

# Centering on Ministry



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## The Minister's Library

by

Jerry C. Grubbs

I shall never forget a comment made by one of my professors in seminary. He remarked: "I can tell when a pastor's mind died by the age of his books." Now, he wasn't suggesting that old books are bad. What he was reminding us of was that reading is a must to be an alive and creative pastor.

Oliver Wendell Holmes said, "The first thing naturally when one enters a scholar's study or library, is to look at his books. One gets a notion very speedily of his tastes and the range of his pursuits by a glance around his bookshelves."

One District Superintendent made a rather startling statement. He declared, "The length of a pastor's stay in any one pastorate is frequently determined by the size of the pastor's library."

Some of us who have moved a large library could take that to mean something quite different than intended by the good superintendent. After all, it is very expensive to transport books. Perhaps it is best to just stay put!

But, there are deeper reasons for the superintendent's statement. He went on to explain that as he traveled around visiting persons in ministry, he came to the conclusion that the pastor's personal library had a direct bearing upon (1) the quality of ministry and (2) the length of the pastorate.

Persons who are well read can pass on to their congregation the fruits of their study. Their per-

sonal growth and new sensitivities will become apparent in all they do.

Lest I be misunderstood at the outset, let me hasten to say that the reading of many books is no panacea for ministry. There is no substitute for the reading and studying of the Bible under the anointing of the Holy Spirit.

However, there is a good case to be made for a balanced reading program. One's study of the Bible can certainly be enriched by the writings of other persons.

The great preacher Charles Spurgeon once said: "In order to be able to expound the Scriptures . . . you will need to be familiar with the commentators . . . of course, you are not such wiseacres as to think or say that you can expound the scripture without assistance from the works of divine and learned men who have labored before you in the field of exposition. It seems odd that certain men who talk so much of what the Holy Spirit reveals to themselves, should think so little of what He has revealed to others."

A great deal can be said about the value of books. I like the little poem written by William L. Stidger:

**BOOKS! BOOKS! BOOKS!**

*Books! Books! Books!  
And we thank Thee, God,*

For the gift of them;  
 For the glorious reach  
 And the lift of them;  
     For the gleam in them  
     And the dream in them;  
 For the things they teach  
 And the souls they reach!  
     For the maze of them  
     And the blaze of them;  
 For the ways they open to us  
 And the rays that they shoot through us!

Books! Books! Books!  
 And we thank Thee, God,  
 For the light in them,  
 For the might in them;  
     For the urge in them  
     And the surge in them;  
 For the souls they wake  
 And the paths they break;  
     For the gong in them  
     And the song in them;  
 For the throngs of folk they bring to us  
 And the songs of hope they sing to us!

Books! Books! Books!  
 And we thank Thee, God,  
     For the deep in them;  
     For the rhythmic swing  
     And sweep in them;  
 For the croon in them  
 And the boon in them;  
     For the prayers they pray  
     and the doubts they slay;  
 For the do in them  
 And the true in them;  
     For the blue skies they bring to us  
     And the new stars that they strew us.

— William L. Stidger

Are you convinced of the tremendous value of books? Sure you are! But then, that probably is not the biggest issue, is it?

There are at least three rather practical concerns which confront the minister's attempts to build an effective library: (1) selection, (2) cost, and (3) place.

#### (1) Selection

The first concern is staggering. There are some 35,000 new books printed in the United States each year. The minister's dilemma is real in the face of such a large number from which to

choose. It is easy to be drawn into the purchase of books which promote the latest fad or "trick of the trade." In order to build a good library, the minister must invest money in *good* books. Perhaps it is helpful to remind ourselves that it is not how many books we have but the quality of the books that is important. A book that does not improve with age might not be worthy of our investment of time and money. It is axiomatic that if one learns to like the best, one will become the best. Resist the itch to read the little passing book! Ministers need to avoid impulse buying. Carl Rogers has been quoted as saying: "When a new book comes out, I get an old one off the shelf and read it."

#### (2) Cost

Budgeting for books requires a personal commitment for the minister. Hopefully, the local church budget provides some special allowance for the development of the minister's library. Books are basic tools for the minister. It is important that lay persons be aware of the necessity of having the best possible tools. Beyond that, however, the minister must be willing to commit a portion of personal money for the purchase of books. Remember, it is not how much you spend, but rather how carefully and wisely you invest the modest amount you set aside. You can take advantage of special sales particularly on some of the classics. At times you can purchase significant works at an estate sale. The used book market is a growing one. You might be able to build your library substantially by purchasing used books. And don't forget your local public library!

#### (3) Place

One writer has referred to the minister's study as a "sanctum sanctorum" or a private holy of holies. Others refer to the study as a "workshop." However we might choose to describe it, the minister's study is a sanctified setting for personal prayer, meditation, study, reflection, and preparation.

Although the study is used for counseling and other forms of personal ministry, it must not become an open door, "grand central station."

The minister's library-study becomes the quiet holy place that is the powerhouse behind the pulpit. In that sanctum sanctorum the minister receives the message from God and fashions a sermon to convey that message to the waiting congregation.

## AN IMPORTANT REMINDER FOR PERSONS IN CONTINUING EDUCATION

Please take time today to complete the information form included in this mailing of **Centering On Ministry**. It is very important that we have your form to complete the updating of our files.

An accompanying stamped, self-addressed envelope is included for your convenience. Please mail today. Thank you!

# Planning an Effective Reading Program

by  
Jerry C. Grubbs

Perhaps it is rather presumptuous of me to offer the following simple steps. You may already have your reading program well planned and functioning satisfactorily to you. None-the-less, here are three questions that need to be addressed as you begin your reading program:

## 1. How much time will I commit every day to the study of the Bible and great books of the Christian Faith?

Although you might well feel the press of time in your local setting, you are still primarily in charge of your time schedule. You must make the necessary time commitment.

It is not a matter of how much time you **ought** to spend. Rather, the question is how much time **will** you spend? The real issue is that of setting priorities. A lot of things cry out to be done. It is up to you to choose those things which are most important to be done.

