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# Book Reviews

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*Evangelicals and Development*, by Ronald J. Sider, Ed., Philadelphia, Westminster Press, 1981. 123 pages, \$6.95.

This volume elaborates the positions given prominence in the meeting of the Consultation on the Theology of Development, held March 10-14, 1980 at the High Leigh Conference Centre, Hoddesdon, England. As a symposium, it shares the tendency to reflect a number of points of view, without an adequate bringing together of the several writers' conclusions.

Basically, it is an evaluation, often critical, of the concept of development as put into practice by agencies and national policies of extension. The several authors, each of which brings to an attempted Theology of Development issues which are basically secular, seek to show their clear ethical and spiritual meanings. Elaborating the thesis that, since the liberation of many former colonies from colonialism, development has proceeded in ways by which the economic gap between rich and poor nations widens every year, each contributor seeks to find a "way out" of this dilemma.

The result is, that while the West is committed to unrestrained economic growth, this attitude and its *praxis* collides with the growth of global population in a manner which can only bring worldwide inflation, which in turn will increasingly and dramatically render the lot of the poor of the world to be more and more unfavorable. A final chapter deals with the long-term implications of the Western understanding of, and implementation of, conventional development upon the nations of the Third World. The Case Studies given in this chapter afford an indepth look into a situation which ought to concern deeply all Christians, and with a special force, all claiming the name of Evangelical.

**Harold B. Kuhn**

Professor Emeritus  
Asbury Theological Seminary

*The New Century Bible Commentary*: Wm. B. Eerdmans Publ. Co., Grand Rapids, softback edition, 1981, \$7.95.

*1 and 2 Corinthians* (F.F. Bruce) and *The Book of Revelation* (G. R. Beasley-Murray). Based on the Revised Standard Version.

These two reprints are based on the format and hermeneutics of the 1946-52 period and after thirty years of use are proved to be a continued and excellent exposition by Bruce (the Scot Plymouth Brethren) and Beasley-Murray (the English Baptist). These N.T. scholars have earned the right to be read as they have spent a lifetime in their special disciplines of exegesis.

In the *Corinthian* letters Christianity challenges the flood-tide luxury

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and licentiousness, the idolatry and lawlessness of the city of commerce and close community. Should the church today seek a model to follow it would not be Corinth; but here would be a warning to avoid the aberrations in social and personal life which would destroy the purity and love of a Christ-centered fellowship. Bruce deals bluntly with the questions concerning marriage, sex, liberty, license, cliques, worship, the Lord's Table and spiritual gifts. Church discipline, resurrection, giving, and the future are unfolded by rich exegesis and exposition.

In the *Revelation* letter Christianity is engaged in the age-long struggle with evil. The church of the first century is seen with the Head in the midst of congregational life. The span of time is linked with its consummation as the author sees the end from the beginning. The church is building and the vision of the final victory is certain. Present and future are linked in vision, symbol, picture, hymn, worship, struggle and victory, until "The Lord God omnipotent reigns" and a new heaven and earth emerge. Beasley-Murray faces the problems and questions raised by several schools of interpretation and weighs the issues without dogmatism. The exegesis is crisp and fresh and expository preachers will find help in proclamation.

First class bibliographies are provided, an outline and analysis given, and altogether these reissued commentaries will give, at modest cost, rich returns to any pastor-preacher-student.

**Ralph G. Turnbull**

Adjunct Professor of Preaching  
Bethel Theological Seminary  
San Diego, California

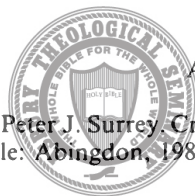
*Francis of Assisi Today*, edited by Christian Duquoc and Casiano Floristan, English Language Editor, Marcus Lefebure. T. & T. Clark Ltd., Edinburgh; The Seabury Press, New York, 1981.

Ten specialists in Franciscan studies collaborate in a paperback volume sponsored by the monthly periodical *Concilium*. They deal with the historical environment of St. Francis, his achievements, his relevance, and the literature concerning him. Included are essays on his encounter with emerging industrialization of Europe, his challenge to Islam, his quest for martyrdom, his identification with the poor, his evangelistic methods, the influence of the Scripture on his lifestyle, and his imitation of Christ.

Each contributor seeks to separate fact from legend in his appraisal of Francis. Editor Duquoc concludes that the legends surrounding Francis are those which attract and inspire imitation perhaps more than the bare facts themselves. This is why Francis is needed to help evaluate "religion in the eighties."

**George Allen Turner**

Professor Emeritus  
Asbury Theological Seminary



*The Small Town Church*, by Peter J. Surrey, Creative Leadership Series. Lyle E. Schaller, editor. Nashville: Abingdon, 1981. 128 pages.

