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Seymour's "Teaching the Way of Jesus: Educating Christians for Faithful Living" (Book Review)

Carmon Annetta Thomas
Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary

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This book can serve as a starting point for spiritual directors who are committed to learning about and ministering to people whose values and cultural traditions are different from their own. While the emphasis of the book is not on Christian faith and practice, it does offer useful and timely information on other faiths for Christians. The book is directed to spiritual guides who identify with a particular faith tradition but plan to serve people of a variety of traditions and to spiritual guides who draw on a variety of religions and philosophies to form their own spirituality.

This book will be of interest to spiritual directors and helping professionals who will have opportunities to encounter and assist clients from diverse backgrounds and faiths. For readers looking for a focus on Christian spiritual direction, *Spiritual Direction and the Care of Souls* by Gary W. Moon and David G. Benner, would be a useful resource.

Teaching the Way of Jesus: Educating Christians for Faithful Living,

by Jack L. Seymour. Nashville, TN: Abingdon Press, 2014. 201 pp. \$29.99.

ISBN 9781462765056.

*Reviewed by Carmon Annetta Thomas, Assistant Public Services Librarian,
Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Fort Worth, TX*

Drawing on his personal story, historic events, and education research, Seymour, a professor of religious education at Garrett-Evangelical Theological seminary describes various teaching models (p. 162), thus serving the purpose of an introductory textbook. Seymour's primary thesis is: "the message of the good news makes a difference" (p. 23); it forms a useful apologetic for Christian education. Successfully building on scholarly educational research as evidenced by his extensive bibliography, Seymour constructs applicable "processes" (p. 66) for the Christian educational setting. The list of proficiencies Seymour presents (pp. 40-41) hold value for any who desire to "seek first the kingdom of God" (Matthew 6:33). Examples of Seymour's very pointed questions include:

- "How do we help people connect with God's presence and call?" (p. 171)
- "How do we affirm a living God?" (p. 174)
- "How are schools teaching the ways religious people think about their faith and public meanings and engage public life?" (p. 178)

Seymour's questions alone make his work worth reading.