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New Titles Catalogue Spring 2006

Anabaptism

BECOMING ANABAPTIST

The Origin & significance of 16-century Anabaptism

J Denny Weaver

0836134346 Herald Press (2005), 174pp £9.50

When *Becoming Anabaptist* appeared in 1987, it was the first major study to incorporate the new history of multiple beginnings and a diverse Anabaptism into a synthesis of meanings for the late 20th century. J Denny Weaver's attempt was welcomed and widely acclaimed by scholars and by church leaders alike.

In this second edition, Weaver provides a "masterful treatment of his beloved Anabaptist vision, he writes in measured, scholarly, orderly fashion. With Denny Weaver as your guide, I am sure that you will find it a great joy to walk through the adventure called Anabaptism." – William H Willimon in the Foreword

JOHN HOWARD YODER

Mennonite Patience, Evangelical Witness, Catholic Convictions

Mark Thiessen Nation

0802839401 Eerdmans (2006), 224pp £12.25

John Howard Yoder (1927–1997) was a powerful Christian witness against violence, articulating a theology drawn from his own Mennonite tradition in such a way that others could not ignore it. The war on terror, the temptations of nationalism, and the painful divisions between those who call themselves followers of Jesus signal our need to hear Yoder's voice again at the beginning of the twenty-first century.

In *John Howard Yoder* Mark Thiessen Nation (former director of the London Mennonite Centre) provides an insider's introduction to Yoder, demonstrating how a committed Mennonite could also be profoundly evangelical in his witness and broadly catholic in his Christian sensibilities. Taking us into Yoder's life and writings, Nation explores Yoder's context, his keen interest in the Anabaptist tradition, his sustained engagement with other Christians and other faiths, and his claim that pacifism is inherent to Jesus' message. Finally, Nation lets Yoder's writings initiate a discussion of Christian responsibility, peacemaking, and conflict transformation for the present time.

For readers new to Yoder's thought, this volume provides the best available guide. Those already familiar with Yoder's work will find many new insights for assessing its ongoing relevance to Christian theology and life today. Due February 2006

MENNOFOLK 2

A Sampler of Mennonite & Amish Folklore

Ervin Beck

0836193075 Herald Press (2005), 248pp £10.50

"Ervin Beck takes you on an intriguing journey into the subculture of the Mennonite world. Beck helps his readers understand the glue that holds the social fabric of this group together. Personally, this sampler of folklore took me back into my own history and helped me to reconnect with the idiosyncrasies that helped to shape my life. Ervin Beck is a gift to the Anabaptist world that wants to stay connected to their rich past." – Joseph Yoder, Director of Menno-Hof

SEPARATION AND THE SWORD

Radical Confessional Rhetoric from Schleithem to Dordrecht

Gerald Biesecker-Mast

1931038341 Cascadia (2006), 312pp £15.50

Through rhetorical criticism of Anabaptist confessional argument during the Reformation era, the book describes the relationship between separation and peace articulated by Anabaptist leaders and writers in the decades following the adoption of the Schleithem Brotherly Union in 1527. By exploring this rhetoric of peaceable Anabaptist persuasion, the book provides resources for all nonconformists who seek to make peace through spiritual practice and public argument. Includes extensive notes, bibliography, and index.

THANK YOU FOR ASKING

Conversing with Young Adults about the Future Church

Sara Wenger Shenk

0836193059 Herald Press (2005), 281pp £9.75

"In crisp conversations, twenty-somethings explain frankly what they think of God, the Bible, Jesus, church, sex, and spirituality. Thank You for Asking is must reading for anyone who wants to understand young adults and the future of the church." – Donald B. Kraybill, Elizabethtown College

Biblical Studies

COLOSSIANS REMIXED

Subverting the Empire

Brian J Walsh & Sylvia C Keesmaat

1842273566 Paternoster (2005), 256pp £14.99

Have we really heard the message of Colossians? Is this New Testament book just another religious text whose pretext is an ideological grab for dominating power? Reading Colossians in context, ancient and contemporary, can perhaps give us new ears to hear.

In this innovative and refreshing book Brian J Walsh and Sylvia C Keesmaat explain our own sociocultural context to then help us get into the world of the New Testament and get a sense of the power of the gospel as it addressed those who lived in Colossae two thousand years ago. Their reading presents us with a radical challenge from the apostle Paul for today.

Drawing together biblical scholarship with a passion for authentic lives that embody the gospel, this groundbreaking interpretation of Colossians provides us with tools to subvert the empire of our own context in a way that acknowledges the transforming power of Jesus Christ.

CONVERSATIONS WITH SCRIPTURE: MARK

Marcus Borg

0819221287 Trinity (March 2006), 144pp £6.99

An accessible new look at the oldest Gospel from a pre-eminent Anglican scholar. Borg explores the historical background of the oldest Gospel and offers the reader an accessible means of understanding and evaluating this book, using the approach that made his *Reading Jesus Again for the First Time* so popular. As one of the best-known contemporary scholars of the historical Jesus, he applies everything now known about the era of Jesus' life to our understanding of Mark's Gospel, making it all the more relevant and inspirational to audiences today. This is one of the first books in a series, co-sponsored by the Anglican Association of Biblical Scholars. It is written in accessible language, sensitive to the needs of people who have little or no experience in reading the Bible. Each book focuses on exploring the historical and critical background, as well as how the biblical texts written centuries ago can still speak to readers today.