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Keep your pen in hand as you read this title, to glean the nuggets of truth interspersed within the text. The style is in the form of letters to a fictional small church and its pastor.

The author contends, that despite the ecclesiastical pressures which tend to thrust the aspiring young minister upward in his career, there are lessons of deep personal growth and maturity that the small town church lays upon him which he must confront seriously.

The small town church is unique in character and not just another church that happens to be in a small community. The web of interpersonal relationships is complex. Everybody has a place, and no one is happy until he finds his place. Regard for the past, for order, and for each other are the traditional support systems of the small town church.

Through a series of encounters with his people, from theological concepts, to social behavior, to physical care of the property, all set in gossipy circumstances, the pastor learns how to give himself to his people within their own environment. A final letter to his bishop stating his qualifications for promotion to a larger parish is never mailed, but torn to pieces and thrown to the wind. The lessons he was learning at Bypass and the ministry he was able to give would not let him go.

**V. James Mannoia**

Associate Professor of Pastoral Ministry  
Asbury Theological Seminary

*Long-Term Marriage, a search for the ingredients of a lifetime relationship*, by Floyd and Harriett Thatcher, 216 pages, Word Books, 1980, \$8.95.

This husband-wife team spent three years researching real-life cases in an attempt to discover the essential qualities necessary for long and happy marriages. Planned and structured conversations were held with more than 50 married couples and with 17 divorced people, all of whom had been married at least 20 years. The questions asked in the interviews are listed at the back of the book. They are well worth the reader's consideration.

At the outset of their study, the Thatchers were convinced that marriage is not passe. The rapid changes in American culture do not have to destroy the marriage bonds, even though they may be taxed to the limits. Experiences and incidents from their own marriage history of 40 years are sprinkled throughout the book as testimony to their own struggles and ultimate success as marriage partners.

There is an average of a dozen research or professional citations given in each of the ten chapters. The style of the book makes for easy reading. The mixture of human feelings and statistical data is blended well which clinches both identification and credibility to the reader. Their expertise as writers is obvious throughout the book — both have written and published extensively. He is vice-president and editorial director of Word Books.

After 200 pages of descriptive marital stages, failures, successes, and window lights for those with marital troubles, the authors summarize their research. The essential ingredients are authenticity, openness, caring, faith, and confidence.

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It seems that the book was not intended to be religious or spiritual in nature. It is the result of research woven beautifully with human pathos and the silver threads of hope for every situation. However, to the book's enhancement, "chapter eleven" could have been written. Perhaps not as a separate chapter, but as another "dimension" — the dimension of grace. Grace, as the nuance of the Spirit that touches the essence of human nature, must be recognized, however it is understood, and whatever it may be termed.

**V. James Mannoia**

*The Private Life of the Minister's Wife*, by Betty J. Coble. Broadman Press, 1981, 138 pp.

As the title suggests, the author gives attention to the personhood of the minister's wife and the establishment of her identity within the context of her many labels. Emphasis is placed on the importance of husband-wife communication as a firm basis in accomplishing this. The author assumes an axiomatic position of the husband's headship in the home.

Wife, mother, homemaker, daughter, minister's wife, church member, are some of the labels the author explores. Although the book is not intended to be a manual for self-assertion, she urges the minister's wife to define clearly each label for herself. This, she feels, should be done from the point of one's personal commitment to Christ and the priorities she has established for herself. The author gives the following areas to be considered in composing such a definition:

- 1) Take an indepth look at who you are and what you want out of life.
- 2) Remember that daily choices must be made from what is available to you.
- 3) If there is discontent, discover its main source.
- 4) View the label from the advantages of your position, rather than the disadvantages.

Mrs. Coble speaks from the experience of 32 years of sharing with her husband in pastoral ministry.

The book can be helpful to any minister's wife who seeks to improve her quality of life and ministry.

**Florence Mannoia**  
Wilmore, Kentucky

*A Concordance to the Apocrypha/Deuterocanonical Books of the Revised Standard Version*. Forward by Bruce M. Metzger. Grand Rapids, London and Sydney: William B. Eerdmans Publishing Company, Collins Liturgical Publications, and Collins Liturgical Australia, 1983.

This work is derived from the Bible Data Bank at the Centre Informatique et Bible of Abbey of Mardsous in Belgium. The handsomely done volume presents a nearly exhaustive concordance of the sacred writings which arose between the Hebrew Scriptures and the New Testament, including 3 Maccabees, 4 Maccabees and Psalm 151. Only 57 words such as "a," "an," "and" and various other common pronouns, conjunctions, prepositions and

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auxiliary words are omitted. In these instances, scholars are invited to write to the Centre for further information. Each entry includes the number of the words' occurrences and the percent of the total 155,875 words of this corpus which that occurrence represents, a fascinating benefit of the computer age composition. Also helpful is the inclusion of various inflections of the same word in a single entry, e.g. "sing," "sings," "song," "sung," all under "sing."

