

BOOK BRIEFS

Young's Literal Translation of the Bible, by Robert Young. Grand Rapids: Baker Book House, n.d. 765 pages. \$4.95 (paperback).

This is a reprint of Young's "third edition" which first appeared in 1887. The translation is by the author of *Young's Analytical Concordance to the Bible*. This literal translation of the Bible enables the Bible student not familiar with the Greek text to compare a direct translation of the words of the original writers with translations which seek to express the sense of those words in a more contemporary idiom.

The Ministry of the Word, by G. Campbell Morgan. Grand Rapids: Baker Book House, 1970. 252 pages. \$2.95.

In this book, another in the series of "Notable Books on Preaching," Dr. Morgan seeks to elucidate the concept of the Christian ministry in the light of the Biblical evidence. This is not a book on method, but one which searches for principles upon which successful method must be based. The book brings into focus the basic responsibility of the preacher—the ministry of the Word. It may well serve as a corrective in our day, when a myriad of ministerial tasks too often obscure this basic calling.

All the Parables of Jesus, by Robert L. Cargill. Nashville: Broadman Press, 1970. 127 pages. \$2.95.

These studies on the parables (some of them very brief) are an endeavor to relate to life today the stories told by Christ. The volume is rich in illustrations from everyday experience. The average treatment for each parable is about three and one-half pages.

More Contemporary Prayers, edited by Caryl Micklem. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1970. 117 pages. \$3.50.

This volume is a sequel to *Contemporary Prayers for Public Worship*, published in 1967. The prayers in this collection are characterized by the same fresh and meaningful terminology. These prayers in the contemporary idiom, center on fifty-two themes, ranging from those related to the church calendar to those suggested by basic human concerns such as freedom, healing and shelter. The prayers are arranged in two main groups—the first, mostly prayers of adoration and worship; the second, prayers of intercession.

Balancing the Christian Life, by Charles Caldwell Ryrie. Chicago: Moody Press, 1969. 191 pages. \$3.95.

Dr. Ryrie attempts a treatment of the varied facets of the spiritual life scripturally and ethically. His aim is thorough analysis and genuine practicality. The book suffers, however, from over analysis, gaps in logic, and stylistic irregularities including wordiness. A book on the subject is much needed. And the author does offer some fresh insight into Biblical truth (e.g. his guidance on how to handle temptation).

Violence, Reflections from a Christian Perspective, by Jacques Ellul. New York: Seabury, 1969. 179 pages. \$4.95.

The author's chief concern is the currently fashionable religious defense of revolution. After surveying historically the various approaches of Christians to violence, Ellul examines in depth current statements by Christians condoning violence. He contrasts the dynamics of violence and the clear demands of the Gospel. In a concluding chapter he sets forth what he believes to be the truly distinctive nature of Christian radicalism and the violence of love.

Religion Without Wrappings, by David H. C. Read. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1970. 216 pages. \$4.95.

The minister of New York's Madison Avenue Presbyterian Church suggests that Christians frequently obscure the gospel in a "jungle of organizations, officials, programs, and literature." The need is for a *Religion Without Wrappings*. These sermons should not only challenge the faithful; they should in this age of moral chaos and religious indifferentism appeal to the curious.

The Creative Theology of P. T. Forsyth, edited by S. T. Mikolaski. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans. 164 pages. \$6.95.

Revival of interest in the writings of P. T. Forsyth is a significant feature of contemporary theology. The Free Church English theologian (1848-1921) is best known for his concern with the theology of the Atonement, and with heart-felt Christian experience in contrast to the formalities of religion. The selections in this volume introduce the reader to Forsyth's major themes. An extensive bibliography of his writings complements the whole.

The Church from Pentecost to the Present, by Carl S. Meyer. Chicago: Moody Press, 1969. 336 pages. \$4.95.

This brief one volume history of the church seeks to reveal "the trends, reasons, ideals, and concepts involved in each new movement while systematically outlining the expansion and development of the *ecclesia*." This readable book, however, seems to have attempted too much in the space allotted.

Apostles of Denial, by Edmon Charles Gruss. Presbyterian and Reformed Publishing Company, 1970. 324 pages. \$4.50 paper, \$6.50 cloth.

This volume is "an examination and exposé of the history, doctrines, and claims of the Jehovah's Witnesses." Written in a strongly polemic style, it is a veritable omnibus of materials by and about the movement. The Bibliography is extensive. Gruss concludes that the message propagated by this cult is "a message of denial, carried by apostles of denial."

Can I Forgive God?, by Leslie Brandt. Saint Louis: Concordia Publishing House, 1970. 78 pages. \$2.50.

This book has to do with the theme of forgiveness. Its author evidences much awareness of the problems and heartaches of life. The brief chapters deal with such questions as "Can I forgive God?" "Can God Forgive me?" "Can I forgive myself?" "Can I forgive others?" "Can I forgive those I love the most?" Here is a book sensitive especially to the pulsating questions of honest Christians.

A History of Preaching, by Edwin C. Dargan. Grand Rapids: Baker, 1970. 578 pages plus bibliography and index. \$4.95.

We are fortunate indeed to have this reprint of Dargan's standard work. This first volume (1968) takes us from the Apostolic Fathers to the Reformers (A.D. 70-1572); this volume covers the ground between the close of the Reformation to the end of the nineteenth century (1572-1900). Each book has its own index and bibliography.

Dr. Dargan was Professor of Homiletics at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, in Louisville, Kentucky, from 1892-1907. He brings to his work a rich content and a careful style. The thoroughness with which he executes his task is invigorating—see for example the breadth of coverage of many countries in the eighteenth century. He does the seventeenth and nineteenth centuries with the same concern for completeness. It remains now for someone to add a third volume on the twentieth century, with its unique preaching history and its stimulating variety of methods.

Somewhat Less Than God: The Biblical View of Man, by Leonard Verduin. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1970. 168 pages. \$2.95 (paperback).

Although Christology is of basic importance to the Christian theological enterprise, one's view of man is by no means of minor consequence. The author considers that the study of man is one of life's most relevant themes, for it touches us where we live, and it is at this point that men need the most help. "Man" is looked at from almost every vantage point in this volume, which may be read with profit by laymen and clergy. It speaks about issues of importance to students of sociology, psychology, and anthropology.

Forty Years with the Silent Billion, by Frank C. Laubach. Old Tappin: Fleming H. Revell Co., 1970. 501 pages. \$6.50.

This is the story of how thousands of persons have learned to read and write by the Laubach method—"each one teach one." In this volume, one senses the deep concern Dr. Laubach had for the world's poor and underprivileged. One is gripped by the passion of the "Apostles to the Illiterates" and his concern for the tremendous waste of their resources, both spiritual and material. The first eight chapters were originally published in 1943 as *The Silent Billion Speak*. This is an amazing story of an amazing man!