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Public Intellectuals and the Common Good *Christian Thinking for Human Flourishing*

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Conversations on Public Intellectuals

Katelyn Beaty is an acquisitions editor with Brazos Press. She began her career with Christianity Today as a copy editor, launched the women's website (Her.meneutics), and eventually became the magazine's youngest and first female managing editor. In 2016 she published her first book, *A Woman's Place: A Christian Vision for Your Calling in the Office, the Home, and the World*. She contributes to the *Washington Post*, the *Atlantic*, and the *New York Times*, and comments on faith and culture for CNN, ABC, NPR, the Associated Press, Religion News Service, the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation, and McClatchy Newspapers.

Christopher J. Devers is assistant professor of education at Johns Hopkins University and senior fellow for operations of the Lumen Research Institute. Overall, Devers is interested in applied metacognitive processes and how people learn. Specifically, he explores learning using videos and mobile devices, and in online environments. He is also interested in the scholarship of teaching and learning and student success.

Heather Templeton Dill is president of the John Templeton Foundation. Most recently she served as executive liaison to the president. Prior to joining the foundation staff, she taught high school-level history, government, and economics in Pennsylvania. While living in Charlottesville, Virginia, she was a homeschool educator as well as a manuscript editor and research assistant at the University of Virginia. Dill is also currently a member of the board of First Trust Bank and previously served on the Templeton Religion Trust steering committee and the Templeton World Charity Foundation board.

Emmanuel Katongole is professor of theology and peace studies at the University of Notre Dame. A Catholic priest, he previously served as associate professor of theology and world Christianity at Duke University, where he was the codirector of the Center for Reconciliation. Katongole is the author of books on the Christian social imagination, the crisis of faith following the genocide in Rwanda, and Christian approaches to justice, peace, and reconciliation. His most recent book is *The Sacrifice of Africa: A Political Theology for Africa*.

Linda A. Livingstone is the president of Baylor University. She previously served as dean and professor of management at the George Washington University School of Business, from 2014 to 2017, and as dean of Pepperdine University's Graziadio School of Business and Management, from 2002 to 2014. As a scholar of organizational behavior, she has contributed to journals such as the *American Business Review*, the *Journal of Organizational Behavior*, and the *Journal of High Technology Management Research*, and to books such as *Business and Corporate Integrity: Sustaining Organizational Compliance, Ethics, and Trust*.



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George M. Marsden is professor of history emeritus at the University of Notre Dame. As one of the most distinguished historians of American Christianity, Marsden writes on topics such as evangelicalism and higher education. His most significant books include *Fundamentalism and American Culture*, *The Soul of the American University*, *The Outrageous Idea of Christian Scholarship*, and *The Twilight of the American Enlightenment*. His *Jonathan Edwards: A Life* won the Bancroft Prize in 2004.

Jerry Pattengale is university professor at Indiana Wesleyan University and codirector of the Lumen Research Institute. Previously, he also served as executive director of education at the Museum of the Bible (Washington, DC) and was one of its two founding scholars. Pattengale has authored over twenty books and contributes to a wide variety of outlets, including the *Wall Street Journal*, *Christianity Today*, the *Washington Post*, *Inside Higher Ed*, *Patheos*, the *Chicago Tribune*, and the History Channel.

John M. Perkins is a minister, civil rights leader, and community developer. He is the cofounder of the Christian Community Development Association and with his wife, Vera Mae Perkins, established the John and Vera Mae Perkins Foundation. The John M. Perkins Leadership Fellows Program at Calvin College and the John Perkins Center for Reconciliation, Leadership Training, and Community Development at Seattle Pacific University are both named in his honor and respectively seek to carry on the work to which Perkins has committed his life. He is also the author of numerous books, including *A Quiet Revolution*, *Welcoming Justice*, and *Dream with Me*.

Todd C. Ream is professor of higher education at Taylor University, senior fellow for programming with the Lumen Research Institute, and publisher for *Christian Scholar's Review*. Previously, Ream served on college and university campuses in residence life, student support services, and honors programs, and as a chief student development officer. He is the author and editor of many books and contributes to a wide variety of publications, including *About Campus*, *Christianity Today*, *First Things*, *Inside Higher Ed*, *Modern Theology*, *New Blackfriars*, *Notre Dame Magazine*, *The Review of Higher Education*, and *Teachers College Record*. He is presently working on a series of books concerning Theodore M. Hesburgh, CSC.

Miroslav Volf is the director of the Yale Center for Faith and Culture and the Henry B. Wright Professor of Theology at Yale University. He has written or edited more than twenty books and over ninety scholarly articles. His most significant books include *Exclusion and Embrace* (the recipient of the 2002 Grawemeyer Award), *After Our Likeness*, *Allah*, and *A Public Faith*. Volf has given many lectures, including the Dudleian Lecture at Harvard University, the Chavasse Lectures at the University of Oxford, the Waldenstroem Lectures at Stockholm University, the Gray Lectures at Duke University, and the Stob Lectures at Calvin College. He has also been featured on National Public Radio's *Speaking of Faith* and Public Television's *Religion and Ethics Newsweekly*.