Bruce Metzger's forward succinctly places the present volume in the history of the RSV publications and correctly emphasizes the usefulness of the concordance. Students who wish to study these inter-testamental works for their own worth, and also those interested in tracing the pre-New Testament use of concepts found in the New Testament, will welcome this tool.

**David L. Thompson**

4410 Renn St., Rockville, MD 20853

*The Islamic Understanding of Death and Resurrection*, Jane Idleman Smith, Yvonne Yzbeck Haddad. Albany: State University of New York Press, 1981. 262 pp., paper \$12.95; cloth \$36.00.

This is a detailed treatise on the Muslim conceptions of the life to come, limited primarily to works within the Sunni tradition, both classical and modern. Material has been taken from the Quran, commentaries, traditions, creeds, and other theological writings.

The first chapter provides a general background of Islamic thought on death and afterlife based on the Quran itself. The next two chapters deal with classical Islamic understandings of death and resurrection, describing the specific events which will occur to individuals from the time of death to the coming of the day of judgment. Chapters four and five attempt to view the ways in which Muslim thinkers of the twentieth century have understood issues of life, death, and the eschaton.

The authors give the impression they are well versed in the theology of Islam. Their treatise is scholarly and well documented. This publication is not for the casual reader, but for the serious student of Islamic teaching on this particular subject.

**John T. Seamands**

John Wesley Beeson Professor  
of Christian Mission  
Asbury Theological Seminary

*Africa's Three Religions*, by Geoffrey Parrinder. Sheldon Press, London, Second edition, 1976; 253 pp., £2.50.

This is a scholarly treatise on the three principal living religions of Africa: traditional religion (animism), Christianity and Islam. The author traces the history, growth, general characteristics, and varieties of each religion, and also describes the relationship and interaction between the three. In addition he describes the effects that social and political events have had upon the different religions.

Traditional religion is found mostly in central and southern Africa.

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Because it had no written literature, no scriptures or texts, its history is unknown. But the author attempts to trace the development of its concepts from the numerous artistic productions and rituals that exist among the followers of traditional religion.

Christianity is the oldest of the literary religions in Africa. It was once strong in Egypt and north Africa, but was almost completely wiped out by the advance of Islam in the seventh century. However, the Christian faith has shown tremendous growth in modern times in all parts of the continent south of the Sahara.

Islam entered Africa in the seventh century, developed rapidly at first, but then slowed down considerably. Today it is strong in Egypt and north Africa, and has made significant gains in central Africa, but is weak in the South.

For one who desires to understand the historical development of the three religions in Africa and their impact on African society, this is an excellent book. The statistics, however, are quite out-of-date and impractical for present use.

**John T. Seamands**

*Encyclopedia of Biblical Prophecy*, by J. Barton Payne. Grand Rapids: Baker House, 1980. 754 pp., \$12.95 (paperback reprint).

This valuable reference work, first published by Harper and Row in 1973, is a complete guide to scriptural predictions and their fulfillment. The 1,817 entries covering all predictions in the Bible include a complete discussion of all 8,352 predictive verses. The general format is the statement of prophecy followed by a statement of fulfillment.

The importance and extensiveness of predictive prophecy is indicated by this tabulation: "Out of the Old Testament's 23,210 verses, 6,641 contain predictive material, or 28½ percent. Out of the New Testament's 7,914 verses, 1,711 contain predictive material, or 21½ percent. So for the entire Bible's 31,124 verses, 8,352 contain predictive material, or 27% of the whole" (p. 13).

There are many features to make this volume a most valuable tool for students, pastors, and concerned lay people. These include 8 suggestions on "How to Use this Encyclopedia," 14 tables, including 3 on the Book of Revelation, 4 statistical appendixes, and 5 complete indexes. One of the concluding summaries lists all the 737 major subjects relating to biblical prediction, with the books and paragraphs in which each is found. Using this summary the reader can trace each prophecy from its first appearance in the Bible to its last. A complete list of scriptural prophecies pertaining to Christ is also included. It is an amazing compilation, with evidence of careful scholarship on every page.



**William M. Arnett**  
Frank Paul Morris Professor  
of Christian Doctrine  
Asbury Theological Seminary

## *Book Reviews*

*Christianity Is Christ*, by W. Griffith Thomas. (New Cannan, CT: Keats Publishing Inc., 1981), 159 pp. \$5.95.

