

## Living in this Beautiful Mess: Books on Today's Kingdom of God here on Earth

### Top Picks:

**This Beautiful Mess: practicing the Kingdom of God.**

McKinley, Rick. Multnomah, 2006.  
231.72 McK

A new generation is turning to the teachings of Jesus and their revolutionary implications. Could it be that living under Christ's reign is not merely a future vision but a present reality? The pastor of *Imago Dei* in Portland, Oregon hopes that the church becomes a force of love and renewal, a presence of God's kingdom in our messy world.

**They Like Jesus, but not the Church: insights from emerging generations.**

Kimball, Dan. Zondervan, 2007. 277.3 Kim

Statistics reveal that if you ask someone if they like Jesus, you will usually get a yes. But ask that person if they like the church and chances are you will get a far less favorable response. There is a huge exodus of young adults from our churches who are "spiritual" but not "religious." Here are first-hand thoughts from those who don't care for organized religion but still long for a spiritual connection to a living God and an engaging community of faith.

**Beautiful upon the Mountains: biblical essays on mission, peace, and the reign of God.**

Schertz, Mary H. and Ivan Friesen, editors. Herald Press, 2003. 266 Bea

Essays that connect the biblical themes of peace, mission and the reign of God in an Anabaptist perspective.

**What about Hitler?: Wrestling with Jesus's Call to Nonviolence in an Evil World.**

Brimlow, Robert W. Brazos Press, 2006.  
241.6242 Bri

A searching examination of just war and pacifist approaches to war and violence that leads to advice on discipleship.

**A New Kind of Church: a systems approach.**

Dick, Dan and Evelyn Burry. Discipleship Resources, 2006. 254 Dic

The two challenges of staying centered on Christ and imagining and structuring the body of Christ so that it can be life-giving in today's world are addressed as the authors understand that everything about us as a church is related to every other thing around us. A fine reflection and application on the "systems" approach to doing and being the church.

### Conference Resource Library

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**The Dirty Little Secret: uncovering the truth behind Porn.**

Gross, Craig. Zondervan, 2006. 363.4 Gro

Follows pastor Craig Gross as he breaks the silence and begins his ministry of XXXchurch.com, a website dedicated to fighting pornography. This book reveals the addictive lure of pornography and explores the pain and brokenness it causes and challenges the church to talk about it and openly fight it.

**Darkness is my only Companion: a Christian response to Mental Illness.**

Greene-McCreight, Kathryn. Brazos Press, 2006. 362.2 Gre

The author, who has suffered from bipolar disorder offers poignant and raw glimpses into the mind of a mentally ill person and practical and forthright advice for their friends, family and clergy.

**Spiritual leadership in a secular age: building bridges instead of barriers.**

Hammett, Edward H. Lake Hickory Resources, 2005. 253 Ham

Suggests ways to span the gap between church culture and secular culture as well as ways to do this using effective leadership that maintains the integrity of one's own faith while reaching out to an unchurched world.

**Walking After Midnight: One woman's journey through murder, justice & forgiveness.**

Hutchison, Katy. Raincoast Books, 2006. 362.88 Hut

Her husband's death at the hand of an unknown killer leads one remarkable and courageous woman on a journey to discover the power of forgiveness and a different kind of justice.

**Grace (Eventually): Thoughts on Faith.**

Lamott, Anne. Riverhead, 2007. B Lamott Grace

Lamott describes how she copes with the detours, roadblocks in her walk in faith. Sprinkled with humor, biting wit and poignant observations about faith and the God who loves us all.

**The Relevant Nation: 50 activists, artists and innovators who are changing their world through faith.**

Edited by Heather Zydek. Relevant Books, 2006. 261.1 Rel

Tells stories of 50 visionaries under the age of 40 who are living influential, active and passionate lives that stem from their Christian faith. In a series of conversational profiles, this book examines innovators from the world of art, music, entertainment, science, technology and justice.

**Eyes Wide Open: looking for God in Popular Culture.**

Romanowski, William D. Brazos, 2001. 264.0973 Rom

A practical, analytical approach to movies, music and TV that provides tools for imaginatively and faithfully engaging the media that saturates our lives.

**Doing God's Business: Meaning and Motivation for the Marketplace.**

Stevens, R. Paul. Wm. B. Eerdmans, 2006. 241.64 Ste

A comprehensive, accessible Christian theology of work that addresses the deep longings of the Christian in business - to honor God, find meaning in enterprise and be successful in the marketplace. Includes discussion questions.

**The Truce of God.**

Williams, Rowan. Wm. B. Eerdmans, 2005. 261.873 Wil

In an arrangement known as the "truce of God," the medieval monastery of Cluny encouraged its feuding neighbors to restrict warfare to three days of the week. This edition speaks anew to the realities of living in a terror-filled world and seeks to treat war and peace as spiritual issues, rather than political issues.

**On Earth As It Is In Advertising?: Moving From Commercial Hype to Gospel Hope.**

Van Eman, Sam. Brazos Press, 2005. 659.1925 Van

Provides analysis on how advertising is making consumerism into a pseudo-religion.