Christian Life

CALL TO CONVERSION

Why Faith Is Always Personal but never Private

Jim Wallis

0060842377 Lion (2006), 224pp £7.99

Originally published more than 20 years ago, this classic helps establish the theological framework behind the national best-seller *God's Politics* – and is remarkably relevant and contemporary for a new generation of readers. If you enjoyed *God's Politics*, then *The Call to Conversion* will take you deeper to find the biblical and theological foundations for social justice and peace. 2nd Edition

Church

SMALL CHRISTIAN COMMUNITIES TODAY

Capturing the New Moment

Joseph G. Healey & Jeanne Hinton, Ed.

157075618X Orbis (2005), 244pp £11.99

What can churches in America and elsewhere do to renew themselves from within? They can look to examples of thriving small Christian communities within their own country and throughout the world. This inspiring book looks at what is happening now across six continents to give pastors and lay leaders of every denomination encouragement through useable examples from their counterparts around the world.

Conflict Mediation/VORP

LEARNING TO LISTEN, LEARNING TO TEACH

The Power of Dialogue

Jane Vella

0787959677 Jossey Bass (2002), 288pp £14.50

In this updated version of her landmark book *Learning to Listen, Learning to Teach*, celebrated adult educator, Jane Vella revisits her twelve principles of dialogue education with a new theoretical perspective gleaned from the discipline of quantum physics. Vella sees the path to learning as a holistic, integrated, spiritual, and energetic process. She uses engaging, personal stories of her work in a variety of adult learning settings, in different countries and with different educational purposes, to show readers how to utilise the twelve principles in their own practice with any type of adult learner, anywhere.

THE JOURNEY TOWARD RECONCILIATION

John Paul Lederach

0836190823 Herald Press (1999), 176pp £9.50

Respected world-wide for his work in conflict transformation, especially in international conflict, this work by the leading Mennonite voice in the field is the place to start a study on reconciliation.

NEVER CALL THEM JERKS

Healthy Responses to Difficult Behaviour

Arthur Paul Boers

1566992184 Alban Inst (1999), 147pp £10.75

An excellent and very readable book from a Mennonite pastor that invites church leaders to a mature approach in dealing with people labelled "difficult" or worse!

EXTRAORDINARY RELATIONSHIPS

A New Way of Thinking About Human Interactions

Roberta M Gilbert

047134690X Wiley (1992), 325pp £9.50

Best single introduction to family systems theory. Roberta Gilbert puts systems thinking to practical use in relationships at work, and home and demonstrates relationship principles of seeing individuals as separate, equal and open. The book encourages readers to look at the patterns of interaction in our closest relationships, particularly in our original families, in order to unlock ways to create improved relationships.

THE NONVIOLENT ATONEMENT

J Denny Weaver

0802849083 Eerdmans (2001), 256pp £12.99

The recent controversy in the Evangelical Alliance about the penal substitution theory of atonement has made this book by Weaver a very topical one. It makes a strong case for why the atonement must be nonviolent and offers a thorough defense of Weaver's own view of the atonement, called the Narrative Christus Victor Theory. A must read for those who think it is time to question the adequacy of orthodox thinking on atonement.

THE LOST MESSAGE OF JESUS

Steve Chalke and Alan Mann

0310248825 Zondervan (2004), 224pp £8.99

A controversial work by a leading British evangelical, this book takes us back to the revolutionary gospel of Jesus and shows how we can proclaim genuinely good news to people in our time. Very clear, easy-to-read style that is accessible to everyone, yet delivers sound thought-provoking ideas.

GOD'S POLITICS

Why the Right Gets It Wrong and the Left Doesn't Get It

Jim Wallis

0060558288 Harper SF (2005), 416pp £18.50

This excellent and bestselling book asks the questions: "Since when did believing in God and having moral values make you pro-war, pro-rich, and pro-Republican? And since when did promoting and pursuing a progressive social agenda with a concern for economic security, health care, and educational opportunity mean you had to put faith in God aside?" While the book is clearly situated in the U.S., its message is applicable wherever there is a right and left in politics and to all who are interested in how religion and politics interact.

ENGAGING THE POWERS

Discernment & Resistance in a World of Domination

Walter Wink

080062646X Fortress (1992), 424pp £13.99

My favourite book of the last thirty years. Absolutely essential for understanding the myth of redemptive violence and the way Jesus challenged the Domination System.

HOW MOVIES HELPED SAVE MY SOUL

Finding Spiritual Fingerprints in Culturally Significant Films

Gareth Higgins

0971457697 Relevance Books (2003), 256pp £10.99

My personal favourite. This book is exceptionally easy and fun to read and thoroughly Anabaptist. Looking at how film (including popular films like *The Matrix*) can change our lives as it addresses themes like fear, God, justice, love and power, this book works just as well as a devotional guide. Full of spiritual and cultural insights. And very affordable. I give it four stars!

