

Q&A

AUTHOR INTERVIEW



Don Everts has worked on college campuses for InterVarsity Christian Fellowship/USA since 1994. Currently an area director with InterVarsity, he is based in Boulder, Colorado. His books include Jesus with Dirty Feet, The Smell of Sin, God in the Flesh and Getting Your Feet Dirty.

Q: Where did the idea for these books come from?

Don Everts: I was having a disagreement with a friend about a pretty important conviction of mine. We were emailing back and forth and I realized that the ways I was talking about this idea weren't really capturing why I so like the idea. When I gave careful arguments, it felt too scientific-like; and when I talked about my experiences with the idea, it felt too squishy and emotive. I was stumped. And became quite curious about why and how I actually believed this idea. The result was the weirdest email I've ever written: 1 part philosophy, 1 part sit-com, and 1 part voyeuristic autobiography. But it was the most honest thing I think I've ever written. And this odd way of talking about ideas just kind of stuck.

Q: How did you come up with the titles and what does each one mean?

Don: Well, this comedic, philosophical voyeuristic approach to talking about ideas personifies all the ideas up in my head. Ideas aren't inanimate factoids, they aren't purely emotional experiences - they are more like individual people who live up in my head. They each have a personality, and a story to tell. This is what makes them an idea.

So... All the Ideas Living in my Head: One Guy's Musings About Truth is an overview of how thinking goes on up in my head. It's perhaps the strangest introduction to philosophy and ideas ever - but it's confessional and honest and revealing all the way through. It's an invitation for folks to think about thinking in ways that are fresh and exciting and freeing. And it has the potential to make all our dialogues and debates (currently either so angry or so polite that conversation about ideas is rendered unhelpful to say the least) actually interesting and engaging. Hail the new age of actually enjoying talking with each other about ideas!

The Old Man Living in My Head: One Guy's Musings About the Bible is my honest explanation of how and why I believe in the Bible. This expose on The Old Man (what all the other ideas in my head call this old fashioned idea) deals with one of the most debated, taboo subjects in our culture: what Christians believe about that big black book of theirs. Rather than giving theoretical answers, I give an honest (and potentially embarrassing) look at the reasons, emotions, contradictions, tensions, and joys of one Christian who holds onto this old fashioned idea pretty tightly.

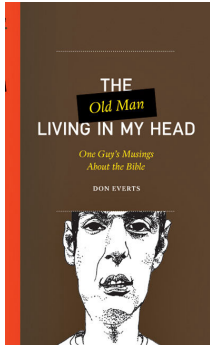
The Dirty Beggar Living in My Head: One Guy's Musings About Evil and Hell is much like the above title, except that it deals with a much darker, more mysterious... and much more taboo subject: evil and hell. Many people wonder these days how anyone can believe in such an absurd, violent, medieval concept such as hell. Well, here's an honest look at how



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Page 2



January 2008 Release

The Old Man Living in My Head, 64 pages, paper, \$7.00, 978-0-8308-3612-3

The Fingerless Lady Living in My Head, 64 pages, paper, \$7.00, 978-0-8308-3614-7

The Dirty Beggar Living in My Head, 64 pages, paper, \$7.00, 978-0-8308-3613-0

All the Ideas Living in My Head 64 pages, paper, \$7.00, 978-0-8308-3611-6

One guy does believe in just that. Full of dark stories and sober observations from *The Dirty Beggar* (and plenty of sarcastic retorts from other ideas up in my head) this book is an honest tackling of a touchy subject.

The Fingerless Lady Living in My Head: One Guy's Musings About Tolerance is a look at how common and popular perceptions about tolerance never seem to stay up in my head for too long. (IE I can't believe them.) How can I spurn the mantra of the age? Am I just an idiot for doing so? Aren't the virtues of tolerance obvious and indisputable? Well, this tour through my upstairs shows how I go about believe, or not believing, in the story that *The Fingerless Lady* tells. (Yeah, that's what they call this idea up in my head!)

Q: Why four separate books? Why not just one big book?

Don: Each tour through my head is a very different look at very different ideas. The first volume is more for the general reader and is light-hearted, quick-paced, and down-to-earth; whereas the book on the Bible is a more subtle, tension-embracing, somewhat Socratic text. The book on hell is more artful, parable-driven, and vulnerable; while the one about tolerance is more witty and conversational. Four separate books allow the reader to choose a topic they are more interested in exploring.

Q: How is this book different from *Jesus with Dirty Feet* or *The Smell of Sin*?

Don: My earlier books are more poetic and time-less (at least that's what I was shooting for!) *The One Guy's Head Series* is a different animal all together. This series of books is unapologetically relevant to the burning issues of today and could be described as confessional, humorous, and irreverent. I deal head-on with taboo subjects of the day.



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