

"It's a classic."  
—Apollo Lunar Module Pilot, Edgar Mitchell

When NASA scientist and Chaplain John Stout accepted a position in the Apollo program at the Manned Spacecraft Center in Houston, he planned to stay for only one year—no more.

That all changed on January 27, 1967, when Apollo 1 astronaut Ed White II, the young astronaut he had often ministered to, died with his crewmates in a flash fire on the launch pad. As a chaplain to many of the astronauts, Stout had grown close to White, and knew the young astronaut had planned to carry a Bible to the moon.

With this, Reverend Stout vowed to stay on and see Ed White's dream fulfilled. But undertaking a religious endeavor in the midst of a government-sponsored space program posed a dilemma for Stout and many of the astronauts.

Among Stout's obstacles was a lawsuit launched by renowned atheist Madalyn Murray O'Hair against NASA to prevent religious acts in space. It fell to Stout and his Apollo Prayer League to find a way.

The result was an extraordinary drama that unfolded behind the scenes as America rushed headlong to the moon.

"The technological side of things changes quickly.  
The side shown here is the side that endures."  
—Apollo 17 Commander, Eugene Cernan

#### CAROL MERSCH

A long-time friend of Apollo 14 astronaut Edgar Mitchell, author Carol Mersch learned that on February 5, 1971, Mitchell landed the first Bible on the moon. Intrigued, inspired, and intent on discovering the full story, Mersch embarked on years of research and interviews, unearthing a rich cornucopia of tales surrounding the event that yields one of the most remarkable sagas ever written about the Apollo Program.



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The Apostles of Apollo  
Carol Mersch 

# The Apostles of Apollo

The Journey of the Bible to the Moon and the  
Untold Stories of America's Race into Space

CAROL MERSCH