Those who know W. Griffith Thomas will be happy to see his classic work on the life of Christ reprinted. In a simple, systematic way Thomas presents the Christ of the Gospels and many of the truths He came to share. The book is written both for information and decision. Thomas' conclusion is that the case for Christ demands a verdict.

**J. Steven Harper**

Assistant Professor of  
Prayer and Spiritual Life  
Asbury Theological Seminary

*Public Speaking: A Handbook for Christians* by A. Duane Litfin, Grand Rapids, Michigan: Baker, 1981, 352 pp., \$9.95.

Litfin packs this handbook with communication theory based on a Christian worldview. Well-written, comprehensive, and concretely illustrated, this book could serve as a text for Christian teachers. Pastors or church leaders may find tips for community speaking engagements. Thoughtful, well organized, interesting.

**Mark S. Ellingson**

The Des Lacs Valley Parrish  
Bowbells, ND 58721

*Developing Spiritually Sensitive Children*, Olive J. Alexander. Bethany Fellowship, Inc. 1980. 131 pp.

Develop them toward God by interacting with them warmly and humanely, with affection, structure, dialogue, and mild correction. That is the spirit of Olive J. Alexander's fine picture of her own childrearing practices. For some reason she indicates in the preface that she spans children, but it is clear that if she does, it is not with the authoritarian flair that other Bethany Fellowship authors do.

**Dr. Donald M. Joy**

Professor of Human Development  
and Christian Education  
Asbury Theological Seminary

*Family Ministry: The Enrichment of Family Life Through the Church*, by Charles M. Sell. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1981, 298 pp., cloth.

The author, a professor at Trinity Evangelical Divinity School, has assimilated important resources bearing on the church's ministry to families. In a helpful set of distinctions, he puts forward a theoretical base by which three program directions emerge: (1) family-life education, (2) family nurture, and (3) family-unit ministries. The book could be an important update on options available in enhancing a congregation's ministries with families. There is no significant effort to address the growing number of single-parent families through program development.

**Dr. Donald M. Joy**



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*Christ and the Crowds*, by James E. Carter. Nashville: Broadman Press, 1981.

The foreword states, "Crowds were always with Jesus. . . . an attempt to examine some of the faces . . . out of the crowds." Thumbnail sketches are given of faces in the crowds at the cradle, in the country, in the city, at the cross. The little book is very readable and thought provoking.

**C. Dorr Demaray**  
President Emeritus  
Seattle Pacific University

*The New Century Bible Commentary, The Gospel of Luke*, by E. Earle Ellis. Grand Rapids: Wm. B. Eerdmans, 1981.

The original edition of this work was published by Thomas Nelson and Sons 1966. A second, revised and updated edition was published by Marshall, Morgan and Scott, 1974. The softback publication by Eerdmans, 1981, is a reprint of the second edition, making it more available now at a modest cost.

This commentary considers the third gospel as history, as theology, and as literature, with a detailed exposition bringing out the major lines of thought in each passage. That Dr. Ellis takes measure of the latest scholarship (to 1974) is evidenced by 14 pages of bibliography and frequent references and detailed listing of scriptural passages.

Conservative scholars in higher education will certainly want access to this great work on Luke, while any person who wishes to study the Bible in depth will find it profitable.

**C. Dorr Demaray**

*Laymen's Bible Book Commentary, Matthew*, by Clair M. Grissey. Nashville: Broadman Press, 1981.

The author is a homemaker, Sunday School teacher and frequent contributor to Broadman publications. In language understood by laymen, she indicates the Old Testament prophecies fulfilled in Christ. The Gospel is shown to demonstrate Christ the Messiah. The teachings and messages of Jesus are given attention, especially *The Sermon on the Mount*.

Throughout the book, even in the Table of Contents, every theme and discussion is identified with scriptural references. This book will be especially helpful in Sunday school teaching and home Bible study.

**C. Dorr Demaray**

*The Minister's Library: Periodic Supplement #3*, by Cyril J. Barber, Grand Rapids: Baker Book House, 1980. 67 pp. plus indexes (author and title). \$4.95.

With enormous quantities of religious books published annually (2,000 in 1978), and the total number in the field now staggering (R.R. Bowker's *Religious Books and Serials in Print*, 1978-79 indicates over 50,500), the minister must be selective. This little paperback assists in that selection process. Most volumes listed came to publication in 1977 and 1978.

Dr. Barber lists five trends in very recent religious literature: (1)



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bibliography, (2) self-help, especially on marriage and child-rearing, (3) special groups (singles, divorced, aged, etc.), (4) lay leader discussion guides for church and home, (5) prophecy.