Wilbur M. Smith, at age 70 and looking back over his ministry, offered this list of "tempting interruptions:"

- (a) The normal work of the church: preparing for divine services, visiting members, planning funerals and weddings, writing the church bulletin (beware of spending too many hours on something that will be of no value the week after it is mimeographed), and attending committee meetings *ad infinitum*
- (b) The reading and answering of mail
- (c) Social engagements: activities with friends, group breakfasts which last until ten o'clock and ruin the morning, noontime speaking engagements with civic groups
- (d) The daily newspaper and the weekly magazines
- (e) Visitors (such persons should be kept away from the study in the morning)
- (f) Necessary shopping
- (g) A hobby or sport (no great preacher of the English world plays golf three times a week, as I know some ministers do)

(h) Travel and holidays

(i) Building operations, if the church is going through such an experience (a pastor should avoid better acquaintance with blueprints for a new auditorium than with the prophecies of Isaiah)

(j) Denominational activities (shun consuming hours and days in these barren labors)

(k) The family (this does not mean it belongs at the end of the list)

(l) The telephone

(m) The great demon, *laziness*.

Smith suggests that these "interruptions" are **important** in the minister's life. However, his basic assumption is that these interruptions should be kept in perspective. They should not be allowed to rob the minister of those necessary hours each day for growth, increase in knowledge of God, and better understanding of the Word.

## 2. What subjects am I going to be concerned about?

You must guard against becoming too narrowly confined in a reading program. It is tempting to select one special interest subject and to spend all your time in that area. Such a narrow approach to reading and study will surely influence adversely one's preaching and teaching ministry.

It is natural that the minister will spend a generous portion of time in careful study of the Bible. Beyond that, however, are some crucial questions facing each of us as human beings. These questions cry out for responses.

One way to categorize these significant questions is to look at a system devised by Melvin Dewey in 1873. His system is known as the Dewey Decimal Classification System. His system is really an attempt to structure library classification around these great questions. The model generalized and over-simplified looks something like the table below:

| Number | Question   | Subject Matter                          |
|--------|--|---|
| 000    |  | <i>General Works</i>                    |
| 100    | <i>Who am I?</i>   | <i>Philosophy and Psychology</i>        |
| 200    | <i>Who made me?</i>  | <i>Religion</i>                         |
| 300    | <i>What about other people?</i>                                    | <i>Social Sciences and Education</i>    |
| 400    | <i>How may I communicate with others?</i>                          | <i>Philosophy and Language</i>          |
| 500    | <i>How may I understand the world around me?</i>                   | <i>Science</i>                          |
| 600    | <i>How may I use what I have learned about nature and science?</i> | <i>Applied Arts and Sciences</i>        |
| 700    | <i>How may I enjoy my leisure time?</i>                            | <i>Fine Arts and Recreation</i>         |
| 800    | <i>How may I pass on to posterity what I have learned?</i>         | <i>Literature</i>                       |
| 900    | <i>How may I leave a record for the future?</i>                    | <i>History, Biography and Geography</i> |



The minister of the 80's needs to be aware of these crucial questions. Time needs to be set aside for reading and study of these areas so that one can preach and teach effectively.

### 3. What books am I going to read and study?

This is no small concern. As noted in the earlier article, selection is very important.

Basic to one's effective study of the Bible are resources like commentaries, dictionaries, concordances, maps, various translations and paraphrases, lexicons, and the like. For a complete listing and annotation of these resources see Cyril T. Barber, *The Minister's Library*, Baker Book House, Grand Rapids, Michigan, 1974.

As suggested above, the minister does well to read broadly. However, it is recognized that ultimately the minister must focus on the questions dealing with religious concerns. The task then becomes to choose a variety of works from the various categories of religious concern.

There is no one best way to categorize these concerns. But, the following categories might be helpful to you as you build your library. One goal to keep in mind is a balance in each of the areas.

### SUGGESTED CATEGORIES

- A. General Reference Works
- B. Old Testament
- C. New Testament
- D. Doctrinal/Theology
- E. Devotional Literature
- F. Pastoral Ministries
  - (1) General
  - (2) Preaching
  - (3) Administration
  - (4) Personal Life
  - (5) Counseling
  - (6) Worship
- G. Missions and Evangelism
- H. Christian Education
- I. Church History
- J. Comparative Religions

There may also be a fourth question. How will I preserve what I read? This will take personal commitment and creativity. Taking careful notes and preserving these in a retrievable way is very crucial to the minister. It is probably best to simply suggest that you work out that best way for you. Don't hesitate to ask around for ideas from your colleagues. Someone might just have the idea that would fit your situation well.

## Key Books For the Minister's Library

by

Jerry C. Grubbs

A while back, I sent letters to twenty-five faculty members from Anderson School of Theology, Anderson College, Gardner Bible College, Gulf Coast Bible College, Warner Pacific College, and Warner Southern College asking them to recommend five books for the minister's library. Eighteen of these persons responded by submitting an annotated bibliography of five key works in their area of expertise.

Response came in from persons in Old Testament, New Testament, Theology, Church History, Pastoral Ministries, Preaching, Pastoral Care, Christian Education, and Christian Mission.

I'm sure you appreciate the difficult task these persons had to select, from literally hundreds, the five they would recommend. But, they have done that. The following represents the fruit of their efforts.

Names of persons submitting material are included under each heading. The person making the specific book recommendation is identified following the annotation.

### OLD TESTAMENT

**Dr. Milo Chapman** (Warner Pacific College)

**Dr. Gustav Jeeninga** (Anderson College)

**Dr. George Kufeldt**  
(Anderson School of Theology)

Aharoni, Yohanan and Avi-Yonah, Michael.  
**The Macmillan Bible Atlas**. Rev. Ed. New York: Macmillan Company, 1977.

This atlas does not follow the usual format of a Bible atlas. Instead of limiting itself to a number of general maps of large areas which reflect general periods of biblical history, this atlas supplements such general maps with many specific maps which illustrate specific events and incidents from Genesis through the New Testament. In fact, it includes 264 maps, including the inter-testamental period as well as the Old and New Testaments. These many specific maps make it much easier to follow and understand the biblical record dealing with the many wars and movements of peoples which involve the history of the people of the Bible. (Kufeldt)

Anderson, Bernard W. **Out Of The Depths, The Psalms Speak to Us Today**. Philadelphia: The Westminster Press, 1974.

