A time to fight for freedom

Angle and Talking Points

America is on the verge of renewal or decline. If we do nothing, argues social critic and established author Os Guinness, America will not be able to sustain the freedom that her citizens have enjoyed since the founding fathers penned the Constitution.

With characteristic insight, Guinness claims that true freedom can only be sustained in accordance with faith and virtue. A free society must maintain its freedom both at the level of its nation's constitution and at the level of its citizens' convictions. In this timely volume, Guinness outlines the looming crisis that America is facing, synthesizes hundreds of years of history and offers a vision of what truly “sustainable freedom” looks like. Questions he tackles include:

- Why is it such a critical time for American citizens to act?
- What do the Tea Party and the Occupy Wall Street movements have to teach us?
- What can we learn from our nation's founders about establishing and sustaining freedom?
- What kinds of political leaders are needed to guide the country at this moment?
- How does freedom contribute to America's global standing?
- What can individual Americans do to maintain freedom?

Author Biography

Os Guinness (D.Phil., Oxford) is the author or editor of more than twenty-five books, including The American Hour, Time for Truth and The Case for Civility. A frequent speaker and prominent social critic, he was the founder of the Trinity Forum and has been a visiting fellow at the Brookings Institution and a guest scholar at the Woodrow Wilson Center for International Studies. He lives near Washington, D.C.

"Sometimes a book is so important and so timely that not to have read it is to embarrass oneself. This is such a book. Its message is so crucial and so clear that all Americans are obligated to read it and have a national conversation on its themes. No cultural commentator or politician who has not read this book should ever be taken seriously again. . . . This book's clarion call is both piercing and full of hope. May God help us to hear it and to take action."

—ERIC METAXAS, author of Bonhoeffer: Pastor, Martyr, Prophet, Spy

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Prominent evangelical makes proposal for national reform

Angle and Talking Points
With his new book, Fixing the Moral Deficit, Ron Sider enters the political fray with a response to the question on every American’s mind—what do we do about the budget? But the president of Evangelicals for Social Action (ESA) and noted author of Rich Christians in an Age of Hunger is out to do more than propose a financial stopgap. He’s out to show that the crisis of dollars is just one symptom of a larger social disorder.

- The federal government has spent more money that it has taken in during most of the past five decades
- At the current rate, we will add one trillion dollars to the federal debt every year for the next ten years
- The richest 1% own more of the nation’s wealth than the bottom 90%
- More than 1 of 7 Americans are living in poverty
- In 2010 CEOs of Fortune 500 companies took home 325 times that of the average American worker
- In 2037 the Social Security Trust Fund will be exhausted
- The financial deficit will not resolve itself until we deal with the moral deficit that fuels it

Author Biography
Ronald J. Sider is the founder of Evangelicals for Social Action, which publishes Prism magazine. He is also professor of theology, holistic ministry and public policy at Palmer Theological Seminary in Wynnewood, Pennsylvania. He is the author of many books, including Rich Christians in an Age of Hunger and Just Generosity.

“I read everything Ron Sider writes because he makes me think through angles and issues that I might not consider. He’ll do the same for you.” —RICK WARREN, author of The Purpose Driven Life

“In a political culture arguably gone awry, Sider’s succinct merger of religion and economics is well worth reading. If nothing else, Sider argues credibly and with clarity that by adopting a moral vision, the country can find an economic path that is both stable and humane.” —PUBLISHERS WEEKLY, February 2013
Breaking the silence around sex addiction

Angle and Talking Points
There is a new drug of choice in town. Researchers estimate that as much as 40% of the population in the United States (both men and women) struggle with some form of sexual addiction. Unfortunately, pastors and church leaders are not immune. And with the stigma around sex scandals in public ministry, pastors are especially vulnerable to the spiral of silence, isolation and shame that fuels addiction.

Offering a compelling account of his own sexual brokenness and recovery, T. C. Ryan wants to break the silence around sex addiction in the church. He offers hard-won insights into the nature of addiction and practical advice on what the church can do to support those who are struggling or in recovery, including those in positions of leadership. Issues Ryan addresses include how to:

- Create a safe space for people to be honest about their brokenness
- Provide resources such as therapist recommendations and ongoing accountability groups
- Promote a realistic, genuinely Christ-based view of sexuality to counter constant cultural messages
- Maintain appropriate expectations and provide suitable accountability for leaders

Author Biography
For nearly twenty years T. C. Ryan was founding and senior pastor of a large church. He resigned in order to concentrate more fully on his ongoing recovery from a lifelong sexual addiction. Dr. Ryan now has a ministry of spiritual direction with individuals and groups, preaches, writes and leads seminars on achieving spiritual wholeness in a sexually broken world.

“Shame and self-loathing were my constant companions for more than forty years. . . . My faith offered me genuine forgiveness, but I continued to engage in behaviors I could not understand or stop. And my faith context had no help to offer me. I felt very, very alone in my struggle; that loneliness fed my growing compulsive desires, and the constant sense of guiltiness fed my sense of being a shame-filled, shame-deserving person.” —from chapter one, “Living a Divided Life”
Let’s talk about sex

**Angle and Talking Points**

Is flirting wrong? Is seduction ever okay? How should “hookups” be handled? Can Christians support civil unions for homosexuals?

