

BIO

AUTHOR BIOGRAPHY



Charles Marsh and John Perkins

Welcoming Justice: God's Movement Toward Beloved Community

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Charles Marsh (Ph.D., University of Virginia) is director of the Project on Lived Theology, a research community based in the Department of Religious Studies at the University of Virginia, as well as a professor of religious and theological studies. He was born into a minister's family in Mobile, Alabama, and grew up in small towns along the Gulf of Mexico. He attended the first integrated public schools in Mississippi and has spent much of the past fifteen years writing about religion, race, and civil rights.

Mr. Marsh studied English literature and philosophy at Gordon College and modern religious thought at Harvard Divinity School and the University of Virginia, where he received his doctorate in 1989.

After publishing a monograph in philosophical theology in 1994, he began sifting through the religious and moral confusions of his southern childhood. His book *God's Long Summer: Stories of Faith and Civil Rights* (Princeton UP, 1997) explores how differing images of God collided with devastating consequences during the most violent years of the civil rights movement. His memoir, *The Last Days: A Son's Story of Sin and Segregation at the Dawn of a New South* (Basic, 2001), is a coming of age story set in Laurel, Mississippi, in the late 1960s. He is also the author of *The Beloved Community: How Faith Shapes Social Justice, from the Civil Rights Movement to Today* (Basic, 2005), and *Wayward Christian Soldiers: Freeing the Gospel from Political Captivity* (Oxford 2007), an impassioned account of the political misuses of faith by evangelical Christian leaders and churches in the United States.

John Perkins, the son of a sharecropper, grew up in Mississippi amid dire poverty and rampant racism. Though he had fled to California after his older brother was murdered by a town marshal, he returned after his conversion to Christ in 1960 to share the gospel with his community. His leadership of civil rights demonstrations earned him repeated harassment, beatings and imprisonment. However, in recent years Perkins has received recognition for his work with seven honorary doctorates from Wheaton College, Gordon College, Huntington College, Geneva College, Spring Arbor College, North Park College and Belhaven College. He continues to speak and teach around the world on issues of racial reconciliation, leadership and community development.

Perkins is the founder of Voice of Calvary Ministries in Mendenhall, Mississippi, Harambee Ministries in Pasadena, California, and the Christian Community Development Association. His books include *Let Justice Roll Down, With Justice for All, A Quiet Revolution* and *Linking Arms, Linking Lives*.