

February, 2007

New Resources on Gracious Christianity and Radical Faith

Top Picks

The Irresistible Revolution: Living as an ordinary radical.

Claiborne, Shane. Zondervan, 2006. 277.308 Cla

A book that will comfort the disturbed and disturb the comfortable, and invite believers to change the world with Christ's radical love.

Gracious Christianity: living the love we profess.

Jacobsen, Douglas and Rodney Sawatsky. Baker, 2006. 230 Jac

A readable introduction to the Christian faith as a grace-filled and peaceable way of life, not as an argumentative dogma. Excellent for adult and young adult study. Extensive study guide and weblinks at www.graciouschristianity.org.

The Secret Message of Jesus: uncovering the truth that could change everything.

McLaren, Brian. 2006. 232.954 McL

Could it be that the church has distorted Jesus' core message? What it would mean to truly live the message of Jesus today and thus to risk turning everything upside down?

Better Off: flipping the switch on technology.

Brende, Eric. HarperCollins, 2004. 303.483 Bre

For those who want to get away from modern life and technology, Brende presents his own phenomenal experience, demonstrating that it is possible to pursue life without technology and live more lightly on the earth.

Organic Church: growing faith where life happens.

Cole, Neil. Jossey-Bass, 2005. 250 Col

If we want to connect with young people and those who are not coming to church, we must go where people congregate. This model of church brings God's message where people are instead of expecting them to show up at church. It is in keeping with the message of Jesus, who lived among the people of his time.

The Sense of the Call: a Sabbath way of life for those who serve God, the church and the world.

Dawn, Marva. Eerdmans, 2006. 263.3 Daw

After helping us see the sheer madness of our busyness, Dawn calls us back to the ancient rhythm of Sabbath keeping so that we may discover that the kingdom is among us and has been for a long time.

Conference Resource Library

2517 North Main Street North Newton, Kansas 67117

Marlene Bogard, Director Pat Schmidt, Assistant

crlib@mennowdc.org 316-283-6300 www.mennowdc.org on-line catalog

Christianity for the Rest of Us: how the neighborhood church is transforming the faith.

Bass, Dorothy Butler. Harper San Francisco, 2006. 280.409 Bas

A "good news" book about church renewal quietly transforming church communities through Christian practices.

The Unauthorized Guide to Choosing a Church.

Berry, Carmen Renee. Brazos Press, 2003. 280 BER

Countless postmodern Americans are seeking a spiritual community to call home but find themselves bewildered by the options. Berry made the trek to dozens of Christian churches and now provides a hip guidebook on quick facts, history, what to expect, websites for denominations and more. About 14 pages on the Mennonites, which are characterized as "free-form" churches. Includes introductory chapters on discussing how the church is linked to spirituality and sorting through the lingo, liturgy and lunacy.

The New Friars: the emerging movement serving the world's poor.

Bessenecker, Scott A. IVP, 2006. 261.8325 Bes

Profiles young Christians who have voluntarily removed themselves from the status quo in order to seek justice and mercy with the poorest of the world's poor.

Clowns, Storytellers, Disciples: spirituality and creativity for today's church.

Drane, Olive Fleming. Augsburg, 2002. 792 DRA

Plenty of practical suggestions for creative ministry and specific ideas for interactive Bible study as well as clear guidance on how to use the arts with theological integrity.

Help: the original human dilemma.

Keizer, Garret. HarperSanFrancisco, 2004. 158.3 Kei

Full of humor, compassion, wisdom, stories and personal experiences, *Help* is a beautifully written exploration of the countless opportunities in life to assist one another.

War and Faith in Sudan.

Meyer, Gabriel. Wm. B. Erdmans, 2005. 962.8 Mey

An account of the devastating war that the world refuses to acknowledge in central Sudan.

A High Price for Abundant Living: the story of capitalism.

Rempel, Harry. Herald Press, 2003. 337 Rem

Offers suggestions on how we might test capitalism against a number of shared values of Christianity and other faith traditions.

Engaging Anabaptism: conversations with a radical tradition.

Roth, John D., editor. Herald Press, 2001. 284.3 Eng

Many non-Anabaptists contribute to this book of essays which provides food for thought and conversation, along with gentle correctives and genuine appreciation for Anabaptist faith.

Breaking the Missional Code: your church can become a missionary in your community.

Stetzer, Ed & David Putman. Broadman, 2006.262 Ste

A call for churches in the United States to act among their local communities as missionaries would in a foreign land, using appropriate methods, customized and discerned for their particular context.

Vital Christianity: spirituality, justice and Christian practice.

Weaver-Zuercher, David and William Willimon, editors. T and T Clark, 2005. 261.8 Vit

An effort to place churches desiring social justice and churches desiring salvation and spirituality together in conversation and faith practices.

The Revolution: a field manual for changing your world.

Zydek, Heather, editor. Relevant, 2006. 261.8325

Only God can solve the world's problems, but we can fulfill God's command to love our neighbors by fighting against social justice issues on local and international levels.