To ethically engage such questions requires an awareness of one’s sexual lenses, according to philosopher and ethicist Caroline J. Simon. Much like an optometrist uses several lenses to assess a person's vision during an eye exam, Simon offers six lenses that can be used to evaluate sexuality and determine appropriate sexual behavior: covenantal, procreative, romantic, plain sex, power and expressive. Simon provides answers to questions such as:

- What are the benefits of being more honest about the lenses through which we view sexuality?
- What are the characteristics of each “lens” or view?
- How do the different lenses lead to a fuller picture of sexuality?
- Is any lens better than the others?
- What are biblically appropriate boundaries for sex?
- When evaluating different sexual behaviors, what is important to keep in mind?

**Author Biography**

**Caroline J. Simon** (Ph.D., University of Washington) is the John and Jeanne Jacobson professor of philosophy and interim dean of social sciences at Hope College. Her primary teaching fields include ethics, history of ethics and interdisciplinary humanities. Simon is the author of *Introduction to Ethics* (Rowman & Littlefield), *The Disciplined Heart* (Eerdmans), and coauthor of *Can Hope Endure?* and *Mentoring for Mission*, both from Eerdmans.

“*In this thought-provoking book, philosopher and college teacher Caroline Simon seeks to bring clarity to our culture’s sexual confusion. She uses a helpful metaphor, optics, as a way to talk about six different lenses through which people view sex. . . . The book, written with the non philosopher in mind, will be particularly useful for young adults searching for a way to think through sexual issues and discern the perspectives that shape media and culture.”* —SUSAN OLASKY, World Magazine, February 11, 2012
God as gardener

Angle and Talking Points

In Making Peace with the Land, the most recent title in the Resources for Reconciliation series from IVP, authors Fred Bahnson and Norman Wirzba work to help Christians understand our biblical requirement to care for one of our most precious gifts from God: the land and all its creatures. This series shows how to reconcile different types of conflicts, and this book makes evident the fact that God is reconciling all things in heaven and on earth. Our alienation from the land that gives us life is causing damage not only to our ecosystems, but also to our own bodies.

Through personal stories and poignant data, Bahnson and Wirzba show how current industrialized practices are unsustainable, but also that redemption from farm to dinner table is possible.

- How are Christians called to interact with the environment?
- What does it mean to be in a peaceful relationship with the land?
- What does the Bible say about eating, the environment and being masters over the Earth?

Author Biographies

Fred Bahnson is a permaculture gardener, a pioneer in church-supported agriculture, and an award-winning poet and essayist. He was a Kellogg Food & Society Policy Fellow at the Institute for Agriculture and Trade Policy and the cofounder and former director of Anathoth Community Garden in Cedar Grove, North Carolina. He is the author of Soil and Sacrament (forthcoming from Free Press).

fredbahnson.com

Norman Wirzba is research professor of theology, ecology and rural life at Duke Divinity School. He is the author of Food and Faith, Living the Sabbath and The Paradise of God.

“A thoughtful, thorough and edgy book on one of the most urgent issues on earth. I can’t wait to start giving copies away.”
—SHANE CLAIBORNE, author, activist and recovering sinner, www.thesimpleway.org

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Reaching the immigrants among us

Angle and Talking Points

Now more than ever a vast flood of people from all over the world are coming to America, searching for a new home. What is the response of the church to these sojourners among us? In J. D. Payne’s newest mission-minded book, Strangers Next Door, readers are introduced to this phenomenon and asked how the church should respond in light of the mission of God.

In Strangers Next Door, J. D. Payne examines the following topics:

- History of immigration and kingdom expansion
- Present global realities regarding international migration
- Why people are migrating to the West
- Biblical, theological, historical, missiological and practical basis behind ministering to unreached individuals living in the West
- What the guidelines should be for doing crosscultural missions
- How the church has been responding positively to this new phenomenon
- How to develop a specific strategy for making disciples and equipping them to reach the Western world

Author Biography

J. D. Payne (Ph.D., Southern Baptist Theological Seminary) serves as the pastor of church multiplication for The Church at Brook Hills in Birmingham, Alabama. He has pastored churches in Kentucky and Indiana and served as a seminary professor for a decade. He is the author of several books and articles. He and his wife Sarah and their three children live in Birmingham, Alabama.

jdpayne.org

“A wide-eyed look at one of most strategic missiological opportunities for the church today. I was encouraged by Payne’s presentation of the possibilities and convicted by our failure to thus far capitalize on them. What if the leaders for the completion of the Great Commission were right now ‘visitors’ in our cities?” —J. D. GREEAR, author of Gospel: Recovering the Power that Made Christianity Revolutionary and Breaking the Islam Code

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From soldier to peacemaker

Angle and Talking Points

This is the journey of a combat soldier. A combat soldier who became a conscientious objector. A conscientious objector who ultimately became a Christian peacemaker.

In 2004, Logan Mehl-Laituri was deployed in Iraq. Like many soldiers, he went through things that changed him forever. Suddenly uncertain about the alliance between God and guns, Mehl-Laituri began to search the Scriptures, wondering, Is it possible to follow God and fight in a war?

This riveting account of Mehl-Laituri’s journey provides important if unsettling insights into what it might mean to truly “support the troops.” Unafraid to grapple with the harsh realities of war, Mehl-Laituri is well-situated to address questions such as:

- Can you be a Christian and serve in the military?
- What does it mean to love your enemy in the context of war?
- What do veterans returning home really need?
- How can Christians challenge the vast American indifference to the consequences of war?
- What does it mean to work for peace?
- How should faith inform patriotism?