Barber has annotated his books, and covers eleven fields: Commentaries and Reference, Old Testament, New Testament, Doctrine, Devotion, Pastoral Theology, Social and Ecclesiastical Theology, Missions and Evangelism, Christian Education, Church History and Comparative Religions. Sub-headings under the larger headings assist the reader even further.

**Donald E. Demaray**

Granger E. and Anna A. Fisher Professor of Preaching  
Asbury Theological Seminary

*Layman's Bible Book Commentary: Psalms*, by Alton H. McEachern, Nashville: Broadman Press, 1981.

I like this little pocket commentary. Each Psalm gets a brief but meaningful interpretation. The book would serve well for lay Bible study groups because of the simplicity of content, the flowing style, and easy outlines. The freshness of material whets one's appetite for moving right through each Psalm.

**Donald E. Demaray**

*Human Options*, by Norman Cousins. An Autobiographical Notebook. New York: W.W. Norton & Company, 1981. 224 pp. \$9.95.

Norman Cousins, ever stimulating and creative, has given us hope for our chaotic world from his humanist perspective. A full length autobiography of this remarkable man is needed, but we are grateful for these notebook snippets that give us insight into his life and thought. Also serviceable to this purpose is his chapter called "Ways of Seeing" which includes some of his own creative photography.

The last chapter on healing and belief, while instructive, disappoints the reader because he does not share findings from his current brain and body chemistry research at the UCLA School of Medicine.

A highly stimulating book.

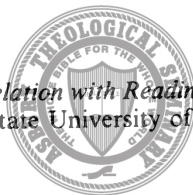
**Donald E. Demaray**

*The Living Reminder*, by Henri J.M. Nouwen. New York: The Seabury Press, 1981. Paperback \$4.95.

A beautiful book, poetic, poignantly realistic, showing the minister as pastor, priest and prophet. The minister's task lies in reminding persons of their past so their wounds can come to exposure and healing. A truly spiritual document.

**Donald E. Demaray**

*Evolution: Genesis and Revelation with Readings from Empedocles to Wilson*, C. Leon Harris. Albany: State University of New York Press, 1981. Cloth \$29.50, Paper \$9.95.



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The objective is to defend evolution. The intended audience is college students. The format is a detailed historical review of the development of evolution with readings from the originators that illustrate the historical perspectives of the author. Unlike most textbooks that are neutral in tone, this one contains invective directed toward the creationists. While legitimate criticisms are leveled, the critique is weakened because the bias against creationists carries over to all Christians, past and present. This leads to historical inaccuracies and distortions. In short, this is a provocative and creative effort, marred by its biases.

Ivan L. Zabilka  
801 West Worley  
Columbia, MO 65201

*A Christian Manifesto*, by Francis A. Schaeffer. Westchester, Illinois: Crossway Books, 1981. 157 pp., \$5.95.

Christ is Lord over all of life — philosophy, theology and the church, the arts, and culture. This is the theme of Schaeffer's lifework and the foundation for this volume. From this fundamental assumption, Schaeffer traces the gradual extinction of morality and freedom in the United States.

Christians have failed to see cultural ailments like pornography, breakdown in the family, permissiveness and abortion as symptoms of a much larger problem. Dr. Schaeffer pinpoints this problem as a radical shift in world view, away from the original Judeo-Christian base (the foundation for the U.S. Constitution), to a humanistic base. Therefore, the results of this humanistic base — pornography, abortion, etc. — are in complete antithesis to the Judeo-Christian heritage. As this humanistic way of life takes root, it necessarily destroys the whole way of life built upon a Judeo-Christian foundation.

Briefly stated, the humanistic world view is "the view that material or energy shaped by chance is the final reality." Therefore, the Christian community must recognize this radical shift in world view and be the instrument of renewal.

Schaeffer concludes that Christians must get involved in education, politics, and the whole of culture, to restore our nation to the biblical truth of Christ's Lordship. This action will involve direct confrontation with those in education and government who adhere to the humanistic world view. But, when the state defies God's absolute law, the state's authority becomes illegitimate requiring Christians to resist the state by whatever means necessary. A Christian's responsibility is, then, to effect change through direct legal and political action, and possibly through massive demonstrations of civil disobedience.

This reviewer appreciated the book's penetrating analysis of our culture's condition. The bibliography and extensive documentation demonstrates Schaeffer's exemplary scholarship. *A Christian Manifesto* powerfully challenges Christians to become the standard-setters of society, not mere Bible-waving fanatics.

Michael L. Jones  
P.O. Box 208, Wendell, NC

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*God's Grace and Human Health* by J. Harold Ellens. Abingdon, 1982.