This book is a guide *into* the Book of Psalms and encourages the reader to read and ponder selected Psalms, and to live with them personally. Professor Anderson classifies the Psalms as "laments", "thanksgiving", "hymns", etc. and stresses the role of each of these psalm types in Israel's worship and in Christian worship today. (Jeeninga)

Anderson, Bernard W. **Understanding the Old Testament**. 3rd ed. Englewood Cliffs, N.J.: Prentice Hall, Inc., 1975.

Historical, literary, and theological matters are skillfully interwoven in the telling of the life-story of ancient Israel from Exodus to the

eve of the Christian era. An "Introduction" to the literature is an indispensable tool for the serious student of the Old Testament. (Chapman)

Baly, Denis. **God and History In the Old Testament: The Encounter with the Absolutely Other in Ancient Israel.** New York: Harper and Row, Publishers, 1976.

For those interested in studying the great themes of Old Testament theology this remarkable Introduction should be of great interest. Dealing with such topics as the Exodus, salvation, wrath, mercy, hope, covenant and the Word of God, Dr. Baly ably chooses fitting descriptions of Israel's encounter with God making the Old Testament immediately relevant for us today. (Jeeninga)

Baly, Denis. **The Geography of the Bible.** (New and Revised Edition) New York: Harper and Row Publishers, 1974.

This book provides students of the Bible with up-to-date information on the physical geography, geological formation, climate, flora, fauna, topography, and the like. These are made meaningful by frequent biblical quotations and references. (Jeeninga)

Bright, John. **A History of Israel.** 3rd Ed. Philadelphia: Westminster Press, 1981.

As every student of the Bible soon discovers, the details of the history of Israel, its implications, and its involvements with surrounding cultures, for the most part are not dealt with in the biblical text. For these details, the reader must supplement his study with a resource such as this standard history of ancient Israel. This newest edition includes a presentation of the preliminary findings of the recent discovery of ancient Ebla, located in modern Syria. This very readable text is indispensable for the understanding of the Old Testament. (Kufeldt and Chapman)

Bright, John. **The Kingdom of God.** Nashville: Abingdon Press, 1963.

This book traces the history of the idea of the Kingdom of God in biblical literature. It is a well written, easy to read presentation of this concept as the unifying theme which draws together the various parts of scripture. (Chapman)

Buttrick, George A., ed. **The Interpreter's Dictionary of the Bible.** 4 vols. Nashville: Abingdon Press, 1962.

Crim, Keith, ed. **The Interpreter's Dictionary of the Bible.** Supplementary volume. Nashville: Abingdon Press, 1976.

No pastor's library should be without this set. It is unsurpassed as a good, concise source for information on virtually everything that relates to the Bible as well as Intertestamental literature. This standard work deals with all the

books of the Bible, many of its important themes, persons, places and related cultures. The Supplementary Volume provides excellent updating and expansion of many of the important articles covered in the original four volumes, and so is a necessary part of the set. (Kufeldt)

Childs, Brevard S. **Old Testament Books for Pastor and Teacher.** Philadelphia: Westminster Press, 1977.

This paperback gives much needed answers to the frequently asked questions concerning the resources that are currently available for the study and understanding of the Old Testament. A highly competent and well-respected scholar, Childs brings his expertise and background into play as he evaluates commentaries and other resources and gives his own candid appraisal of them. This book will provide help for anyone who is seriously looking for the best study helps for Old Testament understanding. (Kufeldt)

de Vaux, Roland. **Ancient Israel: Its Life and Institutions.** 2 Volumes, paperback, New York: McGraw-Hill Book Co., 1965.

This work by a renowned French archaeologist has become a standard work on the life of ancient Israel as reflected in the Old Testament. As such, it provides important light and insights on many puzzling Old Testament texts and practices. The two volumes of the paperback edition reflect a convenient division of its content. The first volume deals with the civil and social aspects of Israelite life, while the second volume emphasizes the religious and cultic phases of Israel's experience. This inexpensive resource can unlock mysteries and answer many questions for the serious student of the Old Testament, providing solid information in a readily usable form. (Kufeldt)

Finegan, Jack. **Light From the Ancient Past.** Princeton: Princeton University Press, 1946.

A classic presentation giving a connected account of the archaeological background of Hebrew-Christian religion. Even though discoveries continue to be made in this field, the material covered here will never be outdated. This is fascinating reading for those who wish to know more of the culture and background of the biblical period. (Chapman)

Scott, R.B.Y. **The Revelance of the Prophets.** Rev. Ed., New York: The Macmillan Company, 1968.

What is prophecy, the world of the prophets, the theology of the prophets, prophetic religion, and the relevance of the prophetic message to the modern world are some of the subjects dealt with in this book. It gives a very good perspective of the times and thoughts of those men who most capably molded the theology of the Old Testament. This book is an excellent corrective to the popular treatment of prophetism. (Chapman)



Scott, R.B.Y. **The Way of Wisdom In the Old Testament.** New York: The Macmillan Co., 1971.

In order to understand the mind of biblical man Professor Scott examines the definitions of "wise" and "wisdom" both in terms of the biblical text and in terms of the life and thought of ancient Israel. The wisdom writers of the Bible have contributed much to the life and ways of thought of both Judaism and Christianity—human values and goals, roles of reason and revelation, and the need for a structure of meaning to give purpose and direction to human life. (Jeeninga)

Unger, Merrill, F. **Archaeology and The Old Testament.** Grand Rapids: Zondervan Publishing House, 1954.

This volume not only informs the reader but is also fascinating. Here are gathered together the significant, up-to-date archaeological confirmations of the biblical records which illuminate numerous biblical passages. (Jeeninga)

Unger, Merrill, F. and White, William, Jr., eds. **Nelson's Expository Dictionary of the Old Testament.** Nashville: Thomas Nelson Publishers, 1980.