Author Biography

Logan Mehl-Laituri is an army veteran. He served in the Iraq War as a forward observer/fire support specialist before applying to change his status to conscientious objector. After his discharge he went to Palestine with Christian Peacemaker Teams, and later returned to Iraq with Shane Claiborne for the documentary film The Gospel of Rutba. He speaks and writes broadly about veterans issues and on militarism and nationalism.

centurionsguild.org  
www.ivpress.com/rebornvideo

“Every Christian who puts a ‘Pray for Our Troops’ sticker on their bumper should listen closely to these confessions of a soul who’s struggled to love God and country. At the same time, anyone committed to Christian nonviolence should reckon with this story of a soldier who sought to practice love of enemy. Logan is asking for the church to see its veterans. I pray we’ll listen.”
—JONATHAN WILSON-HARTGROVE, author and new monastic
Christians and Muslims don’t understand each other very well . . .

Angle and Talking Points

Muslims have often heard that Christians worship three gods, or that the Injil, the New Testament, has been corrupted. How can Christians explain their faith in a way that Muslims can understand? Robert Scott explains in Questions Muslims Ask.

• What key theological objections do Muslims have to the Christian faith?
• “I pray five times a day in my mosque, while you pray only once on a Sunday.” How can Christians respond to this assertion that Christianity is not a daily, active commitment to God as Islam is?
• Why do Jesus’ death and resurrection seem foolish and weak to Muslims?

Author Biography

Robert Scott oversees international outreach at St. Helen’s Bishopsgate Church in London, where he hosts meetings for better understanding with Muslim and Christian partners. He previously worked in Bangladesh with the World Health Organization.

“I highly recommend this excellent work which will help Muslims and Christians everywhere to have a better understanding of their respective beliefs and each other. This important work arrives at a critical moment for building bridges with our Muslim friends.” —ANEES ZAKA, founder and president of Church Without Walls and the Biblical Institute for Islamic Studies
Historian debunks lies, legends and myths

Angle and Talking Points

Renowned historian Jeffrey Burton Russell, famous for his studies of medieval history, sets the record straight against the New Atheists and other cultural critics who charge Christianity with being outdated, destructive, superstitious, unenlightened, racist, colonialist, based on fabrication and other significant false accusations. Russell exposes common myths like:

- Christianity is incompatible with belief in science
- Religion has caused more wars and suffering than atheism
- Christianity is racist, sexist, homophobic and antidemocratic
- The Jesus of history is different from the Christ of faith
- Evil doesn’t exist, and the existence of evil disproves Christianity
- The resurrection of Jesus was a “resurrection experience” rather than a physical resurrection

Author Biography

Jeffrey Burton Russell (Ph.D., Emory University) was a history professor at the University of California, Santa Barbara from 1979-1998, where he is now a professor of history, emeritus. He also taught at the University of Mexico, Harvard, University of California in Riverside, Notre Dame, and California State University, Sacramento. Russell has published numerous books and articles on his area of expertise, the history of theology. Early in his academic career, Russell was honored as a Fulbright Fellow, Harvard Junior Fellow and Guggenheim Fellow.

“An astonishingly rich plethora of historical facts and common-sense arguments—a summa of persuasive debating points in popular apologetics.” —PETER KREEFT, Boston College

“What C. S. Lewis’s Mere Christianity did in the 1940s, Jeffrey Burton Russell has done for us. For those seeking and for those who doubt, this is a must-read book.” —VERY REV. DR. IAN MARKHAM, president and professor of theology, Virginia Theological Seminary
National ministry leader spills the dirt on group life and discipleship

Angle and Talking Points

In the church, community and discipleship are often considered solutions to problems. Community addresses the problem of isolation and loneliness, and discipleship can solve the problem of spiritual immaturity. As we try to apply these solutions, however, we discover that community and discipleship are riddled with problems of their own. Community is messy. And discipleship is hard.

- Recognized for its cutting-edge ministry, National Community Church (NCC) in Washington, D.C., models cutting-edge principles for small group and discipleship ministry
- NCC recognizes the unique and nontransferrable demographic for which its ministry model was created and paints portraits of both its successes and failures
- NCC’s values, applicable across church cultures and models of group life, include nonlinear discipleship, creating safe environments and continually “blowing up” community

Author Biography

Heather Zempel is the discipleship pastor at National Community Church in Washington, D.C. Before serving at her church, Zempel served in the U.S. Senate as an environment and energy policy advisor from 2001-2005. She has previously published Sacred Roads: Exploring the Historic Paths of Discipleship, including DVD leader guides, with Threads/Lifeway.

“Sometimes people talk about community like it’s some kinda lovey-dovey, touchy-feely part of Christ-centered living. Perhaps it’s just me, but I think community is hard. Maybe I’m just a hard person to have community with, but my experience points to the difficult truth that community is messy. And discipleship is hard. If we want to experience them, we pay a significant price. A price that could cost us our blood, sweat and spit.” —From the introduction, “First Things First: Blood, Sweat and Spit”
Fatherlessness reaches epidemic levels

Angle and Talking Points

The church is uniquely positioned to minister to the fatherless, both within its own community and in society at large. Strong shows how we can make our churches places of refuge for our nation’s fatherless. Churches can reveal a true picture of God as loving Father through mentoring both children and dads, meeting the practical needs of children and much more. By embedding key values into your congregational culture, your church can become a church for the fatherless.

- Tonight about 40 percent of American children will go to sleep in homes in which their fathers do not live
- Between 1960 and 1990 the percentage of children living apart from their fathers rose from 17 to 36 percent, and it continues to rise
- Among teens, only 67 percent live with their biological fathers, compared with the 91 percent who live with their biological mothers. In urban areas, the percentage of teens who live with their fathers drops to only 57 percent. While mothers typically will not leave their children under any circumstances, 24.7 million children live in America without their biological father
- Divorce rates doubled between 1960 and 1990, and according to author Mark Strong, this is one of the most vicious causes of father absenteeism

Author Biography

Mark E. Strong (D. Min., leadership and spirituality, George Fox Evangelical Seminary) is senior pastor of LifeChange Christian Church in Portland, Oregon. He is on the Board of Regents at George Fox Evangelical Seminary.

