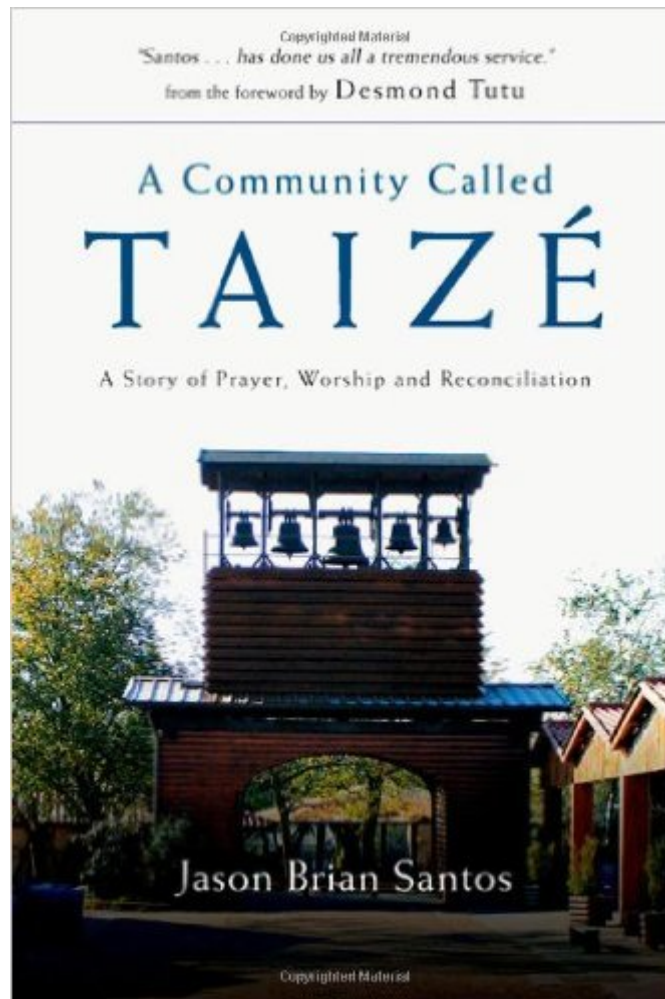


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# A Community Called Taizé: A Story Of Prayer, Worship And Reconciliation



## Synopsis

Taizé--the word is strangely familiar to many throughout the contemporary church. Familiar, perhaps, because the chanted prayers of Taizé are well practiced in churches throughout the world. Strangely, however, because so little is known about Taizé--from its historic beginnings to how the word itself is pronounced. The worship of the Taizé community, as it turns out, is best understood in the context of its greater mission. On the day Jason Brian Santos arrived in the Taizé community its leader was brutally murdered before his eyes. Instead of making Santos want to leave, the way the community handled this tragedy made him long to stay and learn more about this group of people who could respond to such evil with grace and love. In this book he takes us on a tour of one of the world's first ecumenical monastic orders, from its monastic origins in the war-torn south of 1940s France to its emerging mission as a pilgrimage site and spiritual focal point for millions of young people throughout the world. In *A Community Called Taizé* you'll meet the brothers of the order and the countless visitors and volunteers who have taken upon themselves a modest mission: pronouncing peace and reconciliation to the church and the world.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

*A Community Called Taizé* is a great resource for any person interested in Taizé or wanting to use the work of Taizé in his or her own congregation. I found the review, of a day in Taizé, to be very insightful to my understanding of not only a day in the community but what the community of Taizé is all about. I am looking forward to sharing this book with anyone interested in Taizé,

worship renewal, reconciliation, and ministry in the world today. Santos' thoughts on how the community of Taize's ethos is applicable to the North American Church is needed as we approach ministry in a world of constant change. It was a breath of fresh air, which came at a time most needed. I can't wait to plan my first trip to Taizé.

Someday I would like to go Taize but, as of yet, I have not had the time - or money. This is why I am so thankful to Santos for taking me there through the book. He offers the reader a "day in Taize" and a philosophy of ministry that guides the community's life of prayer. Of particular value is the detailed history of the community - including the eyewitness account of its founders' death - and the community's response. This is a "must-have" resource for anyone considering offering Taize prayers with their church or organization, planning a trip to the community, or planning ecumenical ministry events.

The Taize community is a largely Protestant, but very ecumenical, religious community in France. It is an amazing example of living out a total commitment to loving and serving God and others. This book gives you insights into its origins, its continued "success" for 60 years, its adaptability, and what it is like "on the ground," for the occasional pilgrim and (to a lesser extent) the lifelong Brothers. Taize is best known for its music, but I now understand better why we can't just pop in one of their CD's at a church service once in a while and expect the spiritual transformation and enrichment claimed by pilgrims to Taize. It starts with scriptural based theology, uses practical, but powerful rules-of-life to order the complete commitment of the community, and continually looks for ways to adapt to new situations and to meet challenges, all the while praying and turning everything over to God. While the power and world-wide affect of the Taize experience can't be neatly understood, reading this book will give you a clearer picture of what can happen when people truly let the Holy Spirit lead them, and will probably make you want to visit, as it did me.

Jason Santos has brought to the mind what it is to walk physically into the Taize community. However, the heart stirs to read about the rhythm of life at Taize. The emotional and spiritual sense of why Taize exists and its purposes have spanned time and test. This is one of the most unique pictures of the Kingdom of God on the planet. Who else is making substantial impact in the youth of post-modern Europe? There is clearly something at Taize that captures the heart of youth and the young at heart worldwide. A radical-ness of relationship, worship and servanthood. I enjoyed learning - as an American-church evangelical practitioner - ways I can learn from the contemplatives

and the monastics. In this crazy fast world, we need a sacred place. We have something to learn from the community for the future of the church and the young. This book has moved me and challenged me.

A community called Taize is a wonderful book that gives a perfect detailed description of the experience and background of the community. The book brought back so many memories as if I had actually been there as many times as the author. I was fortunate to be able to spend a week in Taize, but if I could have read this book before my trip it would have made the trip and experiences that much better. Jason gives a detailed travel plan along with a list of items that would have been beneficial to know before I planned my trip. I will definitely take his advice on my next trip back. Anyone who seeks the memories or plans on visiting Taize, this book is a must.

This is an excellent resource if you are planning a trip to Taize or if you are interested in knowing more about the community. The author paints a detailed picture of what to expect while visiting Taize and also highlights some of the history about the community and the brothers. In a world where there is so much emphasis on consumerism, it is amazing that such a simple community draws thousands of young people to visit there every year.

An inspirational manual of life and worship in the Taize community in France. The author gives details of transportation, lodging and tourist attractions in the vicinity of the community to those who would expect to attend one of their week prayer services. He describes what a prayer service will include, he interviews some of the Taize brothers as well as some of the many diverse attendees that arrive from all over the world.

I picked this book up because I wanted to learn more about the history of Taize. Santos does a great job explaining the day-to-day life in the community, although I did skim through some parts of that since I've been there. I enjoyed looking at Taize through the eyes of another American, and think the book is a must-read for anyone interested in the community.

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