Covering some 500 words or concepts found in the Old Testament, this book deals with each term as it is used within selected contexts. Thus, it supplies helpful explanations which illuminate Old Testament texts and events, both from the linguistic and the contextual perspective, and enables the expositor to apply the meanings to life today. The reader will see how rich the backgrounds of the various Old Testament words are, and how their different nuances can expand our understanding. (Kufeldt)

#### NEW TESTAMENT

**Dr. Fred Burnett (Anderson College)**

**Dr. James E. Massey**

**(Anderson School of Theology)**

**Dr. Gene Miller**

**(Gulf Coast Bible College)**

Blackwelder, Boyce W. **Light From the Greek New Testament.** Anderson, IN: Gospel Trumpet Co., 1958.

Designed for persons who have none or very little Greek, so it is useful to any pastor. Treats several of the major factors in Greek grammar and syntax as they apply to and enlighten specific key New Testament passages. Especially useful for Bible and doctrinal teaching. (Miller)

Blackwelder, Boyce W. **The Four Gospels.** Anderson, IN: Warner Press, 1980.

As its sub-title indicates, this is an "exegetical translation" of Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John. Particular attention is given throughout to accurate and precise rendering of the Greek New Testament text into English. Extremely useful tool for pastors in understanding what the New Testament Gospels really say, and as a foundation for truly Biblical preaching and teaching. (Miller)

Bruce, F.F. **The Message of the New Testament.** Grand Rapids: Eerdmans Publishing Co., 1972.

Explicates the basic elements and teachings of the New Testament writings as they appear in the various Gospels, the letters, and the Apocalypse. Shows how all the writings contribute to the central message of the New Testament—"Jesus Christ is Lord." This book allows the New Testament to speak for itself. (Miller)

Chilton, Bruce D. **God in Strength: Jesus' Announcement of the Kingdom.**

Studien zum Neuen Testament und seiner Umwelt, Series B., Vol. 1. Freistadt: Verlag F. Plochl, 1979.

Chilton attempts to explain "the Kingdom of God" in Jesus' teachings. A highly coherent account which is worthy of contemplation. (Burnett)

Earle, Ralph et. al., eds. **Exploring the New Testament.** Beacon Hill Press, 1969.

Fairly complete introduction to the New Testament writings, written from an evangelical/conservative viewpoint. They include historical and geographical background, purpose, and key significance and teachings for each New Testament book. (Miller)

Filson, F.V. **The New Testament Against Its Environment.** S.C.M. Press, 1959.

Explores the significance and uniqueness of the New Testament in the framework of its historical milieu, both Jewish and Hellenistic. Deals with the continuity between the Old Testament account and the New Testament, the coming of Christ and the development of the church, under the leadership of the Holy Spirit. (Miller)

Goppelt, Leonard. **Theology of the New Testament.** Vol. I. Trans. by John Alsup. Grand Rapids: Wm. B. Eerdmans Publishing Co., 1981.

The first of a two-volume treatment of New Testament thought, this study presents a sound and thorough-going statement about the life and ministry of Jesus, blending exegetical details and systematic focus. A needed alternative study to the Bultmannian emphasis. (Massey)

Guthrie, Donald. **New Testament Introduction.** Rev. ed. Downers Grove, IL: Inter-Varsity Press, 1979.

This introduction presents up-to-date background information on each New Testament book (authorship, date, purpose, structure, setting, and textual issues). The most current and comprehensive among Conservative introductions. (Massey)

Jeremias, Joachim. **Jerusalem in the Time of Jesus.** Trans. by F. H. and C. H. Cave, Philadelphia: Fortress Press, 1969.

This detailed study investigates the economic and social conditions in Palestine during the time of Jesus' ministry, and offers depth-understanding of why Jesus spoke about many of the subjects he treated. (Massey)

Johnsson, William G. **Hebrews**. John Knox Press, 1980.

This book is part of a new series of guides for the preacher who seeks to be an expositor. This book offers realistic and detailed assistance for preaching meaningfully from the Book of Hebrews, showing the fresh homiletical values in that Letter. (Massey)

Marshall, I. Howard, editor. **New Testament Interpretation: Essays on Principles and Methods**. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans Publishing Co., 1977.

A set of eighteen studies which form an essential handbook on how to interpret the New Testament writings. Background facts are supplied about the history of treating and expounding the New Testament materials. A "must" book for understanding the scope and focus of exegesis. (Massey)

Mays, James L. editor. **Interpreting the Gospels**. Philadelphia: Fortress Press, 1981.

A volume of essays which depict the latest of scholarship on interpreting the Gospels. An excellent resource for preaching and teaching. (Burnett)

Sanders, E.P. **Paul and Palestinian Judaism. A Comparison of Patterns of Religion**. Philadelphia: Fortress Press, 1977.

Sanders discusses the concept of Righteousness for Rabbinical Literature, The Dead Sea Scrolls, the Apocrypha and Pseudepigrapha, and Paul. An excellent and exhaustive study. (Burnett)

Schurer, Emil. **The History of the Jewish People in the Age of Jesus Christ**. Revised and edited by Geza Vermes, et. al. Volume 2. Edinburgh: T. & T. Clark, 1979.

A revision of a classical three volume work. Volume one was completed in 1973, and work on volume three has begun. Volume two focuses upon the cultural setting, the religious life, and the political institutions of Palestine. (Burnett)

Smith, D. Moody. **Interpreting the Gospels for Preaching**. Philadelphia: Fortress Press, 1980.

An excellent companion volume to the collection of essays by Mays (above). Smith summarizes the current state of Gospel interpretation, and then provides sample sermons on the Synoptics and John. (Burnett)

## **THEOLOGY**

**Dr. Kenneth E. Jones**  
(Gulf Coast Bible College)  
**Professor Siegfried Belter**  
(Gardner Bible College)  
**Dr. Gilbert Stafford**  
(Anderson School of Theology)

Augsburger, Myron S. **Quench Not the Spirit**. Scottdale, Pennsylvania: Herald Press, 1975.