THE SUBVERSIVE MANIFESTO

Lifting the Lid on God's Political Agenda

Jonathan Bartley

1841012114 BRF (2003), 160pp £7.99

Written by the founder and director of Ekklesia, this book provides us with an easy-to-read look at politics and Christianity. Jonathan argues that the gospel of Jesus can help us formulate political views and affects our views on the use of power, on how societies are run, on how economies are structured, and on how our legal systems are organised. The church was once, and should be again, a subversive political movement following the radical path of Jesus and the Kingdom of God.

STRIKE TERROR NO MORE**Theology, Ethics, and the New War***Jon L Berquist*

0827234546 Chalice (2002), 368pp £21.50

This outstanding collection of essays, by writers like Walter Wink, Stanley Hauerwas, Walter Brueggemann and Tony Campolo and many others, provides a variety of important viewpoints on the roots, prospects and ethics of the "war on terror".

AN ANGEL DIRECTS THE STORM**Apocalyptic Religion and American Empire***Michael Northcott*

1850434786 IB Tauris (2004), 220pphb £19.50

This excellent book explores the role of American civil religion in global politics, providing a theological analysis of the subversion of Christianity in U.S. history (culminating in its use by the current American administration, led by George W Bush, a professed Christian). This book is easy to read, very insightful, and ends with a chapter on how the writings of John Howard Yoder can be used to challenge the false apocalyptic religion of the American empire.

SAVING CHRISTIANITY FROM EMPIRE*Jack Nelson-Pallmeyer*

0826416276 Continuum (2005), 184pphb £16.99

I read it in the spring and it did not disappoint. With Nelson-Pallmeyer's customary passion, he examines and critiques the U.S. move toward global domination and the way it is supported by American Christians, thus distorting Christianity. After describing what is happening in his country, Nelson-Pallmeyer explores the theme of empire in the Bible before turning to the radical nonviolence of Jesus and how we can put nonviolence into practice.

NOTE: Jack Nelson-Pallmeyer will be our special guest fro the London Mennonite Tehology Furm in June. Other books of interest by Jack Nelson-Pallmeyer include:

JESUS AGAINST CHRISTIANITY**Reclaiming the Missing Jesus**

1563383624 Trinity (2001), 368pp £14.99

If you're ready for a book that will challenge not only how you see Jesus, but how you look at the Bible, then try this absorbing book that explores the implications of seeing both Jesus and the God he revealed to us as nonviolent. A shocking yet thoroughly enjoyable book, written by a passionate Christian who sees peace and justice at the heart of the gospel of Jesus.

IS RELIGION KILLING US?**Violence in the Bible and Qu'ran**

1563384086 (2005), 192pp £9.99

See review in New Titles section

Bestselling Titles from Previous Director's Cuts:**POST-CHRISTENDOM***Stuart Murray Williams*

1842272616 Paternoster (2004), 272pp £9.99

This brilliant book is must-reading for all Christians in the UK who want to explore what it means to be a church on the margins as Christendom comes to an end. In a style that is easy-to-read yet full of profound insights, Stuart analyses the Christendom era and shows ho we can no longer operate with its values and assumptions. We need to find fresh ways to read the Bible, engage in mission and be church. If you haven't read this book yet, find a copy soon.

THE CHURCH AFTER CHRISTENDOM*Stuart Murray Williams*

1842272926 Paternoster (2005), 235pp £8.99

A sequel to Post-Christendom, available in March 2005, this book asks all the right questions as Stuart examines the changes happening in the church today and explores the church's future in the UK. Comprehensive yet accessible, and full of Stuart's customary wisdom, this book is essential reading for all who believe the church can once again play a meaningful and vital role in people's lives. Please note that Stuart will be leading a Cross-Currents seminar on this book on the 9th of April.

MAKING PEACE WITH CONFLICT**Practical Skills for Conflict Transformation***Carolyn Shrock-Shenk & Lawrence Ressler (Eds)*

0836191277 Herald Press (1999), 200pp £9.95

A practical guide to understanding and transforming conflict based on biblical and Anabaptist principles. Over 20 noted authors shaped by many experiences and cultures tell of lessons taught by walking conflict's holy ground. Some insights will be familiar, some new--and some able to trigger new conflict! Alastair McKay contributed a chapter to this book.

THE LITTLE BOOK OF TRAUMA HEALING**When Violence Strikes and Community Security is Threatened***Carolyn Yoder*

1561485071 Good Books (2005), 96pp £3.25

Now, STAR director (Strategies for Trauma Awareness and Resilience), Carolyn Yoder, has shaped the strategies and learnings from experiences of 9/11 into a book for all who have known terrorism and threatened security. This *Little Book* addresses communities and societies caught in cycles of victimhood and/or violence. . . in other words, those of us who have been traumatized by terrorists or tsunamis, by unsafe and ongoing occupation or oppression.