“Mark Strong doesn’t just unveil the hidden horrors of fatherlessness— he shows how to turn its hardening of hearts into a gardening of hearts with tips straight from the Father’s heart for the fatherless.” —LEONARD SWEET, bestselling author, professor at Drew University and George Fox Evangelical Seminary, and chief contributor to sermons.com

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Barton out to baptize boardroom

Angle and Talking Points

We have all heard countless stories of struggles within churches and ministries over decisions to build, start a new program or handle conflict. Often these struggles create tension and division among the leaders and in turn within their communities. Pursuing God’s Will Together is the remedy for church and ministry leaders who are looking for a way to transform the spiritual dynamic of their leadership teams, the way they function and relate to each other, and the way they make decisions that impact their communities.

- What are the obstacles to group discernment?
- How does a leader become a discerning leader?
- How does a leadership group become a community of discernment?

Author Biography

Ruth Haley Barton (Doctor of Divinity, Northern Seminary) is founding president of the Transforming Center, a spiritual formation ministry to pastors and Christian leaders. A trained spiritual director (Shalem Institute for Spiritual Formation), teacher and retreat leader, she has served on the pastoral staff of several churches, including Willow Creek Community Church. A sought-after teacher, preacher and consultant to leadership teams, she is currently adjunct professor of spiritual transformation at Northern Seminary. Ruth is the author of numerous books and resources on the spiritual life, including Invitation to Solitude and Silence, Sacred Rhythms, Strengthening the Soul of Your Leadership (all InterVarsity Press) and an online resource titled Reflections, spiritual guidance via email. She also contributes regularly to Conversations: A Forum for Authentic Transformation.

thetransformingcenter.org

“Pursuing God’s Will Together is a much-needed corrective to our headstrong individualism today. It drills down deep into rock-bed practicalities for any community seeking to discern the will of God together. I recommend it highly.” —RICHARD J. FOSTER, author of Celebration of Discipline and Sanctuary of the Soul
Prescribing hope

Angle and Talking Points

What can be done to help those suffering with depression? Richard Winter, in his latest book, When Life Goes Dark: Finding Hope in the Midst of Depression, examines the medical, psychological and spiritual issues surrounding depression.

In his book, Winter addresses questions such as:

• What does the disorder of depression encompass?
• How is depression felt across cultures?
• What makes “severe depression” stand out from “the blues”?
• What does it mean to be happy? Generally, what life situations make people happy?
• How do you find contentment? How does this relate to the Bible?
• How do chemistry, genes and biology affect the impact of depression?
• How does early childhood affect our mood in later years?
• In what ways is there a “satanic influence” on our moods and experiences?

Author Biography

Richard Winter, husband and father of four grown children, is a psychotherapist, counselor and professor of practical theology at Covenant Theological Seminary in St. Louis, Missouri. A native of Britain, he trained in medicine and psychiatry in England and has lived in the United States since 1992. His books include Still Bored in a Culture of Entertainment and Perfecting Ourselves to Death.

“Few people will escape the wrenching and sullen emptiness of depression or the exhausting triggers of anxiety—yet there is little available to help us address this heartache from a biblical, neurological, relational and spiritual viewpoint. Richard Winter offers not only decades of wisdom and knowledge, but the fruit of his own personal struggle with depression and anxiety. This is a tour de force.”

—DAN B. ALLENDER, Ph.D., professor of counseling psychology and founding president, The Seattle School of Theology and Psychology
Social justice for the rest of us

Angle and Talking Points

In her latest book, Small Things with Great Love, Margot Starbuck shows the beauty in helping your neighbors in need: you don’t have to travel to Africa or move mountains to make a difference. You don’t have to add overwhelming activities to your daily life. All you’ve got to do is take notice of the opportunities in your regular routine—at Target, on your morning commute, during a play date—that allow you to mirror Jesus’ love for the poor among us.

- What does it mean to do “small things with great love”?
- How does one practically engage a world in need without becoming overwhelmed?
- Is this book only written for young people who have the time and energy to be active in their communities?
- Why is it important that we be in relationship with those at the world’s margins?
- Do you need to travel to foreign countries or faraway areas to start this type of mission?
- What are some practical examples of engaging in hospitality with your neighbors?

Author Biography

Margot Starbuck is a writer and speaker. Her first book, The Girl in the Orange Dress, describes how she came to know that the God who “so loved the world” cares deeply for her. Her second book, Unsqueezed, is about that same love employing people to be agents for the kingdom of Jesus. Recently, Margot has been writing and speaking about everyday justice, living with less stress and spending more time with God.

MargotStarbuck.com

“This book is perfect for a Bible study or just a group that would like to make the neighborhood they live in a little nicer. . . . The common sense of this book reminds us how important it is to reach out to others in our community and enrich not only their lives, but our own as well.” —CONNIE MAIER, CBA Retailers + Resources, January 2012

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New monastics rally around Sermon on the Mount

Angle and Talking Points

Many of us read and are inspired by Jesus' words in the Sermon on the Mount and the seemingly paradoxical Beatitudes. Some of us read about and are inspired by the words and life of Francis of Assisi, who went from being a hedonistic youth to a Christian leader with great charisma and intensity. Fewer among us actually live out the teachings of Jesus in that great passage of Scripture or appropriate the radical choices of Francis.