It pleases me to review *God's Grace and Human Health* by J. Harold Ellens, an old friend and colleague from early days in the Christian Association for Psychological Studies, for *The Asbury Seminarian*. Written from an evangelical point of view, Dr. Ellens' holistic health approach is intermingled with a biblical foundation for an applied definition of health. Written for the John G. Finch Lectureship at the Fuller Graduate School of Theology in 1980, Rev. Ellens develops sharp criticism of the either/or schools of theology and psychology, as he explores resistance and transference in the Christian therapist's treatment with hurting persons. Devotional tools and therapeutic realism participate in a Christian therapeutic strategy which involves both a Christian anthropology and a profound empathic incarnation of God's grace, which takes Christian psychotherapy far deeper, broader and higher in meeting human suffering than secular therapy just as God has affirmed us each one. Very worth reading by every pastor who counsels. And what pastor doesn't?

**John M. Vayhinger**

Professor of Pastoral Care and Counseling  
Asbury Theological Seminary

*The Small Church is Different!* by Lyle E. Schaller. Abingdon, 1982.

"The small church often is a participatory democracy" (p. 36). The small church is tough, a volunteer organization, cares more for people than for performance, is intergenerational, relational and in many more ways more like the First Century Church. Lyle Schaller, as usual has given us a useful, concise, pithy book on the special aspects of the small church in American life. As a former pastor of some seventeen small churches in five parishes in three conferences I can recommend this small volume for anyone wanting a sympathetic but accurate picture of our "small churches."

**John M. Vayhinger**

*Health and Human Values: A Guide to Making Your Own Decisions*, by Frank Harron, John Burnside, M.D., and Tom Beauchamp. New Haven: Yale University Press, 1983. 194 pp., Cloth \$24.95, paper \$6.95.

Developments in biomedical research, the practice of medicine, and the delivery of health care in the last thirty years have been revolutionary. Consequently difficult and complex moral dilemmas with public policy implications have been raised for the health care practitioner, the patient, and society at large.

The moral issues thus created are no longer merely the purview of specialists, but must also be dealt with by the general public. In order to provide the general public with reliable information the Society of Health and Human Values, a professional society of medical educators and others, has been active since the mid-1960's in exploring the human values dimension of contemporary medical education.

This book is one of four publications intended to engage a broad range of persons in informed decision making regarding key health and human value

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questions. The volume deals with such issues as abortion, euthanasia, death and personhood, the "right" to knowledge about one's condition, the "right" to health and health care, applied genetics.

The book contains case studies and background discussions of important moral, medical and legal topics, selected readings from prominent writers in medicine, theology, philosophy, law, and related fields, and annotated bibliographies of recommended articles, books, anthologies, literary works, and audio-visual resources.

The authors bring significant personal credibility to the contents of this book. Frank Harron is director of the Health and Human Values Program in Philadelphia. John Burnside is professor of medicine at Pennsylvania State University. Tom Beauchamp is professor of philosophy at Georgetown University.

**Dr. Frank Bateman Stanger**  
President Emeritus  
Asbury Theological Seminary

*Eerdman's Handbook to the World's Religions.* Grand Rapids: Wm. B. Eerdmans, 1982.

"Handbook" is a correct designation for this useful one-volume resource. It has features of a textbook in that there are reasonably comprehensive discussions of human religion and the various religious traditions of the world. As such, it could be used as a text for high school and college classes. It is like a dictionary in that it offers easy access to specific information: part seven is called a rapid fact-finder, and there are numerous, brief verbal sketches, beautiful color pictures, charts and maps throughout the volume. As such it will serve well in the home or church library as a reference tool.

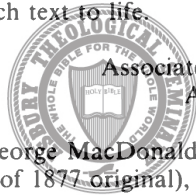
The vast majority of the material is fair to the various world religions discussed, Christian interpretation being generally reserved for the section of Christianity called, "Religion: or the Fulfillment of Religion?"

The one defect of the volume of a general nature is the absence of any bibliographical resources for further study, or checking out the assertions of the more than fifty contributors.

**A.H. Mathias Zahniser**  
Associate Professor of World Religions  
Asbury Theological Seminary

*Living Hymn Stories*, by Wilbur Konkel. Bethany House Publishers, Minneapolis, MN. 1982, 120 pp. \$3.95

Konkel has selected twenty-nine hymns primarily from the nineteenth century. Stories of the writers of the hymns are interwoven with scripture and life experiences to bring each text to life.



**Charles Kessler Sims**  
Associate Professor of Church Music  
Asbury Theological Seminary

*The Marquis' Secret*, By George MacDonald, Bethany House Publishers, Minneapolis, 1982 (reissue of 1877 original), 228 pp. \$4.95

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This novel and its predecessor, *The Fisherman's Lady*, are good examples of the ability of the Christian writer, George MacDonald, to convey Christian truth in story form. Unfortunately the writing style is that of the last century. Its lengthy narrative passages and florid descriptions will make heavy going for many modern readers.

