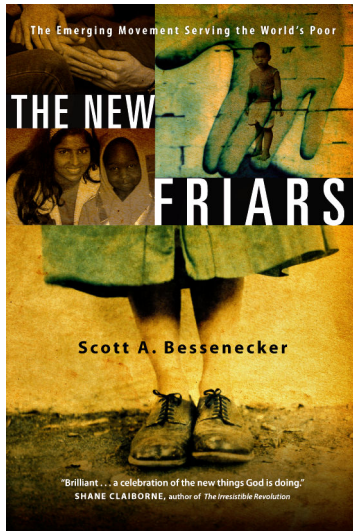


WHO ARE THE NEW FRIARS?



Scott A. Bessenecker (M.A., international development, William Carey International University) is director of global projects with InterVarsity Christian Fellowship. He is editor of *Quest for Hope in the Slum Community* (2005). His articles have appeared in publications such as *Mission Maker Magazine*, *PRISM*, *Student Leadership Journal* and *Evangelical Missions Quarterly*.

Book Info:
The New Friars
October 2006 Release,
199 pages,
\$15, paper,
ISBN: 0-8308-3601-2

In the early part of the thirteenth century, a rich, young Italian playboy named Francesco responded to God's call to live simply and help the sick. That obedience led to the founding of the monastic order known as the Franciscans, a group of friars who chose poverty and asceticism in order to better stand alongside and minister to those on the margins of society.

Today, author Scott Bessenecker believes we are on the verge of another missional, monasticlike order made up of men and women with a passion to serve the destitute around the world by living in community with them. These are the new friars, changing the world for the kingdom of God through their commitments to the poor and forgotten.

In *The New Friars*, Bessenecker relates stories of those currently living in solidarity with the poor while weaving in historical accounts of those who have gone before. According to the author, there are five qualities that both the old and the new friars have in common. They are:

Incarnational—They don't just preach the gospel—they strive to *be* the gospel.

Devotional—They have a set of spiritual commitments or a "rule" that governs their life.

Communal—They live with others, sharing their lives and possessions.

Missional—They strive to stretch the borders of the church into the geographic fringes.

Marginal—They are bound to people at the edges of society, often ministering to those whom no one else wants to be around.

What about those not called to live in a slum community? Bessenecker gives suggestions for how all can live in union with the poor and support the new friars. This important book is for those looking to follow Jesus' command to "deny themselves and take up their cross daily and follow me" (Luke 9:23).