This Little Book looks at:

- Breaking free to safety;
- Taking risks successfully;
- Recognizing our interdependence.

Fiction**MARGARET'S PRINT SHOP****A Novel of the Anabaptist Reformation***Elwood E Yoder*

0836193032 Herald Press (2005), 327pp £9.75

Gifts/Cards etc**AMISH COUNTRY 2006 WALL CALENDAR**

0763192228 Browntrout (2005), 13pp £9.99

A beautiful collection of recent 12x12 photographs of Amish country life in Pennsylvania and elsewhere. Price includes VAT

SIMPLE LIFE 2006 CALENDAR**An Amish Odyssey***Bill Coleman*

1416210571 RSVP (2005), 12pp £9.95

The 12x12 images included in this collection were taken from a much larger body of work entitles 'Amish Odyssey' by renowned photographer Bill Coleman. After 30 years, Coleman continues to photograph the life and times of one unique Old Order Amish vilaage that is locate in a remote valley in Pennsylvania. Price includes VAT

Human Relationships**MONDAY MARRIAGE****Celebrating the Ordinary***Gerald W Kaufman and L Marlene Kaufman*

0836193040 Herald Press (2005), 104pp £8.50

Tired of all the advice about marriage? Especially when you try it and it doesn't work? You believed the experts when they guaranteed to improve your communication, bring ecstasy to your love life, or promised to make you and your spouse soulmates? Maybe you read it in a popular book, saw it on a talk show, or heard it from a well-known speaker. At first it was so convincing and for a while it seemed to work. But then reality hit. In *Monday Marriage*, Gerald W and L Marlene Kaufman offer another way to find real contentment in marriage. They suggest you take a rain check on the fantasies. They know that all couples have stresses that come from work, children, finances, and many distractions. The Kaufmans help you find ways to manage your life. They especially want couples to be realistic about each other when the mystery and intense romance disappears. This book is about discovering the wonderful things that occur in the daily routines of marriage. Things that many couples miss because they chase impossible dreams. For example, the quiet of an evening together after the kids are in bed. Sometimes without a word being said! Maybe the closeness comes from an unsolicited back rub. Mainly they are close because nothing else is allowed to come between them. That is when they discover a richly ordinary marriage. What the Kaufmans call *Monday Marriage*.

Peace**A CULTURE OF PEACE****God's Vision for the Church***Alan Kreider, Eleanor Krieder & Paulus Widjaja*

1561485047 Good Books (2005), 208pp £6.25

The authors have discovered that conflict is often a prerequisite of peace. They grant that peace is a continuum – easier to live in some areas of life than in others. They've learned that peace has two parents – hard work and grace.

Living in peace is muscular activity. The authors suggest how to develop "peacemaking reflexes"; how churches "can learn to handle conflict well"; and how to cultivate vulnerability and humility, two essential "attitudes of peacemakers."

True stories from communities around the world support this hopeful but strenuous call to faithful living. -3-

THE LITTLE BOOK OF RESTORATIVE DISCIPLINE FOR SCHOOLS**Teaching Responsibility; Creating Caring Climates***Lorraine Stutzman Amstutz and Judy H Mullett*

1561485063 Good Books (2005), 96pp £3.25

The authors urge a focus on consequences rather than punishment. They insist that relationships – far more than rules – are central to building community, and that community fosters caring and belonging. They put up with no hypocrisy: teachers and administrators must live restorative practices, too. So how does it all work?

Stutzman and Amstutz offer applications and models. Among them are class meetings for 5th graders; reintegration of 7th- and 8th- graders who were suspended; circle processes, which offer space for all voices to be heard, and also quiet tensions that are building; and community conferencing when trouble shapes up between students and neighbors. "Discipline that restores is a process to make things as right as possible." This *Little Book* shows how to get there.

NONVIOLENT AMERICA**History through the eyes of Peace***Louise Hawkley and James C Juhnke*

188923902X Pandora (2004), 270pp £15.95

Twenty historians, theologians, and social scientists present essays re-examining the history of the United States in light of the values of peace.

WAR AND THE CHRISTIAN CONSCIENCE**Where Do You Stand?***Joseph J Fahey*

1570755833 Orbis (2005), 224pp £8.99

This primer on war and the Christian conscience, begins in an imaginary college classroom as students react to news that the draft has been reinstated. "Why can't I finish college?" asks one student. "Why do I have to go?" These urgent and personal questions offer the entry to a clear and comprehensive outline of the basic Christian responses to the problem of war. As Fahey shows, the Christian tradition has supplied a variety of answers, including pacifism, just war teaching, the ethic of "total war," and the vision of a "world community." In the face of these different approaches, how are we to decide which one is right? And more basically, how does one go about forming one's personal conscience?

Social Justice

THE DIVIDING WALL (DVD)

DWDVD MCC (2005), 23 mins £22.50

Meet families and farmers whose lives have been devastated by Israel's separation wall. Be inspired by Israelis and Palestinians who are working for a future of bridges instead of walls. This video explores the humanitarian, social and political impact of the Israeli-built "security fence." The barrier, which will run about 700 kilometers (430 miles), is a series of walls and electrified and razor-wire fences meandering through the occupied territories. It separates Palestinians from their land, water, jobs, families and friends. Increasing numbers of Israelis are questioning if this "separation wall" will actually bring lasting security to Israel. The study guide includes advocacy suggestions.