**John Oswalt**  
President  
Asbury College

*Colossians and Philemon (Word Biblical Commentary)*, by Peter T. O'Brien. Waco, TX: Word, 1983.

The Peter O'Brien commentary on Colossians and Philemon is number 44 in the Word Biblical Commentary, whose total scope is 52 projected volumes. Dr. O'Brien is an Australian scholar whose service has included teaching and administration at Union Biblical Seminary at Yavatmal, India. He is now head of the New Testament Department of Moore Theological College, New South Wales, Australia.

The commentary includes a complete introduction on both books, comprising about fifteen percent of the volume's pages. The introduction to Colossians incorporates a valuable segment on the "Colossian Heresy," reviewing what he calls "a bewildering variety of hypotheses" concerning its nature.

Soundings in the Colossians section included the extensive treatment of the classic passage on the nature of Christ (1:15-20). The exhaustive critical comment on this passage is carefully and helpfully summarized. The great hymn to Christ is seen as indebted to Old Testament Wisdom literature, but nonetheless Pauline in authorship. In this context, the commentary gives an extended treatment of Paul's use of *ekklesia* in Colossians and Philemon.

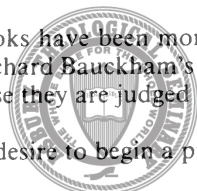
The Word series is based on a standard format, which begins with a bibliography on the Scripture passage, a translation, a segment called Form/Structure/Setting, and Expository comment based on the Greek text. This enables one to dip into the volume at differing levels of intensity. True to this intent, this commentary promises solid help both to the serious scholar and to the less skilled investigator. However, the weight and extent of the material, as well as the price tag on the book, will daunt the merely casual. It is a solid commentary and a valuable addition to any library.

**H. Mark Abbott**  
Pastor, First Free Methodist Church  
Seattle, WA

*Jude, 2 Peter (Word Biblical Commentary)*, by Richard J. Bauckham, Waco, TX: Word, 1983.

"No New Testament books have been more neglected by scholars than Jude and 2 Peter" is Dr. Richard Bauckham's estimate in the preface to this commentary. This is because they are judged to be late in date and of little theological value.

It is this commentator's desire to begin a process to remedy this neglect.



## *The Asbury Seminarian*

He is lecturer in the History of Christian Thought at the University of Manchester, England, and is a specialist in eschatology and apocalypticism. His 1983 commentary in the Word series is designed for "the fledgling student, the working minister, as well as for colleagues in the guild of professional scholars and teachers."

It is Bauckham's perspective that Jude was written before 2 Peter and that the latter shows signs of literary dependence on the earlier work. He tentatively dates Jude before the martyrdom of James in A.D. 62, argues that the letter was written by Jude, the brother of Jesus, and suggests that it "offers a rare glimpse into those original Palestinian Christian circles in which Jesus' own blood relations were leaders."

2 Peter, Bauckham believes, was not written by the Apostle Peter, but is the letter of the church at Rome, actually written by an unknown Christian leader between 80 and 90 A.D. The writer's authority is not his own, but rather "lies in the faithfulness with which he transmits and interprets for a new situation, the normative teaching of the apostles." Thus, claims Bauckham, "the pseudepigraphal device is therefore not a fraudulent means of claiming apostolic authority, but embodies a claim to be a faithful mediator of the apostolic message." Though many evangelicals may balk at this line of reasoning, it does not prevent the volume from being a valuable library asset.

The solid critical and expository comment of this volume make it particularly valuable to the serious student and in depth expository preacher.

**H. Mark Abbott**

*Islam and Christian Witness*, Martin Goldsmith. Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 1982. 157 pp.

"Only an ostrich can ignore Islam today," declares Martin Goldsmith, an experienced missionary to Muslims and a lecturer in missiology at a Christian college in England. Throughout the world, including North America, Islam is making significant advances. Nevertheless, Christians are often ignorant of the major beliefs and practices of Muslims as well as how to relate to them. Goldsmith provides a helpful overview of Islamic convictions and how they relate to Christian affirmations in the world of today, with some guidance as to how Christians may enter into meaningful relationship and dialogue with Muslims in hopes that they may commit themselves to Christ.

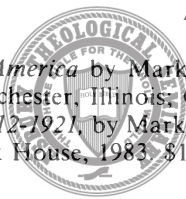
For those laypersons and clergy who may never have a chance to study Islam in depth, this book will provide a valuable resource.

