

## BOOK NOTICES

*The Cotton Patch Version of Paul's Epistles*, by Clarence Jordan. New York: Association Press, 1968. 158 pages. \$2.25 (paperback).

The founder of the Koinonia Farm in Americus, Georgia, a pioneering interracial farming community, writes this modern-day translation of Paul's message, taking it "out of the study and stained-glass sanctuary" and placing it "under God's skies where people toil, laugh, cry and wonder." Its plain hard-hitting language, straight from the cotton fields and city streets, will often delight, sometimes disturb.

*A Handbook of Contemporary Theology*, by Bernard Ramm. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1966. 138 pages. \$1.95 (paperback).

Dr. Ramm has given us a paperback handbook of contemporary theological terms. There are 122 articles ranging from two sentences to two paragraphs or more. Definitions are derived from both primary and secondary sources, of which there are 86, including works by Kierkegaard, C. H. Dodd, Karl Barth, Oscar Cullmann, and evangelicals such as Paul K. Jewett, Edward J. Carnell, and Carl F. H. Henry. The compiler chooses his terms from six key theologians of the twentieth century: Kierkegaard, Barth, Brunner, Reinhold Niebuhr, Tillich, and Bultmann.

The author is to be commended for his brevity, descriptive writing, and the fine level of clarity which he attains. Pastors and teachers will appreciate this handy reference tool.

*A History of Preaching, Volume I*, by Edwin C. Dargan. Grand Rapids: Baker, 1968. 564 pages. \$3.95 (paperback reprint).

The Baker Book House is to be commended for bringing out Dargan's well known *A History of Preaching*. Because this new printing is in paperback, the cost is reduced considerably. It is hoped that Baker will bring out Volume II and that someone will write a third volume bringing the history of preaching up to date.

*The Church Between the Temple and the Mosque*, by J. H. Bavinck. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1966. 206 pages. \$2.65 (paperback).

This work is a scholarly analysis of the relationship between Christianity and the other world religions. Writing from a depth of experience, the author takes a sympathetic and understanding, though not syncretistic, approach to the problems inherent in the relationship. He recognizes that men of all religions share a common religious consciousness and are equally the recipients of God's general revelation. He asserts that other religions have hidden the truth of God by repression and substitution, as Paul points out in the first chapter of Romans. But he also holds that we too have often done the same thing. It is this confession that qualifies us to enter into dialogue with the other religions. The book offers the reader valuable insights into resemblances and differences between Christianity and other faiths.

*Praying Together*, by Rosalind Rinker. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1968. 128 pages. \$2.95.

A down-to-earth treatment of some of the problems involved in getting people to pray together. Seeks to establish the prayer meeting as a creative, communal experience in which each one is himself in the presence of God and his fellows, not afraid to break through customary routines and practices. A fresh approach to "praying together."

*Being There for Others*, by Ted McEachern. Nashville: Abingdon, 1967. 158 pages. \$2.25 (paperback).

Ted McEachern, a staff member of the General Board of Education of The United Methodist Church, writes, "This is a book about stewardship, but the word is never used." Indeed, this is a book about stewardship, but in a deeper sense than many of us ever think of the term. It deals not with what Christians should give to the church, but with what they should give to the world. This book is centered in the events of the world, such as those one meets in the morning newspaper or watches on the television newscast; and it challenges the modern Christian to see these events as potentials for faith.

The central theme is that we as Christians must see faith as sharing

with Jesus of Nazareth the revolutionary principle of living for others. Certainly this understanding of faith is a severe narrowing of a biblical word that is much richer in meaning. Nevertheless, McEachern's emphasis is one to which we could all listen profitably.

*A Cup O' Kindness*, by Hugh C. Stuntz. Nashville: Abingdon, 1968. 144 pages. \$2.95.

These brief inspirational stories reflect the wisdom and quiet humor of one who has spent a lifetime in Kingdom-building in South America and in this country. Written especially for the disillusioned and discouraged.

*Stir What You've Got!* by Raymond E. Balcomb. Nashville: Abingdon, 1968. 160 pages. \$3.50.

Twelve sermons treating the significance and scope of Christian stewardship. Rich in human interest stories from the lives of those who have discovered the joy of giving. If you "stir what you've got" in terms of time, talent, and possessions, the rewards will be deeply satisfying.

*With Bands of Love*, by David Allan Hubbard. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1968. 114 pages. \$1.95 (paperback).

The president of Fuller Theological Seminary seeks to understand the message of Hosea in its own setting, at the same time relating it to the fuller revelation of God in the New Testament, and showing its relevance to contemporary life and thought.

*The Glory of the Ministry* (Paul's Exultation in Preaching), by A. T. Robertson. Grand Rapids: Baker, 1967. 243 pages. \$2.95 (paperback).

One of a series of reprints of notable books on preaching, under the editorship of Ralph G. Turnbull. The present volume by a former professor of New Testament at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary comes at a time when we need to consider again the place of preaching in the work of the ministry.

*Devotional Thoughts from the Holy Land*, by Ruth C. Ikerman. Nashville: Abingdon, 1968. 110 pages. \$2.75.

Under the pen of a gifted writer, familiar shrines are reconstructed to what they must have been like in Bible times. An unusual book of meditations built around travel in the Holy Land.

*The Sermon, Its Homiletical Construction*, by R. C. H. Lenski. Introduction by Ralph G. Turnbull. Grand Rapids: Baker, 1968. 314 pages. \$2.95 (paperback).

This is one of a series of ten volumes reissued under the subtitle *Notable Books on Preaching*, all of which are representative of the wisdom and experience of an older generation. The series includes other titles such as C. S. Horne's *The Romance of Preaching*, J. Stalker's *The Preacher and His Models*, and J. Watson's *The Cure of Souls*. The present volume comes from a former seminary professor with a reputation for skill both in New Testament exegesis and homiletical exposition.

*A Defense of Biblical Infallibility*, by Clark H. Pinnock. Philadelphia: Presbyterian and Reformed Publishing Co., 1967. 32 pages. 75¢ (paperback).

The author, perceiving the central problem of the twentieth century theology to be epistemological in nature, here faces forthrightly the question of biblical authority. He defends the inspiration and authority of the Bible.

*God and Evil*, by William Fitch. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1967. 183 pages. 75¢ (paperback).

If God is both sovereign and good, why does He allow bacteria, earthquakes, droughts, and famine? The sub-title of the book is "Studies in the Mystery of Suffering." Here is welcome insight into a much-discussed problem. A constructive treatment on how to experience constant victory over evil.

*The Book of Jonah, A Study Manual*, by Don W. Hillis. Grand Rapids: Baker, 1967. 71 pages. \$1.50 (paperback).

*The Epistle of James, A Study Manual*, by Ralph Gwinn. Grand Rapids: Baker, 1967. 68 pages. \$1.50 (paperback).

These paperbound manuals are members of a series of guides in Bible study for seminaries and colleges, and for pastors generally. The message of Jonah is made richly relevant to the twentieth century; James's letter is presented in an illuminating running commentary that touches each passage and verse of the epistle.