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David W. Wright is the president of Indiana Wesleyan University. Previously, he served as Indiana Wesleyan's provost and helped develop Wesley Seminary, the School of Nursing, the School of Health Sciences, the Ron Blue Institute for Financial Planning, and the National Conversations. Earlier in his career at Indiana Wesleyan, Wright led the university's entry into online education and initiated the regional campus development strategy. Beyond his tenure at Indiana Wesleyan University, Wright served as dean of the School of Theology at Azusa Pacific University and with theological education ministries for the Wesleyan Church in England and Haiti.

Amos Yong is dean of the School of Theology and the School of Intercultural Studies and professor of theology and mission at Fuller Theological Seminary. He has authored or edited almost four dozen volumes, including *The Future of Evangelical Theology*, *Renewing Christian Theology* (with Jonathan A. Anderson), *Interdisciplinary and Religio-cultural Discourses on a Spirit-Filled World* (coedited with Veli-Matti Kärkkäinen and Kirsteen Kim), *Pneumatology and the Christian-Buddhist Dialogue*, *The Cosmic Breath*, and *Spirit of Love*. Yong has also authored over two hundred articles for a wide range of peer-reviewed journals, edited collections, and other venues. He is the past president of the Society for Pentecostal Studies.



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ENDORSEMENTS



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Public Intellectuals for Human Flourishing

“The phrases ‘public intellectuals’ and ‘common good’ are often misunderstood and misappropriated. But confusion over their meanings does not diminish their importance—inside and outside of Christian discourse. This impressive volume assembles leading experts and practitioners whose work and lives shed light on what it means for Christians to engage in public discourse, and the social ends toward which that engagement points. ”

—**John D. Inazu**, Sally D. Danforth Distinguished Professor of Law and Religion and professor of political science, Washington University in St. Louis

“We are alive at a time of profound disorientation. We know instinctively the pace of change is accelerating and that we can’t comprehend the scope of overlapping crises everywhere we turn. It’s a moment that cries out for public intellectuals—truth tellers who help light our way forward. Yet as our society fragments and diversifies, it is increasingly difficult for us to agree on what truth even is. Because I am a journalist, I grapple constantly with this call to truth telling. How do we get to truth, and how do we inform the world? After reading *Public Intellectuals and the Common Good*, I am now reconsidering and expanding how I view this role. It may not be enough for us simply to tell truthful stories—we also have an active role to play as moral contributors to the common good. ”

—**Deborah Caldwell**, chief executive officer and publisher, Religion News Service

“We’re in great need of a Christian public voice amid the ravages of Trumpism. In this collection of compelling, invigorating essays, there is encouragement and modeling for how Christians can speak up in service to the common good. I read these essays amid the double pandemic of COVID-19 and white supremacist backlash. Here’s a book needed now more than ever.”

—**William H. Willimon**, professor of the practice of Christian ministry at Duke University Divinity School

“At a time when separate identities and discord are championed as a way forward, this collection of essays offers hope in seeking the ‘common good.’ At a time when the microphone has been co-opted by those who divide, this work seeks to reclaim the microphone by bringing us together. At a time when the ivory tower has become a target, this collection calls for intellectuals to engage. The essays invite those within the evangelical movement to an expansive vision and those outside the evangelical movement to a broader view of visionaries than the stereotypes portray. It deserves a wide reading.”

—**Gregory E. Sterling**, dean and Lillian Claus Professor of New Testament at Yale



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“While some fear that the role of the public intellectual has been overpowered by social media platforms on which anyone can claim to be an authority or influencer, *Public Intellectuals and the Common Good* makes the case for pursuing and honoring the vocation of the public intellectual. Whether as theologians, scholars, journalists, or social activists, Christians have been called to identify and argue for a vision of human flourishing that crosses religious and cultural boundaries, making complex ideas accessible for all citizens. These provocative essays explore both the theoretical views and personal practices of Christian public intellectuals in the United States, who serve as prophetic voices in an age of incivility. ”

—**Susan VanZanten**, assistant vice president of mission and spiritual life and dean of Christ College, Valparaiso University

“‘Public intellectual’ and ‘common good’ are two terms that have lost much of their valence in our frayed and polarized culture. While acknowledging the gap, the essays in this volume call for a renewal of these ideals and present concrete ways to reengage for the good of us all. A book of wisdom worth serious attention. ”

—**Timothy George**, research professor of divinity at Beeson Divinity School, Samford University

“Can there be an authentic Christian voice in the public square? Can the church contribute to the common good in the context of polarization, fragmentation, and anti-intellectualism? This timely volume of perceptive essays offers insight into some of the most important issues of our day. It deserves careful consideration and widespread discussion. ”

—**Jeffrey P. Greenman**, president and professor of theology and ethics at Regent College



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