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Nettle and Mellado's "Small matters: How churches and parents can raise up world-changing children" (Book Review)

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Flores, T., & Wells, P. (2016). *Slavery in the land of the free: A student's guide to modern day slavery*. Boise, ID: Ampelton Publishing. 175 pp. ISBN 9780989341981

“As long as the demand exists, people are at risk” (p. 92) – those words are a sad commentary on our society. *Slavery in the Land of the Free: A Student's Guide to Modern Day Slavery* by Theresa Flores and Peggy Sue Wells presents the facts about human trafficking in easy to read stories accompanied by graphics and statistics. Being co-authored by a former trafficking victim lends credibility and authenticity to a horrific plague on our society. Trafficked children and teens become part of an adult world that they have no business being in and then cannot or do not know how to get out of it. They are manipulated by fear, coercion, and intimidation and the threat that others in their family will be hurt if they do not cooperate. I fully intend to share this book with my teenage grandchildren so they are informed and prepared and do not become victims because knowledge is (indeed) power (Francis Bacon) in these circumstances.

Reviewer

Sherill L. Harriger, Warner University

Nettle, G., & Mellado, S. (2016). *Small matters: How churches and parents can raise up world-changing children*. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan. 185 pp. \$21.00. ISBN 9780310521037

“Every child is at risk” is the beginning of chapter one of the work *Small Matters: How Churches and Parents Can Raise Up World-Changing Children* by authors Greg Nettle and Santiago “Jimmy” Mellado. The authors have experience in church planting and anti-poverty efforts respectfully. Their emphasis is that regardless of socio-economic condition, all children privileged or impoverished are at-risk, facing diseases and dangers related to their environment. It is the responsibility of Christian churches and parents to equip children to become disciples of Christ for their entire lives.

Through eleven chapters, the authors use situations in their personal lives to discuss ways that the physical and spiritual lives of children have not been addressed. Stories describe children in poverty and children in affluence both in the United States and around the world. Each child has needs in their lives but most importantly has the same need of Christ in their lives. Children are to be valued and have their needs ministered for their own sake, not just to have a family friendly church that their parents will want to belong. Biblical passages are utilized to illustrate the biblical evidence in support of the authors' presentation.

Small matters is thought provoking. Nettle and Mellado ask the reader to rethink their actions and approach to the growth and nurturing of children into disciples of Christ.

Reviewer

Paul Drake, Pacific Islands University

Keener, C. S. (2016). *Spirit hermeneutics: Reading scripture in the light of Pentecost*. Grand Rapids, MI: Wm. B. Eerdmans. 522 pp. ISBN 9780802874399

I have heard it claimed many times by students, faculty and theologians alike that there just is not much written about a Holy Spirit hermeneutic. So when I noticed that Craig Keener had recently written this book, I wanted to read what he had to say. Maybe it would suffice to say that Keener is regarded as one the premier theologians today but no matter, this is a must read book for anyone wanting to gain a fuller understanding of what God's Word says.

Keener writes from the basic understanding that originally, Christians who experienced the infilling of the Holy Spirit did not intend to start a new church or branch of Christianity – much the same as Luther never meant to leave the Catholic Church but rather to reform some of the church's practices of his day.

So the claim that there is not much written by theologians about a Spirit hermeneutic are incorrect indeed because much has been written by theologians who do not identify themselves as “Charismatic or Pentecostal” but who are truly Spirit filled and write from within the broader context of Christianity as a whole.

Keener takes the reader back to Pentecost, walks through time exploring global readings, digs deep into cultural issues, majority world insights, ancient meanings of texts, literary and historical approaches and why this is all necessary to understanding the truth of the Word and the Spirit's role in assisting us with that understanding.

Keener explores the traditional approaches to Bible reading, both Old and New Testaments as well as how he believes Jesus invites us to hear the Bible. He then dives deep into an explanation of what a truly Charismatic or Pentecostal reading of Holy Scripture is. He makes a bold declaration that not all that gets lumped in with Pentecostal or Charismatic theology is truly that. Keener takes pains to describe the unethical approaches to theology that some television preachers or other popular preacher/teachers use and contrasts that with genuine, proven methods of interpreting scripture.