go to their job, work hard, and hurry home to their families. And in the middle of that busy day these folks still deal with all the issues that life can sometimes hand us. I think that's my audience and it's unlimited!

Q: What have you learned from this experience?

A: I've learned that a person really can get used to getting up at 4 a.m. when you're working a project you love. Seriously, I think the key thing I've learned so far is that there are a lot of people who want to begin the day on a positive note. I think I am helping provide that with this effort!

Q: The title of your book is “Offerings”—is there a specific meaning behind that?

A: I knew that I wanted a title that was unique and I wanted it to be one word. I racked my brain and just couldn't come up with anything. One day my wife sent me a text message and said she had been reading through several of the quotes and that I often used the phrase: “Today's offering” when referring to my daily Facebook posts. She said: “How about ‘Offerings’ for a title for your book?” I loved

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it immediately and never gave another thought to a different title from that moment on.

Q: Is this book going to be a “one-and-done” project or could there be an “Offerings II”?

A: Two things come to mind about that question: First, I am an admitted workaholic so it’s just a given that I am going to be working on something as long as I have a pulse. A line I use often is that I am going to try to work a half day on Judgment Day. Secondly, I learned many, many years ago to never, ever say ‘never.’ So, while I won’t say for certain there will be a follow-up, I certainly won’t rule it out.

Q: Is there a final thought or word you’d like to add?

A: I would be remiss if I did not give thanks to God through his son Jesus for the countless blessings in my life. I am a blessed man, over and over again! God’s grace and mercy sustain me from day to day and the greatest wisdom I have is the knowledge that all my blessings flow through Jesus. It’s nothing I’ve done, nothing I’ve earned and certainly nothing I deserve. In my daily prayers I always ask God for his blessings to flow “to me” but more importantly I ask Him for his blessings to flow “through me” to help others. I pray daily that this humble little book – “Offerings” – will be part of that “through me” daily prayer and that many, many people will be blessed by my effort.

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