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Waggoner and Herndon's "Starting with Character: Activities for Infants, Toddlers, and Twos" (Book Review)

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the audience confirms their attempt to ascend” (p. 25). The union of a focus on the individual soul’s ascent with the historical “alignment” hermeneutic does not allow ascent to be a purely individualistic (and Platonic) action, nor an ahistorical movement: individual souls striving toward Zion travel there in the company of other believers – long past as well as present – together approaching the divine.

In five substantive chapters, McLarney first sets out patristic hermeneutical principles to contextualize Augustine’s approach (chapter 1), proceeding next to a literary-rhetorical contextualization (chapter 2), before turning to social, cultural, and liturgical aspects (chapter 3). More detailed attention is given to the specifics of Augustine’s hermeneutic as McLarney draws out Augustine’s method in Psalm 120 (chapter 4) and continues through Psalms 121-126 (Chapter 5).

While beautifully-written and richly informative, McLarney treats only these few Ascent Psalms, explaining that Augustine’s hermeneutic of alignment is not as evident in his exegesis of later psalms. This limitation is somewhat disappointing, but at least the author refrains from forcing the text. The reader should also be aware that this book is a tool to use alongside the Scripture and Augustine’s sermons, neither of which are actually contained in the volume (although copiously cited). Beneficiaries of this dense and specific monograph include students of Patristics, hermeneutics, and homiletics. This volume is appropriate and recommended for doctoral seminars as well as upper-level Master’s electives. It could also benefit pastors willing to wade through the more technical material in order to learn from a master preacher how to align the “text and audience within the common framework of redemptive history” (p. 21).

Starting with Character: Activities for Infants, Toddlers, and Twos,
by Cathy Waggoner and Martha Herndon. St. Paul, MN: Redleaf Press, 2015.
134 pp. \$24.95. ISBN 9781605544472

*Reviewed by Cathie L. Chatmon, Library Director,
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Character education is becoming increasingly important. Waggoner and Herndon have taken it into the nursery, apparently believing that the first three years are foundational to child development. The character traits in view are caring, integrity, honesty, respect, self-discipline, and responsibility. Many good and educationally sound ideas are presented. One of the most intriguing is that of teaching preverbal babies sign language for “please,” “thank you” and other terms that are considered polite communication. They also address adult behaviors which are counter-

intuitive to the modeling of good character, e.g. sneaking away while the toddler is otherwise occupied. The majority of the book is devoted to games and activities that may be performed with children in this age span that reinforce the character traits discussed at the outset of the book. Perhaps the greatest weakness is the lack of biblical integration which is essential to the realm of Christian education. The book seems to be more focused on developing moral people with a high degree of self-efficacy. Despite this weakness, this book is a good choice for institutions with programs in early childhood education. Those who are well-versed in Scripture will be able to note their own points of integration, thereby making such instruction a great deal more personal.

Strangers to Fire: When Tradition Trumps Scripture,

edited by Robert W. Graves. Woodstock, GA: The Foundation for Pentecostal Scholarship, 2014. 561 pp. \$23.99. ISBN 9780996044509

*Reviewed by Kenneth D. Litwak, Reference and Instruction Librarian,
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This book is a collection of essays, which respond, directly or indirectly, to John MacArthur's *Strange Fire* book and similarly-named conference. The introduction begins with a brief, sympathetic perspective on MacArthur and his efforts. The book is divided into two parts. The first part, "Responses to John F. MacArthur Jr.'s *Strange Fire*," contains seven chapters. Some of these were written for the online reader, and are not formal, academic works. However, "they bring to light the weaknesses that crisscross *Strange Fire*" (p. xxxi). Part two contains twenty-eight essays by several authors, most of them previously published in journals and books. These address either cessationist arguments or "Pentecostal-Charismatic misuses of the charismata, and in doing so indirectly weaken MacArthur's presentation of a monolithic Pentecostal-Charismatic cult" (p. xxxii). While the essays do not present *ad hominem* attacks on MacArthur, they do offer at times sharp critiques of his attacks on others. In one of the essays, Mark Rutland, for example, argues that demonizing all who dare to believe in the validity of biblical gifts in this and every age is a cave-dweller's point of view. Rutland continues his argument by suggesting that this is similar to those tribal people in Latin America, among whom Rutland worked, who deny the nature of airplanes because they have never seen one on the ground. More helpful is Craig Keener's, "*A Review of MacArthur's Strange Fire*." Keener agrees with MacArthur about some "targets" that needed to be hit. Keener even states that, "I confess that I often feel more comfortable among cessationists, with whom I share a common basis for discussion, namely Scripture, than among extreme