Jamie Arpin-Ricci and his wife, Kim, have done just that on the rough-and-tumble West End streets of Winnipeg, Manitoba, as part of their work with Youth With A Mission (YWAM) Urban Ministries in Canada and as pastors of Little Flowers Community. *The Cost of Community* masterfully blends reflection on and exhortation from the words of Jesus, the example of Francis and the experiences of Little Flowers Community in Winnipeg as it guides us to live out the Sermon on the Mount—translating what we know and what we say into what we do.

• How can we as Christians strive to be more like St. Francis? What does that look like?
• How does this book modernize Jesus’ Sermon on the Mount?
• How does the Little Flowers community exemplify a “new monasticism”?

Author Biography

**Jamie Arpin-Ricci** is an urban missionary, pastor, church planter and writer living in inner-city Winnipeg. He is founding codirector of Youth With A Mission Urban Ministries Winnipeg with his wife, Kim. He has served with YWAM in Canada since 1994, bringing him to eleven nations. Arpin-Ricci is an active blogger as well as founder and pastor of Little Flowers Community, a missional church plant that is a partnership between YWAM and the Mennonite Church Manitoba.

“*The Cost of Community* is more than just a re-examination of a medieval saint who modeled what it means to take Christ’s words literally and live them out. It is also a moving record of how some Christians have endeavored to re-embry the Franciscan movement in the twenty-first century. This book deserves two thumbs up from any who read it.” —TONY CAMPOLO, Eastern University

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Missional church turns inward

Angle and Talking Points

Over 80 percent of churches in North America have plateaued or are in decline. Meanwhile, addictions, depression, suicide, bullying, pornography and profound loneliness—among other things—signal that the surrounding culture is not okay. So it is a pivotal—if incredibly challenging—time for those who want to share what their faith has to offer a hurting world.

Roger Helland and Leonard Hjalmarson contend that what believers need at this critical moment is a missional spirituality, “a spirituality that forms and feeds mission.” These seasoned leaders offer the church a winsome path forward as they answer questions such as:

• How does embracing a missional spirituality help believers practically address the problems they see around them?
• Why is living a missional spirituality the most effective way to reach unbelievers today?
• What are some practices for developing a missional spirituality?
• What are the challenges to living out a missional spirituality and how can they be overcome?
• What are the theological foundations of a missional spirituality?
• What are some examples of missional spirituality from the past?

Author Biographies

Roger Helland (D.Min., Trinity Western University, Langley, B.C.) is district executive coach for the Baptist General Conference in Alberta, Canada. His other books include The Journey, The Revived Church and Let the River Flow.

Leonard Hjalmarson (D.Min.) is lead pastor at Aylmer Evangelical Mennonite Mission Church in Aylmer, Ontario, and serves as missional navigator for the Ontario region of the Evangelical Mennonite Missions Conference. He is also an adjunct faculty member at Northern Seminary in Chicago.

“Until we deal with the question of spiritual formation, ‘missional church’ will remain a lot of talk. Missional Spirituality addresses this issue for the church in North America. . . . Roger Helland and Len Hjalmarson push us through theology and practice to real life. We learn how to become missionaries, not just talk about it. Highly compelling.” —DAVID FITCH, Lindner Chair of Evangelical Theology, Northern Seminary, and author of The End of Evangelicalism?

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Saxton empowers women for kingdom work

Angle and Talking Points

Women have always played a key role in the church, from announcing the resurrection of Jesus to outnumbering men in the contemporary church. But how many women today are in positions of leadership? How many have been encouraged to pursue their true calling, especially if it means having greater authority than a man? Many women long to be developed as leaders, yet few have received the mentoring or training that they need.

Jo Saxton, a strong female leader herself, has written More Than Enchanting expressly for Christian women who feel called to lead in the church as well as in the world. Drawing on her own and other women’s stories, Saxton offers biblical and practical advice for all women who want to truly blossom into the leaders they are called to be. Saxton covers topics like:

- What does Scripture reveal about God’s intentions for women?
- Why is character development critical to leadership development?
- How can a person begin to discern her calling?
- What are the characteristics of a good mentor?
- How can women effectively navigate male-female relationships, especially in the workplace?
- What does good self-care look like?

Author Biography

Jo Saxton is a speaker, leader, teacher, trainer and coach. She is also a director of 3D Ministries, an organization helping church leaders make discipleship and mission the heartbeat of the local church. Jo lives in southern California with her husband and two daughters.

josaxton.com

“Saxton has changed the conversation. She has catapulted us beyond the same tired debates, the old unanswerable questions and past paradigms to an unmistakable call to action. Women can no longer sit idly on the sidelines or argumentatively in the halls of debate but must step into their unique calling and work in the kingdom.” —HEATHER ZEMPEL, pastor of discipleship, National Community Church, Washington, D.C.
Vocation in action

Angle and Talking Points
Too many believers have an anemic vision of both God’s kingdom and their role in ushering it in. Too often, churches fail to equip their parishioners for deep, creative, intentional vocational stewardship. With years of experience and research, Amy Sherman gives a compelling vision of the kingdom of God and provides the means for pastors to practically help their congregations embrace and employ their vocational power. Let the cities rejoice!

Sherman addresses questions like:

- What does a “rejoiced” city look like?
- Why do Christians need to consider pursuing the common good?
- What sort of spiritual formation do people need to become effective and wise stewards of their resources?
- How can pastors help people identify their passions?
- What are seven dimensions of vocational power?
- What are four practical “pathways” for deploying congregations to greater vocational stewardship?
- What are particular temptations associated with each pathway and how can these be navigated?