Study guide included.

NOTE: Only suitable for multi-region DVD players. A PAL video is available for the UK market.

JESUS IN THE BACK ALLEYS**The Story and Reflections of a Contemporary Prophet***Hubert Schwartzenruber*

1931038074 Cascadia (2002), 152pp £9.50

"In an autobiographical style, Schwartzenruber, a Mennonite church pastor and leader, writes about how his encounter with oppressed people in the U.S. shaped his life and theology. Written with passion, and easy-to-read, this inspiring book cries out for a church that is not afraid to promote justice, prophetically tackling controversial issues like racism and homosexuality. A joy and a challenge to read." – Vic Thiessen

Spirituality

CELTIC DAILY PRAYER**2nd edition***Northumbria Community*

0007199074 Harper Collins (2005), 848pp £10.99

A new edition of this class now in paperback.

CHRISTMAS WITH DIETRICH BONHOEFFER

0806650044 Fortress (2005), 47pp hb £6.99

This is a four-color Christmas book, featuring short meditations on Christmas and hope, excerpted from a variety of Bonhoeffer's inspirational writings.

REFLECTING ON FAITH IN A POST-CHRISTIAN TIME*Daniel Liechty*

1931038120 Cascadia (2003), 200pp £12.50

While on the subject of Mennonite theologians on the fringes, I have to mention this delightful book by Daniel Liechty, a Mennonite theologian and sociologist. Drawing on the work of Ernest Becker, Liechty shows how the denial of death and the need to narrow evil lie at the heart of international violence and that nonviolence is the only way forward, even from a purely scientific viewpoint. He goes on to talk about the example of Jesus and our relationship with other religions. While many will find its content too unorthodox, others will find its ideas stimulating and may find it worth reading for its insights on politicians and violence.

JESUS IN THE BACK ALLEYS**The Story and Reflections of a Contemporary Prophet***Hubert Schwartzenruber*

1931038074 Cascadia (2002), 152pp £9.50

See review in New Titles section

CHRISTIAN CASE FOR VIRTUE ETHICS*Joseph J Kotva, Jr*

0878406212 Georgetown UP (1997), 240pp £15.75

See review in New Titles section

HOW THE BIBLE CAME TO BE**Exploring the Narrative and Message***John W Miller*

0809141833 Paulist (2004), 288pp £12.50

While I have not yet read this book, written by a Mennonite scholar, I note that it was awarded first place in the "Scripture" category in the 2005 Book Awards of the Catholic Press Association of the United States and Canada. This book documents how, when, and why the Bible's diverse components were assembled, revealing the many factors at play in the Bible's formation.

PAUL AMONG THE POSTLIBERALS**Pauline Theology beyond Christendom and Modernity***Douglas Harink*

158743041X Brazos (2003), 288pp £18.99

This is a book I was promoting before I started the Director's Cut. It needs to be promoted here because it is a significant work on Paul's theology from what is, in many ways, an Anabaptist perspective. Harink, an evangelical theologian in Canada, uses John Howard Yoder and Stanley Hauerwas, among others, to critique the way Paul has been interpreted over the centuries (especially in relation to our loyalty to the state). An excellent study that you won't want to miss.

Books on Terrorism:

FACING TERRORISM**Responding as Christians***Edward King*

0664227600 SPCK (2004), 128pp £9.99

Looking for a concise and easy-to-read examination of the issues involving our response to terrorism? Look no further. And he even quotes John Howard Yoder.

LOVING WITHOUT GIVING IN**Christian Responses to Terrorism and Tyranny***Ron Mock*

1931038244 Cascadia (2004), 272pp £14.50

The most practical book yet written on Christian responses to terrorism, it provides no less than a hundred responses to terrorism that Christian individuals and groups can work with. Mock summarizes the dynamics that drive terrorism like this: The terrorist, nursing a corrosive grievance against a dehumanized enemy and despairing of political effectiveness, puts faith in the effectiveness of violence to remedy or avenge the grievance. Mock then goes on to show how Christians can respond to each of these dynamics. An excellent resource for Christians looking for responses to terrorism at a variety of levels.

WAR ON TERRORISM AND THE TERROR OF GOD*Lee Griffiths*

0802839355 Eerdmans (2002), 399pphb £19.95

This book, written before the events of September 11, 2001, is probably the best book ever written on the subject. I turn to it again and again. Griffiths begins by arguing that terrorism and counterterrorism are identical phenomena when viewed at a spiritual level. In response to terrorism, Griffiths points the way to a theology of peace and the practice of nonviolence. This book provides a critical analytic framework for understanding what is happening in the world today and I could not recommend it too highly.