The Christian's relation to the Holy Spirit is analyzed both in terms of resistance to Him as well as in terms of His transforming and sanctifying work. The author combines his carefully considered theology and his warm-hearted sharing together in a book which is both instructional and devotional. (Stafford)

Brunner, Emil. **Revelation and Reason**. Philadelphia: Westminster Press, 1946.

A book that one may disagree with but it is stimulating. Brunner explores the constant misunderstanding of the relationship between reason and revelation. Revelation is almost always subordinated to reason. Brunner reverses the relation and points out that the gospel is true in itself because it is revelation. At present, book is out of print. Keep an eye out for it. (Belter)

Byrum, Russell R. **Christian Theology**. Anderson, IN: Gospel Trumpet Co., 1925.

The best and most complete survey of the whole field of theology published by the Church of God. After fifty years it is still most helpful, though in places it deals with problems which no longer concern us. It presents clearly the theological heritage of this reformation. (Jones)

Coats, George, W. and Long, Burke, O., Eds. **Canon and Authority**. Philadelphia: Fortress Press, 1977.

Some contemporary biblical theologians consider the nature of the Bible as the measuring rod of faith. In what sense is the Bible as a whole authoritative? This is a provocative book having to do with a sensitive and crucial issue. (Stafford)

Geisler, Norman, L. **The Roots of Evil**. Grand Rapids: Zondervan Publishing House, 1978.

Dr. Geisler clarifies the nature of the dilemma that exists in trying to reconcile belief in the perfectly good God, on the one hand, and the experience of evil and suffering, on the other. Why would the good God allow evil and suffering? This is the question which Geisler addresses in a most helpful way (Stafford)

Guthrie, Donald. **New Testament Theology**. Downers Grove: Inter-Varsity Press, 1981.

A massive study of the subject (982 pp., plus 36 pp. of bibliography, and 44 pp. of indexes), written by a good scholar who is a Wesleyan and a firm believer in Biblical inspiration and authority. It is arranged topically, and under each topic considers the teaching of each New Testament writer. A valuable resource for the study of Biblical Theology. (Jones)

Harrison, Everett F. Ed. **Baker's Dictionary of Theology**. Grand Rapids: Baker Book House, 1960.

An excellent resource book, presenting clear explanations of technical uses of words in theology, some of the important historical developments and denominational variations, and the Biblical references and teachings. As in any book with many contributors, there is variation in quality, but most articles are good, and



some are outstanding. Predominantly Calvinistic. (Jones)

Hartley, John E., and Shelton, R. Larrys, Eds. **Wesleyan Theological Perspectives, Vol. I: An Inquiry into Soteriology from A Biblical Theological Perspective.** Anderson, IN: Warner Press, Inc., 1981.

Being published in four volumes, and written by a wide selection of Wesleyan scholars. Fits the title well, and is a landmark publication from the Wesleyan point of view. Thoroughly Wesleyan-Arminian, but not mere rehash of old words and concepts. Takes advantage of some of the latest and best theological insights. (Jones)

Moltmann, Jurgen. **The Church in the Power of the Spirit.** New York: Harper and Row Publishers, 1977.

A stimulating book that explores the meaning of the Church as a voluntary association of members in Christian fellowship with a total reliance on the presence and power of the Holy Spirit. Moltman writes, "What we have to learn is not that the Church 'has' a mission, but the very reverse: That the mission of Christ creates its own Church. Mission does not come from the Church; it is from mission and in the light of mission that the Church has to be understood." (Belter)

Purkiser, W.T., Taylor, Richard S., and Taylor, Willard H. **God Man, and Salvation, A Biblical Theology.** Beacon Hill Press, 1977.

The first third of the book surveys the theology of the Old Testament, and the last two-thirds is given to the New Testamaent. Like the Bible, it is Christocentric. Wesleyan, conservative, and Scriptural, accompanied by copious Scriptural references. Some inadequacies, as in eschatology, but mostly very helpful. Rather well-balanced presentation of holiness and entire sanctification. Valuable bibliography and footnotes. Well worth the study. (Jones)

Sire, James W. **The Universe Next Door.** Downers Grove: Inter-Varsity Press, 1978.

Sire summarizes the basic Christian view about God and the world, and compares that view with several other current views, such as naturalism, nihilism, and atheistic existentialism. In a concise manner he introduces the reader to world views which are competing for the minds of people with whom we seek to share the Gospel. (Stafford)

Thielicke, Helmut. **The Evangelical Faith, Vol I, Prolegomena: The Relation of Theology to Modern Thought-Forms.** Grand Rapids: Eerdmans Publishing Co., 1974.

Thielicke explores the current state of theology and reponds to various philosophical challenges that confront the Church today. He refuses to use conservative/liberal labels because these are terms that have become very ambiguous through their relative meanings. Rather, he examines the emphasis of Christian thinking in terms of the "I" who is to receive the gospel vs. the message itself, refusing to allow the "I" to limit its nature or service. (Belter)

Thielicke, Helmut. **The Evangelical Faith, Vol. 2, The Doctrine of God and of Christ.** Grand Rapids: Eerdmans Publishing Co., 1977.

Thielicke continues the methodology of volume 1 by systematically exploring the meaning of God and His mighty acts through Christ, against the backdrop of the secularism of the present day. (Belter)

Thielicke, Helmut. **The Evangelical Faith, Vol. 3, The Doctrines of the Holy Spirit, the Church, and Eschatology.** Grand Rapids: Eerdmans Publishing Co., 19—

At present not published, hut if previous volumes are any indication, it will be well worth watching for. (Belter)

Wainwright, Geoffrey. **Eucharist and Eschatology.** New York: Oxford University Press, 1981.

This is a major systematic and biblical treatment of the eschatological character of the Lord's Supper and of the dimension of blessed communion in Christian eschatology. The Lord's Supper is discussed not only as a time of remembrance, but also as a time of eschatological anticipation. (Stafford)

## CHURCH HISTORY HISTORICAL THEOLOGY

Dr. Walter Froese

(Anderson School of Theology)

Professor Roderick Leupp

(Warner Pacific College)

Professor Merle Strege

(Anderson School of Theology)

Ahlstrom, Sydney E., ed. **Theology in America: The Major Protestant Voices from Puritanism to Neo-Orthodoxy.** Indianapolis: Bobbs-Merrill, 1967.