Author Biography

Dr. Amy L. Sherman is a senior fellow at the Sagamore Institute, where she directs the Center on Faith in Communities. She is the founder and former executive director of Charlottesville Abundant Life Ministries and serves as a senior fellow with International Justice Mission.

“Amy Sherman is a timely and compelling voice to the church. . . . Kingdom Calling is a very helpful read for pastors and ministry leaders who desire to learn specific and tangible ways on becoming more intentional in equipping congregational members for being a faithful presence for Christ in the world through their vocations.” —TOM NELSON, senior pastor of Christ Community Church in Leawood, Kansas and author of Work Matters
An action-packed guide for the later years

Angle and Talking Points

No matter what stage of life we find ourselves in, we may wonder if what we’ve done with our time on earth bears any significance. But this question becomes especially important when our expectations for lifelong achievement and ability in later years come face to face with a reality that may not meet those lifelong hopes. It’s common to ask,

- Who am I now?
- How should I invest these years?
- Must I redefine myself, and if so, how?
- Can I still make a difference?

Join Dale and Sandy in discovering the exciting ways in which you can learn, with God’s help, to live your legacy.

Author Biography

Dale and Sandy Larsen are writers living in Rochester, Minnesota. They have written more than thirty books and Bible studies together including *Images of God* and *Images of Christ.*

The consolation of late life

Angle and Talking Points

Emilie Griffin is an author, teacher and spiritual director. She is 75 and in her latest book writes about the beauty and difficulty of aging. Pain mingles with gratitude. Here she offers a spirituality that will sustain you in the later years. Topics include:

- Loss and grief
- Physical pain
- Re-setting goals

Author Biography

Emilie Griffin is an award-winning playwright and the author of a number of books, including *Wonderful and Dark Is This Road* and *Doors into Prayer: An Invitation.*

*Emiliegriffin.com*
Are we failing our seniors?

Angle and Talking Points
A noted theologian and an expert in the field of gerontology issue an urgent call to re-conceive the place and part of the elderly and seniors in the local church congregation. Confronting the idea that the aging are mostly a burden on the church, they boldly

- address the moral issues related to caring for elders
- provide examples of successful caregiving programs
- challenge the church to restore broken connections across the generations

Author Biographies

James M. Houston is founding principal, former chancellor and emeritus professor of spiritual theology at Regent College in Vancouver, British Columbia. He is the author of more than forty books.

Michael Parker is associate professor in the School of Social Work and a board member for the Center for Mental Health and Aging at the University of Alabama at Birmingham.

A guidebook for retirement

Angle and Talking Points
Developed and field-tested at the Max De Pree Center for Leadership, this guide includes material for individuals and groups that will enable 50-somethings (and up) to prepare for the next chapter of life with confidence.

- What steps can we take to transition out of a midlife career?
- In what ways do people approach retirement differently today than 20 or 30 years ago?
- What are encore careers?

Author Biography

Walter C. Wright Jr., Ph.D., is executive director of the Max De Pree Center for Leadership in Pasadena. He served for twelve years as president and professor of leadership at Regent College in Vancouver, Canada.

depree.org

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Visit ivpress.com/media.
Paradigm shift needed for next generation leaders

Angle and Talking Points

Steve Saccone has a history of being part of a calling to help the called. With over a decade of leadership development experience, he has, through God’s help, catalyzed the growth and character of protégés around the globe. In this book Saccone shows how the church can raise up leaders from within their own community and develop them into passionate, faithful servants of God.

- The texture and velocity of the movement of Christ depends on the texture and velocity of the leaders leading it.
- Young leaders (in age and experience) need to gain clarity on their ministry path in order to become the kind of ministry leaders they long to become.
- Offers new paradigms and unique ways for leaders to develop their craft, stretch their leadership skills and engage a deeper spiritual and character-forming journey.

Author Biography

Steve Saccone is a director of leadership development at The Highway Community in the San Francisco Bay Area, where he trains and develops emerging leaders, staff and volunteers. He also founded and directed The Protégé Program, a global leadership experience for future entrepreneurs, church planters and spiritual leaders. He was on staff at Mosaic in Los Angeles and served at Willow Creek Community Church in South Barrington, Illinois. He is the author of Relational Intelligence, and he and his wife, Cheri, are the parents of two boys.

“As I read this book, I am amazed at the holistic approach Steve takes toward leadership development. He challenges more seasoned leaders to engage with younger leaders and plumb the depths of sin, healthy leadership, the gospel and the church. . . . And I’m not just impressed with and excited about this very necessary book . . . I know Steve. I’ve worked with him and he authentically lives out the pages he has written. Perhaps that is the highest praise of all.”—NANCY ORTBERG, author of Non-Linear Leadership
New life stage changes the rules for mentorship

Angle and Talking Points
Veteran disciplmakers Rick Dunn and Jana Sundene offer concrete guidance for those who shepherd and care for emerging adults, emphasizing relational rhythms of discernment, intentionality and reflection to meet emerging adults where they are and then to walk with them further into the Christlife.

- Emerging adulthood is a time of identity exploration and instability, yet many emerging adults find themselves without meaningful relationships to help them find their way.
- Disciplmakers who are willing to connect in simple yet significant ways during this transitional period will shape the journey of emerging adults with grace and truth.
- The key factor that determines whether young adults are thriving or simply surviving is always the same: the availability and accessibility of teachers, coaches, pastors, friends and mentors who are committed to investing in their spiritual vitality.

