

BOOK BRIEFS

The Septuagint Version of the Old Testament and Apocrypha with an English Translation. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1973. 1382 pages. \$11.95.

This book is another in that flood of reprints, first published by S. Bagster in England in the last century. Although the publishers do not indicate why they have chosen to reprint this work, they no doubt have in mind those who do not have either the time or the ability to work from the original alone. Since the format has the Greek and the English in parallel columns, it is more useful than a simple English translation of the Septuagint. The book offers little new to the seasoned scholar, but busy pastors who are intent on studying the Old Testament will want to avail themselves of this handy edition of the earliest of the Old Testament versions.

The Chickadees, A Contemporary Fable, by Conrad Hyers. Philadelphia: Westminster Press, 1974. 63 pages. \$3.95.

In all his reachings for the stars, in his concern for new frontiers and ecstatic visions, man in moments of pause is blinded by the profundity of simple things. "Beyond the dazzling lights and the blaring call of trumpets is a world where even fireflies illumine the night and twittering birds sing overtures of praise" (9). This myth for the time speaks to many of the crucial issues of our day and challenges to heroic vision. A well-told, richly imaginative tale full of spiritual insights.

Guide To Ecclesiastical Birdwatching, by LeRoy Koopman. California: G/L Publications, 1973. 58 pages. \$1.00 (paperback).

The author gives us a delightful satire on the kinds of people who go to church and participate in the worship services. For all who have ears to hear, lessons can be learned and changes in lifestyle can be

implemented. The Wail Quail is as funny as any. He preaches on such subjects as “cross-bearing, being bond slaves, the great tribulation, the suffering of the righteous, the persecution of the saints, the wrath to come, the backside of the desert and the pagan origins of Christmas and Easter observances” (p. 40). Ushers, singers, other members of the congregation take their share of “ribbing”. All in good, wholesome humor!

Hope for the Flowers, by Trina Paulus. New York: Paulist Press, 1972. 151 pages. \$4.95 (paperback).

Trina Paulus and the Paulist Press have given us a work of spiritual art. Both in language and drawings the New Testament message of personal surrender as the way to personal fulfillment is made clear. Here is the Stanley Jones message in new format. Pastors and personal evangelists will want to share this book with those they are trying to win and enlighten. Its readability is, in part, its genius. Yellows, greens, blacks, and grays supply tone. Sketches—communicable line drawings—make vivid the truth at hand.

The Challenge of Religious Studies, by K. G. Howkins. Downers Grove (Ill.): InterVarsity Press, 1972. 150 pages. \$2.50 (paperback).

The author seeks to help orient students anticipating enrolling in one of the many courses in religion now being offered in all kinds of universities, public as well as private. He is concerned that the student shall learn for himself what the Bible itself says rather than what the various scholars say the Bible says. The reader will find real value in the author’s treatment of such topics as miracles and the supernatural, the resurrection of Christ, Biblical criticism, and Christology.

Letters From Paul, by Boyce W. Blackwelder. Anderson (Ind.): Warner Press, 1971. 160 pages. \$4.95.

In this exegetical translation of Paul’s Epistles, the author seeks to bring out of the original Greek language the love, the compassion,

the eternal hope of the great missionary evangelist. Today's messenger of the Gospel, catching the spirit of the apostle, cannot but be challenged to pursue his task with the same zeal.

Preaching on John, by R. C. H. Lenski. Grand Rapids: Baker, 1973. 194 pages. \$2.95 (paperback).

In this series of exegetical-homiletical text studies, treating both the person of John the Evangelist and some of his choice teachings, the author provides much helpful material for a series of sermons on the disciple whom Jesus loved.

The Communication of Ideas. Quebec: The Royal Bank of Canada. Obtainable free of charge by writing P. O. Box 6001, Montreal 101, Quebec, Canada. 141 pages. (paperback).

This is a worthwhile book on communication for the professional or business man. Writing skills take up the greater part of the work, but toward the end there is a useful chapter on public speaking and another on dialogue in conversation. Remarkable for its perfection of form, the book covers a wide spectrum of needs: writing letter, doing reports, style of communication, mastering language, etc. Data are richly underscored with illustration and quotation. No minister, teacher or journalist should overlook this little treasure.

They Chose to Live, The racial agony of an American Church, by J. Herbert Eilmore, Jr. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1972. 206 pages. \$2.95 (paperback).

This is the story of racial crisis in a Southern church, the majority of whose members chose to live for a principle that is going to die, racial segregation. The racial agony of this particular church mirrors the racism present in many churches North and South. This account will inspire

Christians everywhere to help correct racist patterns and attitudes in the American Church.

Job, Our Contemporary, by H. Harold Kent. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1973. 92 pages. \$1.50 (paperback).

“Job surely is the Saul of Tarsus of the Old Testament, so completely sure of his own righteousness that even God cannot stand before him” (39). The author comes to grips with the paradoxes recorded in the book of Job, and highlights the fact that only a dynamic encounter with the living God satisfies the soul tormented with problems.

Monkey Off My Back, by Jack Brown, Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1971. 150 pages. \$1.95 (paperback).

The author, an ex-convict, gives a thrilling, thought-provoking account of his ordeals during seventeen years in various prisons. Without being melodramatic he reveals the squalid state of the prisons and the frequent injustices suffered by prisoners. His associates included the Birdman of Alcatraz, Bonnie and Clyde, Machine Gun Kelly, and Al Capone. After thirty years of drug addiction and numerous attempts to “kick” the habit, he tells how through the prayers of a faithful wife and a concerned church he experienced a personal encounter with Christ and was made “a new man”. This book would be especially relevant to teenagers.