This collection of excellent readings is now a bit dated, but Ahlstrom's introductory essay remains one of the best treatments (and there are not many) of the history of American theology. Extensive footnotes and suggestions for further study. Available in paperback. (Strege)

Ahlstrom, Sydney E. **A Religious History of the American People.** New Haven and London: Yale University Press, 1972.

Ahlstrom is the standard history of religion in America. His work is the most comprehensive of anything available on the subject. It also contains an excellent bibliography for those who wish to do further reading in the area. Available in paperback. (Strege)

Eller, Vernard, (ed.) **Thy Kingdom Come, A Blumhardt Reader.** Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1980.

Two individuals who have influenced many people towards a deep appreciation of these concerns are Johann Blumhardt and his son, Christoph. Theologians like Karl Barth, Dietrich Bonhoeffer, and Jurgen Moltmann owe a debt to



them. Even though this little volume can only serve as an introduction to the rich thought of the Blumhardts, it should stimulate further reflections about personal commitment to the Kingdom of God. (Froese)

Handy, Robert T. **A Christian America: Protestant Hopes and Historical Realities.** New York: Oxford University Press, 1971.

Handy's book is a valuable interpretation of American Protestantism in the 19th and early 20th centuries. As such, it provides excellent information for understanding the religious and cultural setting from which the Church of God movement emerged. Available in paperback. (Strege)

Jackson, Jeremy C. **No Other Foundation, The Church Through Twenty Centuries.** Westchester, IL: Cornerstone, 1980.

The author provides not so much a scholarly study, but rather a stimulating meditation of God's work among people calling themselves Christians. The book is written from a "solidly Evangelical viewpoint". (Froese)

Kelly, J.N.D. **Early Christian Doctrines.** Fifth Edition, New York: Harper and Row Publishers, 1978.

Kelly provides a thorough and lucid exposition of the central Christian doctrines as they emerged from the time of primitive Christianity until the Council of Chalcedon in 451. His immersion in the patristic sources is obvious and deep, and from it one can see the teaching of the Fathers on those doctrines the Church has always held dear, especially Christology, the Trinity and soteriology. (Leupp)

Lohse, Bernard. **A Short History of Christian Doctrine.** Philadelphia: Fortress Press, 1978.

Lohse has written the best short history of Christian doctrine available, written with a Protestant advocacy yet not without sympathy for the Roman Catholic Church and, in the early pages, Eastern Orthodoxy. This volume would be good preparation for deeper reading and thought in the history of Christian thought, yet its thorough reading and pondering will not disappoint the one interested in a solid if not detailed grasp of the unfolding of Christian doctrine. (Leupp)

Marty, Martin E. **By Way of Response.** Nashville: Abingdon, 1981.

The author writes about his own life and about the happenings surrounding him as he grew up and became a pastor, an editor of an influential religious journal, and a university professor. Marty challenges the reader to evaluate his own stance concerning some of the critical issues of modern American society. The pungent humor

and refreshing insights found in the book can lead many a reader to see the current American religious scene not so much with despair but with hope. (Froese)

Ozment, Stephen E. **The Age of Reform (1250-1550).** New Haven: Yale University Press, 1980.

This volume can help much in refining one's understanding of past concepts and practices of reform. In our current age when much seems to be deteriorating, a good knowledge of previous efforts of reform is undoubtedly very enriching. (Froese)

Pelikan, Jaroslav. **The Christian Tradition: A History of the Development of Doctrine.** Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1971.

This is for the ambitious reader looking for a fresh and thorough understanding of the growth of Christianity's doctrinal structure. Planned to run through five volumes when complete, the first three are now available, and vols. one and two can be purchased in paperback. (Strege and Leupp)

Schmidt, Martin. **John Wesley: A Theological Biography.** Translated by Norman Goldhawk, Nashville and New York: Abingdon Press, 2 volumes, 1973.

This is a good, solid introduction to the life and thought of John Wesley. It is a splendid treatment of the theological framework out of which grew much of the message of the early Church of God Movement. (Strege)

Tillich, Paul. **A History of Christian Thought.** Touchstone Books, New York: Simon & Schuster, Inc.

The philosophically inclined will find much delight here, as Tillich demonstrates again his mastery of both the history of theology and philosophy, which histories are always parallel and usually overlapping. Tillich the synthesizer of philosophy and theology emerges in these pages as much as those Christian doctrines whose history he unravels. He is especially adept at far-ranging cultural analysis; his noteworthy belief in the three cultural types of theonomy, autonomy and heteronomy is evident at key points in this volume. (Leupp)

Walker, Williston. **A History of the Christian Church.** 3rd Ed. New York: Scribner's, 1970.

This book appeared first in 1918, but it has gone through several revisions because its basic approach and detailed information has brought repeated demands of updating and reprinting. Its good organization allows the reader to become quite well informed about specific historical topics without first reading through a lot of other material. (Froese)

HAVE YOU COMPLETED AND MAILED YOUR INFORMATION FORM?

**PREACHING**  
**Dr. Hollis Pistole**  
**(Anderson School of Theology)**  
**Dr. Ralph G. Turnbull**  
**(Warner Pacific College)**

Achtemeier, Elizabeth. **Creative Preaching: Finding the Words.** Nashville: Abingdon Press, 1981.

Every preacher needs an occasional moment of inspiration to offset the weekly routine of sermonizing. This book provides that lift. Achtemeier explores fresh and innovative ways of bringing life to the sermon. Good news does not have to be dull! (Pistole)

Black, James M. **The Mystery of Preaching.** Grand Rapids: Zondervan Publishing House, reprint, paperback, 1977.

Warrack and Sprunt Lectures provide an imaginative and succinct appeal for the pastor with the weekly stint of preparing sermons. In the context of public worship, there are adequate resources for seminal ideas and delivery. Black stimulates and inspires the preacher in rereading and study of a "mystery." (Turnbull)

Brooks, Phillips. **Lectures on Preaching.** Grand Rapids: Baker Book House, reprint, paperback, 1978.