BELIEFS**Mennonite Faith and Practice***John D Roth*

0836192702 Herald Press (2004) £6.75

If you've ever wondered what Mennonites in North America are thinking and doing, this is the book for you. What do Mennonites believe? What are Mennonites thinking about Scripture, discipleship and the church? What are the controversial issues Mennonites are struggling with? Here are the answers. An easy-to-read book by an excellent writer.

JOHN HOWARD YODER**Mennonite Patience, Evangelical Witness, Catholic Convictions***Mark Thiessen Nation*

0802839401 Eerdmans (February 2006), 224pp £12.25

"An insider's introduction to Yoder, demonstrating how a committed Mennonite could also be profoundly evangelical in his witness and broadly catholic in his Christian sensibilities." Order it now.

THE SCANDAL OF THE EVANGELICAL CONSCIENCE**Why Are Christians Living Just Like The Rest Of The World?***Ronald J Sider*

0801065410 Baker (2005), 144pp £7.99

This concise easy-to-read book dares to ask why American Christians are not taking the teachings of Jesus seriously enough to live differently than non-Christians. In the case of racism, Sider suggests Christians have an even worse record than non-Christians and they aren't doing very well in the area of materialism and taking care of the poor. A timely challenge to all of us.

READING THE GOSPELS IN THE DARK**Portrayals of Jesus in Film***Richard Walsh*

156338387X Continuum (2003), 224pp £11.99

An excellent contribution to the growing body of work on film and theology. This book examines the films about Jesus with an eye to the theology of those films, comparing certain films to each of the gospels. Walsh explores the reasons why Jesus was portrayed the way he was and what we can learn about the society that embraced these films and the filmmakers who made them. I loved it.

JESUS AND POLITICS*Alan Storkey*

0801027845 Baker (2005), 320pp £14.99

See review in New Titles section

GOD'S ADVOCATES**Christian Thinkers in Conversation***Rupert Shortt*

0232525455 DLT (2005), 256pp £12.95

This book contains eighteen interviews with some of the leading voices in theology today, including Rowan Williams, Stanley Hauerwas, John Milbank and Miroslav Volf. Personally, I find the dialogical style of these interviews, on diverse themes and with diverse views, to be very helpful and an absolute joy to read (I always enjoy reading theology but this is book is more fun than most). Highly recommended.

BEFRIENDING THE STRANGER*Jean Vanier*

0232525986 DLT (2005), 128pp £8.99

This book, written by the founder of l'Arche, contains six beautiful and wise meditative "poems", about our relationship to God and to each other, that you will treasure and want to read again and again. A must!

ATONEMENT FOR A SINLESS SOCIETY**Engaging with an Emerging Culture***Alan Mann*

1842273558 Paternoster (2005), 237pp £7.99

See review in New Titles section

PERFORMING THE FAITH**Bonhoeffer and the Practice of Nonviolence***Stanley Hauerwas*

0281056854 SPCK (2004), 256pp £15.99

Despite the title, this is not a book about Bonhoeffer. It is an excellent collection of essays, by Hauerwas, on the subject of nonviolence, in which the first two essays (which comprise a third of the book) are concerned with Bonhoeffer. While these two essays, often comparing the theology of Bonhoeffer with Yoder, are brilliant, the rest of the essays are no less interesting, especially those that engage with the thought of Milbank and Stout and Hauerwas' reflections on September 11, 2001. These are among the best essays of Hauerwas that I have read, so if you appreciate his writings, this is a must.

IN THE BEGINNING... CREATIVITY*Gordon D Kaufman*

0800636848 Fortress (2004), 176pp £10.99

See review in New Titles section -8-

DISSIDENT DISCIPLESHIP**A Spirituality of Self-Surrender, Love of God, and Love of Neighbor***David W Augsburg*

1587431807 Brazos (April 2006), 256pp £12.95

We all want to improve our spiritual lives, but the task often can seem overwhelming. And while there is no shortage of self-help gurus hawking their wares, not enough Christians are making meaningful progress toward a deeper relationship with God. Now best-selling author David Augsburg reveals the life-giving nature of surrender and service in *Dissident Discipleship*. Moving beyond self-centered therapies and "Lone Ranger" spirituality, Augsburg reveals that our spiritual lives will grow when we look outside of ourselves and lay down our lives in service to God and neighbor. Anyone interested in the topic of spiritual growth, from pastors to counselors, will be sure to welcome Augsburg's balanced approach. To be launched at the London Mennonite Centre on Saturday 8 April. See Cross-Currents Calendar for details of the seminar David Augsburg is giving on the subject of his book.

SING THE JOURNEY**Hymnal, A Worship Book Supplement I**

0836193008 Herald Press (2005), 176pp £5.95

This congregational songbook highlights themes of the missional church, with new hymns and praise songs, familiar standards, and over 15 pages of fresh worship resources. An accompaniment resource packet is available separately.

