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Davidman's "A Naked Tree: Love Sonnets to C.S. Lewis and Other Poems" (Book Review)

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not attempt to defend moral and ethical beliefs in the face of attack or criticism but rather should shift the conversation to promoting Christian values and ethics. He advocates not apologizing but promoting positive Christian values worldwide because “Christianity is morally superior as well as true” (p. 1).

The book has multiple chapters in areas of faulty secular systems, the irreducible complexity and splendor of the Christian ethic, immoral ethicists, moral authority of Christian teachers, the fruit of false systems of belief, the cultural fruit of Christianity, irresponsible or infelicitous argument and virtuous apologetics. Each chapter cites numerous sources to illustrate its focus. These sources range from academic heavyweights such as Jean Jacques Rousseau, Soren Kierkegaard, Jean-Paul Sartre, and Karl Marx, to historical figures such as Aquinas, Jonathan Edwards, and Billy Sunday. A valuable aspect of the book is its ability to incorporate cultural figures such as Bill Maher, Lebron James and Mel Gibson. This approach presents through short entries a well-rounded apologetic and a fast-paced read. Each chapter ends with a lengthy reference list of the sources used. The organization and layout of the book make it valuable for professional reading and personal learning, but it also works well as a textbook.

Moral Apologetics for Contemporary Christians does not shy away from uncomfortable topics for evangelical Christians. Coppenger provides a platform for advancing the Christian faith and presents evidence that Christian ethics interact with Christian apologetics.

A Naked Tree: Love Sonnets to C.S. Lewis and Other Poems,
by Joy Davidman, Grand Rapids, MI: Eerdmans Publishing Company, 2015.
320 pp. \$30.00; ISBN 9780802872883

*Reviewed by Tiffany Norris, Public Services Librarian,
Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Fort Worth, TX*

More than 230 of Joy Davidman’s conversational, honest, and passionate poems are arranged chronologically into five main sections, culminating with her 45 love sonnets to C.S. Lewis. Editor Don King purposefully organized her work in order to allow readers “to be able to chart Davidman’s development and growth as a poet (p. xv).” The book includes indices of titles and first lines and would work well for a general humanities collection as an example of modern poetry, given Davidman’s commentary on social issues. It would also supplement any worthy C.S. Lewis collection as her poems to him offer another perspective on and better understanding of his personal life (even including an acrostic of his name).

Perhaps at times overshadowed by her personal relationship with and subsequent marriage to Lewis, Davidman was a substantial author and poet in her own right, and this collection highlights her poetic skill and winning tone. Ardent Lewis fans will certainly enjoy reading her poems from the time before they were married (“What a fool I was to play the mouse And squeak for mercy! What had you to give So small a creature when it wanted love?” [p. 306]), and those who seek to better grasp modernist work will appreciate this significant collection as well.

**The New Parish: How Neighborhood Churches are Transforming
Mission, Discipleship and Community,**

by P. Sparks, R. Soerens, and D. J. Friesen. Downers Grove, IL: IVP, 2014. 208 pp.
\$17.00. ISBN 9780830841158

*Reviewed by Tami Echavarría Robinson, Coordinator of Instructional Services,
Whitworth University, Spokane, WA*

Cultural values in America have changed over time influencing all parts of American life including the churches. Our society emphasizes that we are independent and autonomous and lauds individualism above connections with others. These values are not in keeping with the teachings of Jesus, and many in current American culture find their fragmented, self-centered lives to be unsatisfying. While the Bible teaches values of a bygone America where relationships and neighborhood connections meant living life locally in a place, contemporary America has lost its sense of local place in favor of a mobile, superficial society. This book brings back the concept of parishes, churches engaged in local neighborhoods in a particular place they serve, by building relationships and answering the needs in their locale. The writing is enthusiastic, although sometimes repetitive. It is written to a lay audience rather than an academic audience, appealing to both pastors and ordinary citizens interested in practicing biblical values of caring for one another as a community and living together in community. The idea of parish is presented as new, but it is as old as the early churches to which Paul wrote letters. However, to a floundering church in an age of disengagement, fragmented lives, and dislocation, this book presents “new” ideas to a generation that does not recall a time of parish churches and community life.