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Lippincott's "Freedom's Tree" (Book Review)

Mary Ann Buhler
Manhattan Christian College

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specifically from a Southern Baptist theologian's viewpoint (p. 1). While exercising academic rigor, he humbly submits faith in Jesus Christ as key for his theological work. Continuing to put a finer point on his position, he explains believers' church theological emphases being "Christocentrism, Biblicism, pneumatic hermeneutics, and congregationalism" (p. 5).

The chapters following provide summarily the divergent approaches of theologians Joseph Cardinal Ratzinger (Pope Benedict XVI – Catholic), Maurice Wiles (Anglican – Liberal), and Herman Bavinck (Dutch Reformed) concerning their works on the foundation of Christian doctrine. These views then stand in contrast with the free-church theological foundation Yarnell depicts through the sixteenth-century Pilgram Marpeck's (Anabaptist) ecclesiology. Subsequently, he evaluates historically Vincent of Lérins through to Cardinal Newman's developmental theses while including the evangelical critiques of Alister McGrath and Peter Toon. He then turns to a free-church proposal citing their major characteristics as "a Christocentrism and biblicism coupled with pneumatological illumination" (p. 150). The final chapter analyzes a free-church development of theology focusing categorically on the Southern Baptist position.

The Formation of Christian Doctrine, while written for advanced students of theology, should be available in every Christian library due to its comprehensive content presented from the specific context of the believers' church. Yarnell's careful as well as detailed compendium will help students gain a more thorough understanding of the complicated subject of a distinctively Christ-centered theological prolegomena.

Freedom's Tree,

by Kenneth Lippincott. Bloomington, IN: Westbow Press, 2014. 280 pp.
\$19.95. ISBN 9781490858135

*Reviewed by Mary Ann Buhler, Director of Library Services,
Manhattan Christian College, Manhattan, KS*

Kenneth Lippincott wrote *Freedom's Tree* over a span of 40-some years. A retired English teacher, he has had the time to not only finish this book, but also to work on the other two in *The Rock Creek Trilogy*.

This fiction work begins with the disappearance of a teacher. With this, the protagonist arrives in a very small Colorado town to apply for the job that is now available. Karen quickly becomes enmeshed in a murder mystery, one that has a surprise ending. Add in romance, and you have an intriguing story.

While it might be an interesting story, the numerous grammatical errors are a major detraction, making it difficult to read. Examples are “it’s” when it should be “its,” and “sir names” for “surnames.” In addition, there are typographical errors, such as “is” for “in,” and “widow” for “window.” I find those errors puzzling not only for an English teacher, but also for the publisher who did not catch them. The author seems to delight in descriptions, many of which have absolutely nothing to do with the story. Cases in point are his very detailed description of what a person ate at a restaurant, as well as a room in which he describes every little thing and where it was. These were totally irrelevant and detracted from the story.

Almost every one of the sentences on the first page has some reference to God and the protagonist’s faith. This is fine, but I feel that a non-Christian, not wanting to be hit over the head with Christianity, would probably close the book and not pick it up again.

If a person is only interested in a good story, this would be a good selection, but the reader needs to be prepared to be distracted by grammatical and typographical errors, as well as irrelevant details.

**Get Your Teenager Talking: Everything You Need
to Spark Meaningful Conversations,**

by Jonathan R. McKee. Bloomington, MN: Bethany House Publishers, 2014.
172 pp. \$12.99. ISBN 0764211854

*Reviewed by Jeffery S. Gates, Information Services Librarian,
Cedarville University, Cedarville, OH*

I have a quiet teenage son, so I was attracted by the title of this book – and even more so when I read that the author has 20 years of youth ministry experience, has written other books for youth, and regularly speaks to parents and leaders worldwide. Since the ideas for these discussion starters came from his family, friends, and his blog readers, I assumed they would be relevant. McKee has a short section at the beginning with tips for getting teenagers talking, such as “Don’t ask yes or no questions,” and “Don’t ask dull questions,” but he devotes most of the book to *180 Conversation Springboards*. Each includes a main question, follow-up questions, insight into the question, and related questions. He ends the book with a 59-entry subject index that includes topics such as addictions, careers, dating, etiquette, fun, heroes, internet, jobs, movies, possessions, recreation, social media, temptation, values, and wisdom. After using the discussion questions with my son, I can say that I am not disappointed. Some questions in the book brought more discussion than others, and