TAKE OUR MOMENTS AND OUR DAYS**An Anabaptist Prayer Book – A four-week cycle of morning and evening prayers***Arthur Paul Boers, Eleanor Kreider et al Eds*

AMBS (2005), 118pp £6.50

Take Our Moments and Our Days is a collection of morning and evening prayer services, the second phase of an ongoing prayer book project. The services constitute a repeating four-week cycle, prepared for summer and fall, the period between Pentecost and Advent. The services focus on the teaching and ministry of Jesus: the Lord's Prayer (week one), the Beatitudes (week two), Jesus' parables (week three), and Jesus' miracles (week four). The prayer services are designed for use by small groups or families, although they are suitable for individuals as well.

Theology & Ethics**AMERICAN CULTURAL BAGGAGE****How to Recognise it and Deal with it***Stan Nussbaum*

1570756252 Orbis (2005), 128pp £8.99

American Cultural Baggage lets both Americans and the rest of the world in on things most Americans don't know about themselves and their values and how those things are perceived by others. Americans will learn of the impression they make while others will gain insight into the curious tribal values of Americans. Stan Nussbaum, author of *The Reader's Guide to Transforming Mission*

ATONEMENT FOR A SINLESS SOCIETY**Engaging with an Emerging Culture***Alan Mann*

1842273558 Paternoster (2005), 237pp £7.99

"The atonement has become a heated issue among evangelicals in the UK. In this book, written before the issue became heated, Mann presents a view of atonement for our postmodern times. Relating the saving work of Jesus to our contemporary society, with its distinct take on sin and shame, is essential for how we do mission and this book is a very helpful contribution to this challenge." – Vic Thiessen

CHRISTIAN CASE FOR VIRTUE ETHICS*Joseph J Kotva, Jr*

0878406212 Georgetown UP (1999), 240pp £15.75

"In this rather academic work, Kotva, a Mennonite scholar, suggests that virtue theory offers an ethical framework that is highly compatible with Christian morality. The book was recommended by a friend and I found it endlessly fascinating." – Vic Thiessen

THE ENVIRONMENT AND CHRISTIAN ETHICS*Michael Northcott*

0521576318 CUP (1996), 368pp £20.99

This book is about the extent, origins and causes of the environmental crisis. Dr. Northcott argues that Christianity has lost the biblical awareness of the interconnectedness of all life. He shows how Christian theologians and believers might recover a more ecologically-friendly belief system and life style. The author provides an important corrective to secular approaches to environmental ethics, including utilitarian individualism, animal rights theories and deep ecology.

GOD, TRUTH, AND WITNESS**Essays in Conversation with Stanley Hauerwas***L Gregory Jones, Reinhard Hutter et al Eds.*

1587431513 Brazos (2005), 336pp £23.99

This stirring new collection engages the key themes of Hauerwas's influential career and writings. The international lineup of contributors includes: Robert N Bellah, David B Burrell CSC, H Tristram Engelhardt Jr., Rowan A Greer, Harry Huebner, Robert W Jenson, Emmanuel M Katongole, Nicholas Lash, George Lindbeck, Peter Ochs, Arne Rasmusson, Hans S Reinders, Neville Richardson, Bernd Wannewetsch, and Robert Louis Wilken. *God, Truth, and Witness* is a must-read for anyone who has followed Hauerwas's career with interest or for those who wish to seek a new perspective on Christian issues through a lens colored by one of the sharpest Christian thinkers of our time.

GOD'S ADVOCATES**Christian Thinkers in Conversation***Rupert Shortt*

0232525455 DLT (2005), 256pp £12.95

God's Advocates gives a rich and detailed but accessible sample of contemporary Christian thought around the English-speaking world and beyond. In the opening chapter Rowan Williams answers some of the thorniest objections to religious belief; other contributors address key themes in the philosophy of religion; the recent renaissance in systematic theology; new developments in feminist and black theologies; Christian-Muslim dialogue; and faith-based approaches to ethics and politics. Contributors include: David Burrell, Jay Carter, Stanley Hauerwas, Jean-Luc Marion, David Martin, Janet Martin Soskice, John Milban, Oliver O'Donovan, Alvin Plantinga, Christoph Schwobel, Samuel Wells, Miroslav Volf and Rowan Williams

IN THE BEGINNING... CREATIVITY*Gordon D Kaufman*

0800636848 Fortress (2004), 176pp £10.99

"Gordon Kaufman, longtime Professor of Theology at Harvard Divinity School, is a well-respected Mennonite theologian whose books are not often promoted by Mennonites. Why? Because his theology is considered rather liberal and on the fringes of Mennonite thinking. Nevertheless, this new book by Kaufman is worth a look. Kaufman's theology focuses on a rethinking of God, searching for a definition that makes sense in our postmodern world. This book summarizes that search in a concise and accessible way and relates it to the environmental crisis we are facing today. So if defining God, metaphorically, as 'serendipitous creativity manifesting itself in a variety of evolutionary and historical trajectories' intrigues you, this book is for you. I thoroughly enjoyed it." — Vic Thiessen

IS RELIGION KILLING US?**Violence in the Bible and Qu'ran***Jack Nelson-Pallmeyer*

1563384086 (2005), 192pp £9.99

"This book looks at how a more literal reading of the scriptures of Christianity, Judaism and Islam has been responsible for much of the violence in our world today. Nelson-Pallmeyer suggests that it is time to revisit our interpretation of these scriptures and understand how they all point to a nonviolent God who shows us the way to peace not war. A concise, easy-to-read and very topical book." — Vic Thiessen

JESUS AND POLITICS*Alan Storkey*

0801027845 Baker Books (2005), 320pp £14.99

The latest contribution to the relationship of politics to the life, teachings, death and resurrection of Jesus. Reading out from the life and work of Jesus instead of reading into the New Testament with a predisposed agenda, Storkey uses a narrative reading of the Gospels to describe the gentle rule of Christ, which challenges every area of politics with its structural principles and insights. An important and accessible book.