This classic from the Yale Lectures still commands respect. The well-known, though often distorted, definition of preaching places the personality of the proclamation at the center of concern. Brooks enshrined the ideal and demonstrated the industry to achieve what ought to be and can be. (Turnbull)

Buttrick, George A. **Jesus Came Preaching.** Grand Rapids: Baker Book House, reprint, paperback, 1970.

Yale Lectures exciting and vigorous in form and suggestion. Personal style reveals that of the craftsman who uses the art to communicate to our contemporary society. Buttrick as a pastor-teacher is also preacher-evangelist in the intensity of feeling and pastoral concern. The model is that of the MASTER preacher. (Turnbull)

Chartier, Myron R. **Preaching As Communication: An Interpersonal Perspective.** Nashville: Abingdon Press, 1981.

It is one thing to diligently work on exegesis and structure for a sermon and another to deliver the message effectively. Chartier notes that simple communication skills, properly utilized, can bring improvement and acceptance to the sermon. Effort expended in improving voice projection, articulation and body language should result in a better delivery of the message. (Pistole)

Craddock, Fred B. **Overhearing the Gospel.** Nashville: Abingdon Press, 1978.

This is another in the **Lyman Beecher Lectures on Preaching** from Yale. Drawing upon

Kierkegaard for a motif for communication, Craddock concerns himself with a corrective for the dilemma of listeners in churches who have accepted "boredom as one of the crosses that comes with commitment." He grapples with teller, listener, and message in an effort to get a "prime time" hearing for the sermon. (Pistole)

Forsythe, Peter T. **Positive Preaching and the Modern Mind.** Grand Rapids: Baker Book House, reprint, paperback, 1980.

Yale Lectures which are timeless in quality and application. The Pastor-Theologian stood amid the swirling currents of current theological unrest, yet found an impregnable rock upon which to stand. The Atonement became central in thought and exposition. "With preaching Christianity stands or falls." (Turnbull)

Massey, James Earl. **Designing the Sermon: Order and Movement in Preaching.** Nashville: Abingdon Press, 1980.

Dr. Massey's consummate skill as a preacher and teacher of preachers is visibly evident in this book. The movement from text to structure to readiness for delivery is faithfully delineated. Each aspect of the movement is examined with an awareness of integrating it into the total preaching message. (Pistole)

Stewart, James S. **A Faith To Proclaim.** Grand Rapids: Baker Book House, reprint, paperback, 1972.

Yale Lectures as sequel to Warrack Lectures, **Heralds of God**, on Homiletics. The preacher's office is magnified. Preaching is essentially proclamation. The eternal verities of doctrine are set forth in dynamic New Testament utterance. Evangelism is the noblest service when the pastor speaks what he/she believes is revealed and commanded "in Christ." (Turnbull)

Thompson, William D. **Preaching Biblically: Exegesis and Interpretation.** Nashville: Abingdon Press, 1981.

The continuing search for relevant biblical preaching is ably assisted by Thompson's book. The use of a dyadic model provides for "an honest engagement with the biblical text and an equally honest facing of life..." A stimulating engagement! (Pistole)

**PASTORAL MINISTRIES**

**Dr. Dwight L. Grubbs**  
**(Anderson School of Theology)**

Brister, C. W. **Pastoral Care in the Church.** New York: Harper and Row, 1964.

Brister's thesis is that the pastoral task of the church is not the private domain of the ordained, but the opportunity and responsibility of the whole congregation. Written by a veteran Southern Baptist seminary professor, the book is practical, biblical, and readable. (Grubbs)

Hendrix, Olan. **Management for the Christian Worker.** Santa Barbara, CA: Quill Publications, 1976.

Hendrix helps the reader to identify problems, gather resources, explore alternatives, get organized, set goals, evaluate, and much more. Written in nearly an outline form, he packs a lot of help into each page. He is profound without being obscure, helpful without being simplistic. (Grubbs)

Schaller, Lyle. **The Decision-Makers.** Nashville: Abingdon Press, 1974.

This is one of Schaller's better books. He helps the minister understand how decisions are made, how to work with people in making decisions, how to strengthen lay-leadership, and gives insight into evaluation and accountability. Because he holds a high view of the nature of the church and of the value of persons, his congregation-based illustrations and applications are most helpful. (Grubbs)

Segler, Franklin M. **A Theology of Church and Ministry.** Nashville: Broadman Press, 1960.

This book, because of its age, really needs to be revised, but it is still one of the best. Segler's thesis is that methodology roots in theology. He constantly calls for the pastor to ask, "Why am I doing what I'm doing?" The nature of the church determines the shape of its ministries, he insists, then he helps us understand the church's essential nature. This is an excellent textbook on the work of a Christian minister—either ordained or unordained. (Grubbs)

Wagner, C. Peter. **Your Spiritual Gifts Can Help Your Church Grow.** Glendale, CA: Regal Books, 1979.

It has long been understood *biblically* in the Church of God, that God places persons in the Body as He sees fit, and He gifts whom He wills. Only recently, however, have we understood more *practically* the beautiful possibilities of this profound truth. Wagner is helpful at the point of increasing our understanding of the various spiritual gifts and their places in the church. When we drop the idea of "motivating" people to "get involved" in and *employ* their spiritual gifts, congregations will grow—numerically and spiritually. (Grubbs)

## **PASTORAL CARE**

**Dr. Theodore Stoneberg**  
(Anderson School of Theology)

Clinebell, Howard J., Jr. **Basic Types of Pastoral Counseling.** Nashville: Abingdon Press, 1966.

Howard Clinebell helps to make counseling principles available to the parish pastor by identifying models for counseling that relate to parish situations. He makes a distinction between professional in-depth psychotherapy and the supportive counseling of a parish situation emphasizing that ministers can facilitate growth in their members. (Stoneberg)

Gleason, John J., Jr. **Growing Up to God.** Nashville: Abingdon Press, 1975.