Author Biographies

Richard R. Dunn (Ph.D., Trinity Evangelical Divinity School) is lead pastor at Fellowship Evangelical Free Church in Knoxville, Tennessee, a congregation consisting primarily of emerging adults. He was formerly chair of educational ministries at Trinity Evangelical Divinity School in Deerfield, Illinois. He is the author of Shaping the Spiritual Life of Students.

Jana L. Sundene is associate professor of Christian ministries at Trinity International University in Deerfield, Illinois. She has a master's in communication studies from Trinity Evangelical Divinity School with an emphasis in interpersonal and group communication theory. She also holds an M.A. in communication theory from Northern Illinois University. Jana is on the leadership core of Life on the Vine Christian Community, a missional church in Long Grove, Illinois.

“It is a fact that today's emerging twentysomethings face challenges never imagined by their parents. Discipling them has never been more urgent. . . . Jana and Rick offer a way beyond fads into the depths of life in Christ for young adults. If we the church would face the future, we must read this book.” —DAVID FITCH, B. R. Lindner Chair of Evangelical Theology, Northern Seminary, and author of The End of Evangelicalism?
Giberson: Science affirms belief in Creator

Angle and Talking Points

Karl Giberson takes us on a fascinating guided tour of planets and protons, galaxies and gamma rays. For many, even those who do not embrace religious faith, it looks like the expression of a grand plan—a cosmic architecture capable of both supporting life such as ours, and of inspiring observers like us to seek out a creator.

- One of the few resources from a leading evangelical press that treats science with the respect it deserves, rather than suggesting that there is something sinister in science that Christians should fear
- Believers can bring their belief in God as Creator to science and find that belief affirmed
- Written from the unique perspective of an on-the-ground investigator
- Theories like the Big Bang invite theological speculation; they do not close it off
- Includes four-color insert of NASA photographs, classic artwork and other scientific images

Author Biography

Karl W. Giberson (Ph.D.) is an internationally known scholar whose work has been translated into several languages. He is a popular speaker and writer, and directs the Science & Religion writing workshop at Gordon College. Giberson has published over two hundred articles, reviews and essays and written nine books, including Saving Darwin and, with Francis Collins, The Language of Science and Faith.

kargiberson.com

“In The Wonder of the Universe, Karl Giberson takes us on a delightful journey through space and time, offering enlightening insights into key historical events that shaped our understanding of the universe with glimpses of the wonder and glory of our Creator.”—RANDY ISAAC, American Scientific Affiliation

“Giberson lays out the case that the universe is ‘wonderful, surprising and provocatively friendly to life’ in an appealing and readable way. This book will be a welcome addition to the library of books on science and faith, one in which the reader is encouraged to see scientific advances as ‘encouragements to faith, rather than challenges.’ Individuals, churches and student groups will find it helpful.”—DOROTHY BOORSE, professor of biology, Gordon College
Ancient Corinth comes alive

Angle and Talking Points

What would it be like to experience life in the ancient town of Corinth as one of its citizens? And how might knowledge of this vital center of the New Testament world yield insights about Paul's letters to the church there?

With historical accuracy and narrative skill, renowned New Testament scholar Ben Witherington has penned a fictional account of a merchant's life in Corinth through an eventful week of business dealings and conflict. Readers will discover what it was like to live in this bustling coastal town as they join Nicanor in his day-to-day dealings. Witherington's tale highlights details such as:

- The nature of slavery and household codes
- How Roman occupation radically changed the city
- Paul's physical description and health problems
- Home schooling Greco-Roman style
- Wining and dining in ancient times
- The Roman justice system
- Common Greek beliefs about prophecy and the afterlife

Author Biography

Ben Witherington III (Ph.D., University of Durham, England) is Amos Professor of New Testament at Asbury Theological Seminary in Wilmore, Kentucky. He is the author of many books on the New Testament, including The Jesus Quest, The Paul Quest, Conflict and Community in Corinth and his two-volume New Testament theology, The Indelible Image. Witherington has also appeared on numerous TV news programs such as Dateline, 60 Minutes, 20/20 and the Peter Jennings ABC special Jesus and Paul—The Word and the Witness.

patheos.com/blogs/bibleandculture

“...a window into the world of Paul's Corinthian letters. Witherington creatively brings the setting of Paul's Corinthian ministry to life with historical rigor and narrative artistry. Witherington brings to us the sights, smells, sounds and culture of Corinth as the apostle Paul knew it.” —MICHAEL BIRD, lecturer in theology and Bible, Crossway College, Australia, and Euangelion blogger

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Visit ivpress.com/media.
Next stop: Christendom

Angle and Talking Points

“Pilgrimages have long been significant to the Christian life, as have mentors,” says James Emery White, author of *A Traveler’s Guide to the Kingdom*. “This is something of an attempt to combine the two.”

By taking you to places like Martin Luther’s Wittenburg, where the 95 theses were nailed to a church door, and The Eagle and Child pub, where C. S. Lewis, J. R. R. Tolkien and the other Inklings met to write and dream together, White engages the imagination to learn about Christian history. He then takes you even deeper, exploring key themes from these historical moments such as calling, conversion and spirituality and showing their implications for the Christian life today. “As we travel together to pubs and cathedrals,” he writes, “we will immerse ourselves in what God did—and still can do.”

