

November, 2007

Resources on Connecting Real Life and Real Faith

TOP PICKS!

Asphalt Jesus: finding a new Christian faith along the highways of America.

Elnes, Eric. Jossey-Bass, 2007. 277.3083 Eln

In spring of 2006, a small band of Christians walked from Phoenix to Washington D.C., in hopes of fostering deeper conversations with Americans about what it means to be progressive Christians in an age of fundamentalism. This book chronicles the journey and articulates a joyous faith that moves beyond the simple categories of Christian "left" or "right."

Jim and Casper Go To Church: frank conversations about faith, churches and well-meaning Christians.

Henderson, Jim and Matt Casper. Tyndale, 2007. 277.3083 Hen

A Christian and an atheist tour around America visiting twelve best- and least-known churches. All along the way they talked, observed and listened to each other. This book is a chronicle of their conversations and observations about faith, the church and each other.

Amish Grace: how forgiveness transcended tragedy.

Kraybill, Donald, Steven Nolt, David Weaver-Zercher. Jossey-Bass, 2007. 364.1523 Kra

Tells the story of forgiveness informed by deep faith, rooted in a rich history and practiced in real life.

Sex God: exploring the endless connections between sexuality and spirituality.

Bell, Rob. Zondervan, 2007. 261.8357 Bel

Yes, this is a book about sex, but also about respect, relationships, being human, understanding being created in God's image and more.

Health Through Faith and Community: a study resource for Christian faith communities to promote personal and social well-being.

Canda, Edward R. Haworth, 2006. 261.8321 Hea

A study guide that encourages Christian congregations to enhance the well-being of both church members and society as a whole. Eight study sessions about the physical, mental, social, spiritual and environmental aspects of health.

Unfettered Hope: a call to faithful living in an affluent society.

Dawn, Marva J. WJK, 2003. 261 Daw

Identifies the epidemic socio-cultural attitudes that destroy hope in our modern lives. Because affluent people don't know what to value, we remain dissatisfied with what we have and are compelled to want more at the expense of the world's less fortunate.

Rethinking Holy Land: a study in salvation geography.

Jeschke, Marlin. Herald Press, 2005. 263.042 Jes

Salvation geography means that land is seen as a divine gift, not as a subject of conquest, which is abhorrent to the heart of what Jesus came to announce.

Conference Resource Library

2517 North Main Street North Newton, Kansas 67117

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

Anabaptists Meeting Muslims: a calling for presence in the way of Christ.

Krabill, James R., David W. Shenk, and Linford Stutzman, eds. Herald Press, 2005. 266.43 Ana

Essays and reports from people who serve among Muslims: administrators, professors, scholars, missionaries, and theologians. These diverse voices exude a spirit of dialogue, questioning, agreement, amazement, and sometimes dissent.

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.

Diaspora in the Countryside: two Mennonite communities and mid-twentieth-century rural disjuncture.

Loewen, Royden. University of Illinois Press, 2006. 289.7 Loe Dia

Examines the phenomenon of rural fragmentation by contrasting two related by geographically-distant Low German Mennonite communities in Kansas and Manitoba. A captivating analysis of cultural change and the varied adaptations to modernity.

A Search for What is Real: finding faith.

McLaren, Brian D. Zondervan, 2007. 230 McL

Helps sort through the questions, objections and concerns that arise when you consider God not as some theological abstraction but as someone you can actually connect with and want to connect with. Each chapter includes some questions, ideas for responses and prayers.

The Contented Soul: the art of savoring life.

McMinn, Lisa Graham. IVP, 2006. 248.4 McM

Sociologist McMinn invites us to slow down...be still...and learn the art of savoring life. More than a manual of contentment, it is an invitation to hunger and thirst for righteousness.

The North End Lives: a journey through poverty terrain.

Neufeld, Hugo. Herald Press, 2006. 261.8325 Neu
Describes the transformation that can happen when professional and class boundaries are dropped and you can no longer tell who is serving and who is being served.

A Framework for Understanding Poverty.

Payne, Ruby K. Aha! Process, 1996. 261.8325 Pay Fra

Teaches the hidden rules of economic class and spreads the message that despite the obstacles poverty can create in all types of interaction, there are specific strategies for overcoming them. The author, a Goshen college graduate.

The Death of Innocents: an eyewitness account of wrongful executions.

Prejean, Helen. Vintage, 2005. 364.66 Pre

Tests the moral edge of capital punishment, asking the question: What if we are executing innocent men?

Forgiveness: a legacy of the West Nickel Mines Amish School.

Ruth, John. Herald Press, 2007. 289.774 Rut

The extraordinary forgiveness that the Amish offered after five school children were killed and five others wounded is held up as the true legacy of that heart-breaking day.

Journeys of the Muslim Nation and the Christian Church: exploring the mission of two communities.

Shenk, David W. Herald Press, 2003. 261.27 She

Examines Islam and Christianity at their deepest scriptural, spiritual, cultural and communal levels in this book that is filled with personal stories and experiences that bridge the poles and build understanding.

10 Excellent Reasons Not to Join the Military.

Edited by Elizabeth Weill-Greenberg. The New Press, 2006. 956.704 Exc

Included in the reasons are: you may be killed; you may kill others; you may be injured; you may be lied to and you may have other choices. Simple book for youth and young adults to read, discuss with each other or with parents, youth workers.