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# Book Briefs

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by Donald E. Demaray

*The Essence of Spiritual Religion*, by D. Elton Trueblood, New York, Evanston, San Francisco, London: Harper & Row Publishers, 1975. 156 pp.

The concerned pastor will read Trueblood with profit – always. Don't miss this little volume, now available in a low cost paperback edition.

The chapter on worship will provide a new dimension in terms of both thought and practice. The material on sin and salvation (chapter VI) cannot fail to stimulate.

Of help not only to the minister, this would not be a bad little volume to place in the hands of thoughtful parishioners.

*Preludes to Prayer*, compiled by Louis Cassels, Nashville, New York: Abingdon Press, 1974. 189 pp.

No minister should go another week without *Preludes to Prayer* done by this famous religious journalist. Cassels reads widely and well, and has put together an anthology of almost incomparable quality.

Put this in the hands of your laymen, too.

*Expository Preaching: Plans and Methods*, by F. B. Meyer, Grand Rapids: Baker Book House, 1974. 127 pp. \$1.95.

Meyer's work, reprinted as part of *The Notable Books on Preaching* series, deserves a place in the preacher's library. The contemporary minister of the Gospel, however, will find the older expression of principles and their application good as background but not always translatable for man in the 70's.

Recommended: the whole of *The Notable Books on Preaching* series published by Baker Book House of Grand Rapids, Michigan.

*When Life Tumbles In*, by Batsell Barrett Baxter, Grand Rapids: Baker Book House, 1974. 136 pp. \$3.95.

This is a good little book of sermons on crucial issues – alcoholism, loneliness, the golden years, etc. Pastors will find stimulation and guidance in working out their own sermons on these contemporary and ever-relevant concerns.

*Holiness*, by Earnest Larsen, New York: Paulist Press, 1975. 106 pp.

Here is a work on holiness that pastors will read with great profit. Father Larsen speaks right out of a busy parish where he wrestles with life and death issues – alcoholics, marriages on the verge of collapse, addicts, neurotics, and all the rest of it. Thus, what he says has a cogency not always found in works on the subject. He perceives the chief characteristic of holiness as growth.

*The Power of Prayer in Business and the Professions*, by G. Ernest Thomas, Nashville: Tidings, 1975. 67 pp.

Pastors will do well to purchase a small supply of this little paperback to place in the hands of potential prayer group leaders in industry, business, and the professions. Dr. Thomas in plain and clear language shows the great benefits of corporate devotionals in factory and office, and it is difficult to see how anyone could read this book without a sense of urgency.