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Bridewell's "Christ in Me, Muslims, Around Me: What to Do?" (Book Review)

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Candle Pop-Up Bible Atlas,

Reviewed by Barbara Walker, Administrative Assistant to the Dean of Libraries, Roberts Library, Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Fort Worth, TX

This is a children’s book illustrating various Bible stories in the Old and New Testaments with pop-up art. Each page has pop-up flaps and scenes with lots of detail related to the story. All details seem to be biblically factual. Some of the maps and details on the page are confusing as to where they start the story so the reader must search to find the beginning. The construction of the book is not durable. During this reviewer’s limited handling of the book, the paper of the book broke through the crimp binding on the spine. The pop-ups bend easily and some do not move smoothly; this book is not one that children can handle easily without tearing. This book could be used in a teaching setting where the adult handles the book and shows the surprises behind the flaps. This book will not be one that is kept on the shelf for years of use because it is not durable enough to be handled consistently.

Christ in Me, Muslims Around Me: What to Do?,

Reviewed by Jill Botticelli, Archivist/Special Collections Librarian, Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Fort Worth, TX

In light of recent terrorist activity attributed to militant Islamic groups, it is understandable that Christians may wonder how they are to perceive and interact with Muslims. It is easy to see how some would experience fear, hatred and curiosity. These emotions can stem from the fact that most Christians are unaware of what Muslims actually believe and are untrained in methods of evangelizing those whom Christ has called us to love.

The focus of this book is to educate the average believer on the basic tenants of Islam. The author does so by providing a contrast between the core beliefs of Christianity and Islam. This process starts by exploring the historical beginning of both Christianity and Islam as they begin with Abraham. Additionally, the author provides an overview of the themes found in both the Bible and the Quran. As with Christianity, Islam has varied points of view and a look at some of those views such as fundamentalist, liberal, and mainstream is provided and contrasted. Finally, the author provides and discusses various ways that Christians can handle interactions
with Muslims. The list is not exhaustive but provides both negative responses such as hate/rejection and positive responses such as witness. The work concludes by reminding us of Christ’s call to love our enemies and those who persecute us.

For those who are not called to be active missionaries to the Islamic world, there remains the call to understand Muslims, yes; to love them, yes; but to also stand firm in Christ. More than ever the Christian must read the Bible with understanding, prayer, and accept the Holy Spirit’s guidance as he grows in grace and faith (p. 86).

The author provides well-researched content with source materials included in a sizeable appendix. This work should be considered not as a scholarly, comprehensive resource but as a basic overview suitable for those desiring to gain a cursory understanding of the basic differences between Christianity and Islam. The book’s brief content and reader-friendly style is perfect for the average reader.

A Christian Passover in the Jewish Tradition,

Reviewed by Tami Echavarria Robinson, Coordinator of Instructional Services, Whitworth University

This book presents Passover from a Messianic Jewish perspective. Its title is misleading, not presenting a Christian point of view nor a Christian desire to understand and celebrate the Passover. The content is focused on explanation of Hebrew words, Jewish customs, and Talmudic meanings from a Messianic Jewish tradition of Passover celebration. Belief in Jesus Christ as the sacrificial lamb for our sins is mentioned at various points in the narrative where the authors make connections between Jewish and Christian beliefs.

This book appears to be self-published. The arrangement of topics is very confusing and needs serious editing to become cogent. It would have benefitted from the skill of a good editor. The authors’ introduction explains the purpose and scope of this book as a Hagaddah with a leader’s guide and explanations. A Hagaddah is the Jewish traditional order of service for the Passover. The organization of this book is supposed to be in two sections: the actual Hagaddah for leading the Passover service, and the explanations for each part and symbol in the service. However, they are mixed up and the text sends the reader flipping back and forth repeatedly to find continuity. There is no table of contents nor index to assist readers.