**Russell A. Jacobsen**

Student

Asbury Theological Seminary

*The Search for Christian America* by Mark A. Noll, Nathan O. Hatch, George M. Marsden. Westchester, Illinois: Crossway Books, 1983. \$6.95  
*The Princeton Theology: 1812-1921*, by Mark A. Noll, editor and compiler. Grand Rapids: Baker Book House, 1983. \$14.95.



## Book Reviews

*A Documentary History of Religion in America: Since 1865* edited by Edwin S. Gaustad. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans Publishing Co., 1983. \$16.95.

These books offer exceptional resources to a discerning readership. In chronological scope they move from the founding of America to a contemporary reflection of the Christian roots of the nation (*Search*); they develop the specialized history of one of the most influential American theological schools (*Princeton*); and, they offer documents of great variety in the broad sweep of religion in the post-bellum period of American history (*Documentary History*).

The authors of *Search* wrestle with ambiguity in their analysis. They are not warm toward the concept of America as the "Christian nation," believing that such a notion retards a legitimate quest for the development of Christian action in society. The perception of the past as a kind of "golden age" makes more steep the climb to an effective Christian witness and evangelism, which the authors surely affirm.

The second volume (*Princeton*) sets forth the sturdy effort of a major Reformed seminary to give reasoned answers to church and society, on the issues posed by science, philosophy and Scripture. Theologians like Charles and A.A. Hodge, Archibald Alexander, and B.B. Warfield stand "larger than life" in their magnificent analyses of cosmology, inspiration, biblical authority, evolutionism, and much more. Founded in 1812, Princeton shaped church and nation in a substantially conservative theology which represented stability in a century of ferment (as Alice Felt Tyler's *Freedom Ferment* describes).

Gaustad's work is the completion of his two volume documentary collection. It is a worthy complement to the earlier assembling of documents by Smith, Handy, and Loetscher, *American Christianity* in two volumes, published in 1960. While Gaustad's work cannot replace this earlier work in depth, it offers greater breadth. Students of the Holiness movement will be less than ecstatic about the focus in which the movement is placed (see page 299). Gaustad is aware of the work of Timothy L. Smith. He ought to be apprised of Melvin E. Dieter's definitive *The Holiness Revival of the Nineteenth Century*. This could protect his scholarly flanks against a questionable representation of the movement which was and is a dynamic spiritual and social force in American history. Readers will find that George Marsden's interpretive *Fundamentalism and American Culture* helps even the score.

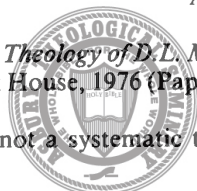
The reader should not be misled by this criticism. The volume is deserving of high praise as a superlative achievement.

**Leon O. Hynson**

Professor of Church History and Historical Theology  
Asbury Theological Seminary

*Love Them In: The Life and Theology of D.L. Moody*, by Stanley N. Gundry. Grand Rapids: Baker Book House, 1976 (Paperback edition, 1982). 252 pp. \$6.95.

Dwight L. Moody was not a systematic theologian, but he had many





## *The Asbury Seminarian*

things to say about the Bible. Stanley Gundry takes Moody's sermons and public statements, and examines them in depth to reveal Moody's theology.

According to Gundry, this is the first full-length critical analysis of Moody's theology. The first chapter is a concise, well-written biography.

Gundry's basic mode of presentation is interpretation of primary sources. He disproves what some think Moody believed. Gundry states, "The primary purpose of this book, then, is to set forth Moody's understanding of theology, thereby correcting any misconceptions that may exist, and casting light on the context of the evangelical Protestantism in which Moody lived and moved in the last quarter of the nineteenth century." Taking into consideration that Moody never claimed to be a theologian, Gundry seems to do a good job systematizing Moody's thoughts. Keep in mind this was originally written as a doctoral thesis.

**Wesley D. Oden**

Student

Asbury Theological Seminary

*A Time for Anger*, by Franky Schaeffer. Westchester, Illinois: Crossway Books, 1982. 206 pp. \$5.95.

This book bears the provocative subtitle, "The Myth of Neutrality," and serves to prod all forms of complacency with respect to the conventional wisdom of humanistic and quasi-humanistic approach to major issues posed by modern communications, modern secular judicial attitudes and prescriptions, and the increasing tendency toward an unthinking objectivity. It is basically a call to intelligent "taking of sides" where issues of ethical weight are concerned.

Its chief merit is its dogged adherence to a task conceived as vitally reflective of Gospel mandates, in the face of increasing ethical and political relativism. It prods the cult of non-commitment no less than the widespread of ideas and positions formerly regarded as countercultural. This is not a volume to be read for entertainment; as the old saying goes, it serves, not to comfort the afflicted, but to afflict the comfortable and complacent.

**Harold B. Kuhn**

Professor Emeritus

Asbury Theological Seminary