Rev. Gleason takes Erickson's stages of development and discusses the issues of religious development at each stage in our psychological development. This book should help identify issues which are important at each stage of growth so that ministry can be focused on appropriate issues. (Stoneberg)

Jackson, Edgar N. **Understanding Grief.** New York: Abingdon Press, 1957.

Ministers are placed in a position to do grief work with people who experience loss. This book is old but remains a primary resource for helping ministers do effective grief work. (Stoneberg)

Koile, Earl. **Listening As a Way of Becoming.** Waco, TX: Regency Books, 1977.

Before one can proclaim the word and participate in the healing of people one must learn how to listen. This book helps the reader become aware of things that block or facilitate listening. Pastoral care must first of all be a ministry of listening. (Stoneberg)

Wise, Carroll A. **The Meaning of Pastoral Care.** New York: Harper and Row, Publishers, 1966.

This is a frequently used text in a pastoral care course. It focuses on helping people to become what God intends them to become. It emphasizes the relationship of the pastor with the people in the parish. (Stoneberg)

## **CHRISTIAN EDUCATION**

**Dr. Jerry C. Grubbs**  
(Anderson School of Theology)  
**Professor Jane Wiebe**  
(Warner Southern College)

Allen, Charles L., and Parker, Mildred. **How to Increase Your Sunday School Attendance.** New Jersey: Fleming H. Revell Co., 1979.

More than a push for members, here is practical help in building a fulfilling and people-centered program. The thirteen chapters include topics such as the following: the role of the pastor, plans of action, recruiting and training teachers, finances, evangelism, and the Sunday school and the family. (Wiebe)

Blazier, Kenneth D., Ed. **The Teaching Church at Work.** Valley Forge: Judson Press, 1980.

An excellent manual for the leader and/or board responsible for the church's ministry and program of Christian education. Focused on the concept of the local church as a "teaching church", the manual offers "how to" suggestions for the organization and work of the Board of Christian Education. (Wiebe)

Feucht, Oscar E., ed. **Helping Families Through the Church.** (Revised Edition) St. Louis: Concordia Publishing House, 1971.



This book is helpful to those who are concerned about making a family approach in their local church. It is a comprehensive guide to methods and resources for ministering to families. (Grubbs)

Graendorf, Warner C., ed. **Introduction to Biblical Christian Education.** Chicago: Moody Press, 1981.

This volume provides a substantial overview of the Christian education field. Its most outstanding chapters include the following: "The Challenge of Biblical Christian Education," "The Pastor and Christian Education," "The Organizational Structure," and "Teacher and Leadership Training." (Wiebe)

Knight, George R. **Philosophy and Education: An Introduction in Christian Perspective.** Berrien Springs, MI: Andrews University Press, 1980.

Although this is not a how-to-do-it book, it is extremely practical. It is important to know why we do Christian education. This book is a survey from a Christian perspective of philosophies and philosophic issues that are relevant to the Christian education tasks. (Grubbs)

LeBar, Lois E. **Focus on People in Church Education.** New Jersey: Fleming H. Revell Co., 1968.

LeBar affirms that the key question in church education needs to be: "What is happening to people?" This handbook offers practical guidance for all aspects of educational ministry. (Wiebe)

Oates, Wayne, E. **On Becoming Children of God.** Philadelphia: The Westminster Press, 1969.

Here is a sound integration of the psychological and educational aspects of growth in faith from childhood to youth. Effective teaching and ministry finds an understanding of human development foundational. (Wiebe)

Richards, Lawrence O. **A Theology of Christian Education.** Grand Rapids: Zondervan Publishing House, 1975.

This volume deals with the theological concepts that form the content and underlay the method of Christian education. The basic assumption is that Christian education must be solidly based on scripture. Richards gives the Christian educator a solid biblical base from which to work. (Grubbs)

Sanner, Elwood A. and Harper, A.F. **Exploring Christian Education.** Kansas City, Beacon Hill Publishers, 1978.

This book developed by the Nazarene church is a helpful look at Christian education from an evangelical perspective. It is written from the Wesleyan-Arminian viewpoint and draws illustrations and examples from churches of this tradition. It is very helpful for those interested in an over-view of the Christian education task. (Grubbs)

## CHRISTIAN MISSION

Dr. Douglas Welch  
(Anderson School of Theology)

Bosch, David J. **Witness to the World: The Christian Mission in Theological Perspective.** Atlanta: John Knox Press, 1980.

Seeks to define Christian mission from a theological perspective. Is mission identical to evangelism? Do missions make sense in today's world? A balanced biblical and scholarly treatment. (Welch)

Costas, Orlando E. **The Church and Its Mission: A Shattering Critique From the Third World.** Wheaton, IL: Tyndale House, 1974.

A critique by an outstanding Latin American Evangelical of the current Western understanding and practice of mission. A striking theological and biblical evaluation of methodologies of mission. Includes a positive assessment of the future of missions. (Welch)

Kane, J. Herbert. **Undertaking Christian Missions.** Grand Rapids: Baker Book House, 1974.

An examination of the issues faced by today's missionaries, and an assessment of the global missionary enterprise of the church. Some attention given to the unfinished task of missions, and trends for the future. (Welch)

Newbigin, Lesslie. **The Open Secret: Sketches for a Missionary Theology.** Grand Rapids: Eerdmans Publishing Co., 1978.

An attempt by a veteran missionary to re-evaluate the church's missionary activity in the light of changing cultural contexts. Stresses the missionary nature of the church, and the necessity of proclamation of the Lordship of Christ in the secular world of today. (Welch)

Wakatama, Pius. **Independence For The Third World Church: An African Perspective on Missionary Work.** Downers Grove: Inter-Varsity Press, 1976.

A friendly and balanced assessment by an African Christian of the missionary practices of the Western church. Problem areas, areas needing correction, are dealt with. Specific attention is given the moratorium issue in Christian missions. (Welch)

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## Centering on Ministry

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*Centering on Ministry* is published by the Center for Pastoral Studies and sent without charge to all graduates of the School of Theology and to all persons enrolled in Continuing Education through the Center for Pastoral Studies, and on occasion is sent also to all Church of God pastors and a limited number of other persons.