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Allen's "The SBC and the 21st Century" (Book Review)

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- To develop positive, knowledgeable, and confident self-identity within a cultural context.
- To demonstrated comfortable, empathetic interaction with diversity among people.
- To think critically about “bias.”
- To stand up for oneself and others in the face of bias.

This is an excellent book that can be used by parents, teachers, church leaders, and others wishing to learn more about living in a culturally diverse society.

Reviewer

W.Terry Martin, Louisiana College

McDonough, V. (2016). *Sarah's surrender*. Uhrichville, OH: Shiloh Run Press. 318 pp. \$14.99. ISBN 9781628369533

Sarah's Surrender is Vickie McDonough's third book in her historical series *Land Rush Dreams*. Set in 1901, the story revolves around Sarah Worley, a young woman who has had a very tumultuous upbringing, and so has a hard time trusting or surrendering – surrendering to God, to her feelings, to the past, and to the future. Consequently, when her best friend, Luke McNeil, declares his love for her she is conflicted and decides to venture out on her own by competing for land in the Oklahoma Territory land lottery. She is certain that owning her own home, on her own land, and doing so by herself will fulfill all of her dreams. But what of Luke and his professed love for her? Does she even know what real love is? Can Luke be trusted with her heart and her future? Is her independence more important to her than stepping out in faith and trusting? Sarah has many setbacks on her journey to independence but keeps going forward with determination and grit.

Reviewer

Sherill L. Harriger, Warner University

Allen, J.K. (Ed.). (2016). *The SBC and the 21st Century*. Nashville, TN: B&H Academic. 269 pp. \$29.99. ISBN 9781433644399

The SBC and the 21st Century edited by Jason K. Allen arose out of a symposium President Allen held at Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in the fall of 2015.

Allen gathered Southern Baptist Convention (SBC) entity heads Paige Patterson, Frank Page, Thom Rainer, Ronnie Floyd, and R. Albert Mohler Jr. along with other influential Southern Baptist leaders including David Dockery. These addresses along with additional contributions from SBC leaders like Daniel Akin, David Platt, Kevin Ezell, Owen Strachan, Tony Merida, and Walter Strickland II who were unable to attend the symposium form the corpus of this volume.

Allen's overall purpose in the book is to further the cause of Southern Baptists and their calling "to be a people standing on the Word of God and moving forward together to reach the world with the gospel of Jesus Christ" (p. 6). To this end, he had the contributors address issues distinctive to the SBC like the Cooperative Program, state conventions, church membership, Southern Baptist identity, ecclesiology, missions, and Baptist history as well as issues related to a broader evangelical base like the SBC's relationship to evangelicalism at large, current issues in the sexual revolution, and ethnic diversity. Every contributor writes in his own distinctive style, but the content across the spectrum is phenomenal. It is difficult to elevate one particular essay over another because they all successfully serve their purpose. This book is critically important for anyone wanting to better understand Southern Baptist history, the SBC as it stands today, and where it must head for the future. Allen's book is essential reading for any Southern Baptist leader or those aspiring to be a leader, whether it be at the national, state, associational, or local church level.

Reviewer

Charles Huckaby, Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary

Qureshi, N. (2016). *Seeking Allah, finding Jesus: A devout Muslim encounters Christianity*. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan. 363 pp. \$17.99. ISBN 9780310527237

As the child of Pakistani immigrants to the United States, Dr. Nabeel Qureshi absorbed the beliefs and practices of Islam from birth. His close friendship with a Christian classmate at a Virginia university led Qureshi to explore the foundations of Islam and to compare the teachings of Islam with the Christian faith. Qureshi gave his life to Christ during medical school. Since completing medical school, Dr. Qureshi has earned degrees in Christian apologetics and religion, and he has been a speaker with Ravi Zacharias International Ministries. His first book, *Seeking Allah, Finding Jesus*, became the first double-category winner of the Christian Book Award in 2015, winning in both the Non-Fiction and New Author categories.

Seeking Allah, Finding Jesus is more than a Christian autobiography. In his introduction, the author states three purposes for the book: