Moore's "Onward: Engaging the Culture Without Losing the Gospel" (Book Review)

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at the challenges facing women who step in to help raise other people’s children. This newer, shorter work provides specific, targeted advice and should be used as a complementary text rather than a stand-alone reading project.

Petheridge writes clearly and lovingly to women in a challenging position. She addresses the need for parents in blended families to communicate and set boundaries and offers suggestions for effective methods to meet those goals. Prayers and scriptures are provided for encouragement and support. Through sharing stories of other stepmoms, Petheridge allows her readers to know they are not alone; stepparenting is a challenge, but others have succeeded in creating healthy families under similar circumstances.

101 Tips for the Smart Stepmom provides a quick reference for women who hope to create a positive environment for their stepfamily. By addressing issues ranging from dating to finding our ultimate fulfillment in our faith, Ms. Petheridge’s newest book would be an excellent addition to any church or home library. Universities offering counseling degrees would also benefit from including resources from Smart Stepfamilies in their holdings.


Reviewed by Charles Huckaby, Assistant, Technical Services Department, Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Fort Worth, TX

In the two years that he has been president of the Southern Baptist Convention’s Ethics and Religious Liberties Commission, Russell Moore has faced a whirlwind of issues for which many American Christians were not prepared. Same-sex marriage has been legalized by the United States Supreme Court and with that decision seems to come the clear and present danger of the loss of religious liberty. The atrocity of abortion has been painfully reintroduced to the forefront of our minds. Gender seems to have transformed from an assignment at birth to a fluid choice. And all of this has occurred in the time since Moore’s book went to press. In the midst of cultural chaos, Moore’s message to the church is Onward!

Moore’s book is timely and critical for the average churchgoer and seminarian alike to grasp in the wake of the moral revolution currently taking place in America. I found myself underlining and making notes about more things in Onward than I do in most other books. Perhaps that’s because I grew up in the cultural Christianity-laden South that Moore addresses so often. However, it is more than just a geographical
issue, as Moore makes clear. The entire American church has to regroup and rethink how and why we do what we do. Any perceived moral majority of the past has changed. Christians are the perceived fringe element and Moore advocates we embrace the strangeness.

*Onward* is packed with pithy sayings that will work well in our media age of tweets and photos with quote graphics. That doesn’t mean Moore’s book is lightweight or not to be taken seriously. He unpacks everything clearly and points readers to the proper understanding of the problems we face. He reminds us all that we wrestle not against flesh and blood but against principalities. This should cause us to always have compassion and respect toward those with whom we disagree, and it always means we argue differently. We don’t argue just to be right. We contend for the culture because of the gospel, but with the full understanding that our work will only ever be partially done. Only Christ can make all things right and all things new. Until then, we march onward.

I whole-heartedly commend this volume.

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**The Other Jesus: Stories From World Religions,**
$36.00. ISBN 9781442223080

*Reviewed by Lisa Fuller, E-Learning & Instruction, Brackett Library, Harding University, Searcy, AR*

Todd Outcalt, United Methodist pastor and author of *Before You Say, “I Do,”* undertakes a daunting task in his most recent publication, *The Other Jesus*. In this work, Outcalt sets out to discover and communicate the presence of Jesus in the sacred texts of several major world religions. Although many scholarly works have examined the presence of Judeo-Christian deities in the other religious traditions, Outcalt writes to laymen, which allows his book to reach a wider audience. Each chapter examines a separate world religion, exploring representations of Jesus and encouraging Christians to allow their faith to grow through new perspectives. The final chapter includes an overview of Christianity’s oral and written tradition of Jesus and how it has changed throughout history. Outcalt’s text is readable, informative, thoroughly researched and documented. The appendices include a chronological list of “Jesus Traditions and Writings,” chapter notes, a glossary, and citations.

Outcalt’s text would be an excellent addition to both academic libraries and adult sections of church libraries. It assumes a developed faith, that is able ask questions and consider new perspectives.