White explores the topics of:

- **Community** at the Apartheid Museum in Johannesburg, South Africa
- **Calling** at the Billy Graham Library in Charlotte, North Carolina
- **Trusting God’s will** at the Ten Boom House in Haarlem, Holland
- **Doubts** at Dachau Concentration Camp in Dachau, Germany

Author Biography

**James Emery White** is the founding and senior pastor of Mecklenburg Community Church in Charlotte, North Carolina. He is also adjunct professor of theology and culture at Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary, where he previously served as the school’s fourth president. White is the author of over a dozen books, including such Gold Medallion nominees as *Serious Times* and *A Search for the Spiritual.*

churchandculture.org
How to pray for the whole world

Angle and Talking Points

*Operation World* has been hailed as one of the most influential books to shape evangelicals in the last half century. Called a "manual for revolution" by Peter Greig, 24-7 Prayer cofounder, this country-by-country prayer guide has sold 2.5 million copies in six editions. In 2010, Patrick Johnstone officially resigned from the cover, passing his thirty-six-year legacy to Canadian researcher Jason Mandryk, the author of the updated and revised seventh edition.

**Author Biography**

**Jason Mandryk** is a regular speaker at mission events and holds his master's degree in global Christian studies from Providence College and Theological Seminary in Canada. He coauthored the sixth edition of *Operation World*, released in 2001, with Patrick Johnstone.

"Outside of the Bible, no book has had a greater practical impact on my personal prayer life than Operation World. God has used this book to open my eyes and the eyes of the church I pastor to the needs of the world and the greatness of the God who desires to make his glory known in the world. I eagerly welcome this new edition and wholeheartedly recommend it."—DAVID PLATT, author of Radical

**Angle and Talking Points**

Intertwining strands of history, demographics and religion, *The Future of the Global Church* presents a bold, sweeping, full-color graphical and textual overview of the past, present and possible future of the church around the world. Author Patrick Johnstone highlights the impact of evangelical Christianity over the past two centuries, as well as the astonishing growth of evangelicalism over the past half century. He addresses the unfinished task of world evangelization, placing special emphasis on the world's least-evangelized peoples and on the role of the local church in tackling this task.

**Author Biography**

**Patrick Johnstone** is well known and respected as researcher and author of the first six editions of *Operation World*. Patrick also wrote *The Church Is Bigger Than You Think*. Patrick is married to Robyn, and together they serve as pastors-at-large to the WEC missionaries in Europe.

[thefutureoftheglobalchurch.org](http://thefutureoftheglobalchurch.org)
Theologian confronts Christ’s darkest moment

Angle and Talking Points

“My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?” This wrenching question, asked by Christ at his darkest moment on the cross, has perplexed scholars for generations. In Forsaken, Thomas McCall presents a trinitarian reading of this crucifixion moment. In analyzing the biblical texts alongside interpretations offered by the church fathers, the Reformers and modern theologians, McCall seeks to recover the true poignancy of the orthodox perspective on the cross.

Throughout this stirring text, McCall addresses questions like:

- Did God forsake Jesus?
- Did the Father turn his back on the Son in rage?
- Was the Trinity ruptured or broken on that day?
- Did the death of Jesus somehow make it possible for God to love me?
- Why did Jesus die?
- Did his death accomplish anything? Or was it merely a senseless act of brutality, a meaningless tragedy?
- Many Christians feel they are forsaken by God. Is this what God does? Must God do so because of sin?
- Is Jesus for us, on our side protecting us from God?

Author Biography

Thomas H. McCall (Ph.D., Calvin Seminary) is associate professor of biblical and systematic theology at Trinity Evangelical Divinity School in Deerfield, Illinois. He is the author of Which Trinity? Whose Monotheism? Philosophical and Systematic Theologians on the Metaphysics of Trinitarian Theology.

“By addressing the thorny question of how we speak well of God given Jesus’ cry of dereliction, Thomas McCall’s Forsaken offers not only a welcome but also an indispensable contribution to theology proper.

. . . Careful readers of this book will avoid tempting but misguided modern theological confusions.”
—D. STEPHEN LONG, Marquette University

Forsaken: The Trinity and the Cross, and Why It Matters
May 2012
$20, 171 pages, paperback
978-0-8308-3958-2
Card models art of gospel reading

Angle and Talking Points
“...I agree with those who would be cautious of using the word imagination, for with an uninformed imagination Jesus is merely a figment,” writes Michael Card in Mark: The Gospel of Passion. “But when the imagination is surrendered along with the heart and mind, it becomes a unifying bridge that opens the Scriptures in new and exciting ways.”

For years Michael Card’s music has imaginatively explored the narrative power of the Word of God. Now, in the Biblical Imagination Series, Card invites readers to enter into Scripture as he does, at the level of the imagination. Taking seriously the individual life of each Gospel writer, these volumes help us reintegrate our minds with our hearts to recapture our imaginations for Christ.

With the books and CDs of the Biblical Imagination Series, we get a clearer picture of what has motivated Michael Card’s prolific output: a simple desire to read and teach the Bible. Bringing together the author and the musician under the heading of the “biblical imagination,” this series is a touchstone in the career of this celebrated Christian artist.

Other current and forthcoming titles from the Biblical Imagination Series:
• Luke: A World Turned Upside Down, 978-0-8308-3801-1, CD
• Matthew: The Gospel of Identity, 978-0-8308-3812-7, May 2013, paperback

Author Biography
Michael Card is an award-winning musician and performing artist. He earned a master’s degree in biblical studies from Western Kentucky University. His many albums include An Invitation to Awe, comprising twenty-four songs on the Old Testament, and The Life, a trilogy of recordings on the New Testament. Card lives in Tennessee with his wife and four children.

BiblicalImagination.com

“Though Card taps into the discoveries of scholars, his work is accessible to the lay reader. . . . He lives up to his goal of providing a fresh, rich approach to the biblical text.”
—BRIAN SMITH MCCALLUM, Christian Retailing, February 2011