

Volume 60 | Issue 1

Article 39


4-28-2017

Paicardo's "Funding ministry with five loaves and two fishes" (Book Review)

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Recommended Citation

Warwick, Nancy (2017) "Paicardo's "Funding ministry with five loaves and two fishes" (Book Review)," *The Christian Librarian*: Vol. 60 : Iss. 1 , Article 39.

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Orchard, S. (2016). *A fool and his Monet: A Serena Jones mystery*. Grand Rapids, MI: Revell. 334 pp. \$14.99 ISBN 9780800726713

For those of us who enjoy our mysteries with a side of humor, Sandra Orchard has provided very enjoyable entertainment. Sandra Orchard has been writing award winning Christian fiction. This Serena Jones mystery is the first novel in this series. Serena Jones is a new FBI agent working with the Art Crime Team. Serena has a cat, which doesn't hunt mice; a mother, who worries about Serena's safety; a best friend, Zoe, who happens to be the head of security at a local art museum; a uniquely talented older aunt; and two single men in her life who would like to be more than acquaintances. Readers of the Stephanie Plum detective series by Janet Evanovich will enjoy Aunt Martha. Serena is asked to quietly investigate a recent art theft. Of course, "quietly" doesn't happen. Sandra Orchard throws us several tempting red herrings and some dangerous situations, along with inside information about thefts of art works. If your library offers leisurely reading, this is an excellent choice.

Reviewer

Kathleen F. Kempa, Southeastern University

Paicardo, R. (2016). *Funding ministry with five loaves and two fishes*. Nashville, TN: Abingdon Press. 124 pp. ISBN 9781501818929

This checklist of practical ways to increase church ministry funding will appeal to pastors, church planters, and lay leaders in churches across the United States and Canada.

Many churches are presently struggling financially to make ends meet. This book inspires ideas and sparks solutions to some outreach and ministry related concerns.

Well researched, there is a comprehensive bibliography attached to each chapter. The introduction laments that pastors are often not taught budgeting principles, which means they may not be adequately equipped to deal with this issue of shrinking operational and ministry resources.

The chapter entitled, "Why So Hungry?" focuses on the issue of debt, not only for families and individuals but also for churches.

The second chapter, entitled "Mission Drives Ministry," reinforces the need for the church to be mission-minded.

Chapter 3, entitled “Using Your Assets,” highlights the value of leasing church space for related missional functions such as schools, outreach literacy, and other community organizations.

The fourth chapter, entitled “Partners,” supports sharing team building responsibilities with other organizations pursuing similar goals or target markets.

The chapter entitled “Fundraising or Grants for Projects” recommends pursuing grant revenue, such as retrofitting pipes for drainage and sewer extensions. Awareness of opportunities including crowdfunding, training workshop revenues are examples that local churches might wish to explore.

The last chapter, entitled, “Outreach on a Budget,” capitalizes on identifying individuals in a church who have unique talents and interests that might translate into ministry opportunities. Starting up ministries for single moms with diaper distribution or offering laundry detergent in a poorer neighbourhood are two examples of creative low cost successful ministries that other churches have launched.

In conclusion, this title will be an inspirational tool for a church leaders seeking creative ideas to stretch ministry dollars. It will likely inspire church leadership team to catch hold of some fresh ideas and insights powerful enough to become goals that may successfully stretch funding dollars.

This title is recommended for smaller-sized churches that are struggling to stretch shrinking church ministry budgets, and leaders hoping to prioritize practical solutions to this problem. It will be useful for gathering fresh funding ideas.

Reviewer

Nancy Warwick

Shannon, D. (Ed.). (2012). *George Liele's life and legacy: An unsung hero*. Macon, GA. Mercer University Press. 184 pp. \$35.00. ISBN 9780881463897

This volume contains an anthology of essays regarding the life of George [Sharp] Liele, who was born as a slave in colonial Virginia and then separated from his parents during a move to Georgia in 1764. The essays contain the history of the Separatist Baptist movement in the southern colonies, which is a unique aspect of religious history in the United States. The essays grew out of the George Liele Research Group, whose objective was to chronicle the life and theology of this 18th century minister through archival research in the south and on the island of Jamaica,