THE LITTLE BOOK OF BIBLICAL JUSTICE**A Fresh Approach to the Bible's Teachings on Justice***Chris Marshall*

1561485055 Good Books (2005), 96pp £3.25

Upfront, Marshall addresses the many complexities that surround "justice" in the Bible: the Bible seems to hold conflicting points of view; there is a huge amount of data to deal with; the world of the Bible and our present world are vastly different.

Marshall's honest treatment of this subject is direct, yet almost lyrical in tone. He manages a thorny, multi-faceted subject clearly and ultimately singles out the broad areas of theological agreement among the Bible's writers. Highly stimulating. Highly inspirational.

PROCLAMATION AND THEOLOGY*William Willimon*

0687493439 Abingdon (2005), 72pp £5.99

A brief and engaging essay on the major concerns and questions for preaching as it intersects with theology.

SINNING LIKE A CHRISTIAN**A New Look at the Seven Deadly Sins***William Willimon*

0687492807 Abingdon (2005), 176pp £6.99

The seven deadly sins are a well-known topic but, surprisingly, not much has been written about them in recent years from a serious theological viewpoint. Dr Willimon feels that a new book on this topic would be timely and of great interest to Christians. He takes an unflinching look at the meaning and substance of sin.

VIEWING NEW CREATIONS WITH ANABAPTIST EYES**Ethics of Biotechnology***Roman J Miller, Beryl H Burbaker et al (Eds)*

1931038325 Cascadia (2005), 306pp £15.95

Viewing New Creations with Anabaptist Eyes investigates the promise and perils of current genetic biotechnology. The varied authors describe the factual bases of biotechnology in a popular format, bring up the ethical problems that emerge, and provide ethical reasoning to meet those challenges. An Anabaptist perspective is presented as a visionary way to understand and navigate the maze of bioethical dilemmas.

Director's Cut Spring 2006

Highlighting recent, noteworthy and best-selling titles selected by Vic Thiessen

Recent & noteworthy titles:

CONSUMING PASSION**Why the Killing of Jesus Really Matters***Simon Barrow & Jonathan Bartley (Eds)*

0232526079 DLT (2005), 144pp £10.95

This is an excellent collection of controversial essays on what the killing of Jesus means for us today. With contributions from, among others, Steve Chalke, Stuart Murray, Michael Northcott, Ched Myers, J. Denny Weaver, the editors, and even from me, this is a book you won't want to miss

THE MORAL IMAGINATION**The Art and Soul of Building Peace***John Paul Lederach*

0195174542 OUP (2005), 240pp £18.50

One of those books I can't wait to read. For now, I'll just quote from a couple of reviewers. R. Scott Appleby writes: "There is nothing quite like it in the literature of social change, peace and conflict studies, theology, ethics and spirituality – for it weaves those disciplines together into a seamless riveting whole." And William Ury writes: "[Lederach] offers us a rich fare of insights, stories and metaphors that captivate the moral imagination this world so badly needs. Consider this book a precious treat!"

A CONTEMPORARY ANABAPTIST THEOLOGY**Biblical, Historical, Constructive***Thomas N Finger*

0830827854 InterVarsity Press (2004), 602pp £24.99

This new work by Finger is an absolute must for anyone wanting a comprehensive survey of Anabaptist theology, past and present. Finger uses the results of his survey to engage with his own theology as well as that of all the well-known mainstream theologians. I have not seen anything like this anywhere else. So even though I have concerns with some of the directions of Finger's theology, I found this book to be an invaluable resource for my theological reflection. Highly recommended!

SIMPLY IN SEASON**Recipes that celebrate the rhythm of the land in the spirit of More-with-Less***Cathleen Hockman-Wert and Mary Beth Lind*

0836192974 Herald Press (2005), 336pp £12.95

The third in the bestselling MCC cookbook trilogy, this book features eating and using local, seasonal foods in wholesome delicious dishes. I haven't used it yet, but my wife tells me it's a great cookbook and a must-have.

ANABAPTISM AND REFORMATION IN SWITZERLAND**An Historical and Theological Analysis of the Dialogues between Anabaptists and Reformers***John Howard Yoder*

1894710444 Pandora Press (2004), 509pp £24.50

Finally available in English, this is a landmark work on the arguments between the Swiss reformers (led by Ulrich Zwingli) and the early Anabaptists. A fascinating book and a must read for those interested in the beginnings of Anabaptism.

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