

Simply Christian: new books about faith

Sustaining Heart in the Heartland: exploring rural spirituality.

Brown, Miriam, editor. Paulist, 2005. 250.9 Sus

The authors explore what it means to be a people of faith while facing the daunting challenges of today's increasingly hard-pressed rural life.

Talking the Walk: letting Christian language live again.

Dawn, Marva. Brazos Press, 2005. 230.01 Daw

Like neglected attic treasures, Dawn recovers the great vocabulary of the church and polishes the words till they gleam and returns them to us ready to use in the life of faith.

Tell it like it is: reclaiming the practice of Testimony.

Daniel, Lillian. Alban Institute, 2006. 248.5 Dan

Describes how the practice of testimony can deeply affect and transform the life of a congregation.

From nomads to pilgrims: stories from practicing congregations.

Edited by Diana Butler Bass and Joseph Stewart-Sicking, Alban Institute, 2006. 277.3083 Fro

True stories of churches who are imaginatively practicing their faith through: worship, hospitality, tradition, digitalization, creativity, speaking about faith.

The Soul of Tomorrow's Church: weaving spiritual practices in ministry together.

Groff, Kent Ira. Upper Room Books, 2000. 254 Gro

What will the church look like in a postmodern world? It may look like the practices in this book. It shows how to recover the spiritual mission of the church in a world hungry for the supernatural. Good for small group study, pastor's group or church leaders.

The Beatitudes for Today.

Howell, James C. Westminster John Knox, 2006. 241.53 How

A perfect companion for studying or preaching about the Beatitudes. Includes discussion questions for each chapter.

GodSpeech: putting divine disclosures into human words.

Johnson, Ben Campbell. Eerdmans, 2006. 230.014 Joh

Johnson leads us to understand how we can encounter God and find words for these experiences through making space to listen and hear God through pain, imagination, scripture, art, music and words of others.

Jesus in the Margins: finding God in the places we ignore.

McKinley, Rick. Multnomah Pub., 2005. 248.4 McK

Addressed to those in the margins – those who feel unnoticed or like misfits – this book provides hope through the person of Jesus Christ who, meets us in the margins and allows us to be transformed through his love.

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2517 North Main Street North Newton, Kansas 67117

Marlene Bogard, Director Pat Schmidt, Assistant

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Choosing Peace Through Daily Practices.

Marshall, Ellen Ott, editor. Pilgrim Press, 2005.
261.873 Cho

These essays explore the vocation of peacemaking, the language of practices, connections between home and world peacemaking, peacemaking in spiritual life, congregational ministry and classroom and community interaction.

A Hidden Wholeness: the journey toward an undivided life.

Palmer, Parker J. Jossey-Bass, 2004. 248.4 Pal

Addresses our desire to live lives that are undivided – congruent with our inner truth. Weaves together four themes: shape of an integral life, the meaning of community, teaching and learning for transformation, and nonviolent social change.

A long obedience in the same direction: discipleship in an instant society.

Peterson, Eugene H. Intervarsity Press, 2000.
223.206 Pet

Using the Psalms, Peterson invites the reader to live discipleship through obedience, spirituality.

The Power of a Focused Heart: 8 life lessons from the Beatitudes.

Redding, Mary Lou. Upper Room Books, 2006.
241.53 Red

Designed for small group or individual use, this study features short chapters, weekly exercises and many helps for decision making on how to serve and use spiritual gifts.

Buck Naked Faith: A brutally honest look at stunted Christianity.

Sandras, Eric. NavPress, 2004. 248.4 San

An encouragement to strip away pretenses and artificiality and to develop a relationship with God that is genuine and honest and even gritty. In this process Sandras recognizes the importance of community, in contrast to the individualism of the modern world.

A Scandalous Beauty: the artistry of God and the way of the cross.

Schmidt, Thomas. Brazos Press, 2002. 232.96 Sch

An alternative way to think about and reflect on Jesus' death: rather than focusing on the traditional images of suffering and redemption, Schmidt finds a paradoxical beauty in Christ's death. He explores the imagination and artistry found in this most important event in Christianity.

Following in the Footsteps of Christ: the Anabaptist Tradition.

Snyder, C. Arnold. Orbis, 2004. 284.3 Sny

A general introduction to the spirituality of the Anabaptist tradition.

Becoming Friends: worship, justice, and the practice of Christian friendship.

Wadell, Paul J. Brazos Press, 2002. 248.8 Wad

Wadell proposes a vision of Christian friendship as a faith practice that has the power to transform lives of people inside and outside of congregational life.

Painful Questions: facing struggles with faith.

Watts, Gary L. Herald Press, 1999. 231.8 Wat

Insightful discussion of the problems of pain, evil and suffering and how hope and faith can sustain us. Thirteen chapters with reflection questions.

Jesus and Nonviolence: a third way.

Wink, Walter. Fortress Press, 2003. 241 Win

Author of the *Powers* trilogy, Walter Wink offers a summary of his whole thinking on the important issue of nonviolence including the relation of Jesus and his message to politics and nonviolence, the history of nonviolence, and how nonviolence can be effective.

Simply Christian: why Christianity makes sense.

Wright, N.T. HarperCollins, 2006. 230 WRI

Walks the reader through the Christian faith step by step and question by question, challenging skeptics and offering explanations for doubt-filled dilemmas, leaving believers with a reason for renewed faith.