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Resource Reviews

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Resource Reviews

Philosophy and Theology, by John D. Caputo. Nashville: Abingdon Press, 2006. 84 pp. \$12.00. ISBN: 0-687-33126-9.

Reviewed by Wendell G. Johnson Social Sciences Librarian, Northern Illinois University, DeKalb, IL.

How do theology and philosophy communicate with each other? According to John D. Caputo of Syracuse University, they should engage in conversation and not competition. Theologians belong to communities of faith. Theology “is the place where the community of faith does its thinking, examining, clarifying, conceptualizing, and updating the common faith over the course of its history” (4). Philosophers, on the other hand, claim that they are making arguments about the universal human situation.

Caputo makes the excellent point that the present “battle” is not between faith and reason, but between conflicting faiths (which he sees as the result of the hermeneutical-linguistic-paradigmatic turn which he credits to Lyotard, Kuhn, and Wittgenstein). Faith and reason should find themselves in a symbiotic relationship, and in this regard, Caputo refers to Anselm of Canterbury, for whom faith seeks understanding. For reason, seeing is believing; for faith, believing is seeing. Faith and reason are not diametrically opposed to one another, but rather, are “two kinds of interpretive slants” (p. 57) which is both elemental to human life. Throughout the book, Caputo attempts to demonstrate the influence that philosophy has exercised on Christian theology. He discusses the ancient Greek philosophers, Germany idealists, as well as modern European thinkers. He is conversant with current issues, e.g., intelligent design. However, the comparison between Augustine and Jacques Derrida, while interesting, is overwrought.

Caputo demonstrates a thorough grasp of the history of philosophy and the contribution it can make to the theological enterprise, but has little comment on theology itself (other than to argue that it needs to listen to philosophy). Caputo’s conversation between philosophy and theology is more of a lecture – philosophy

does the talking and theology is its audience. That is to say, there is more reason than faith in this book. Throughout the book, I was waiting for Caputo to discuss what philosophy can learn from theology. In this regard, I would have given more attention to Paul Tillich’s doctrine of correlation, found in volume I of his *Systematic Theology*. Despite this caveat, *Philosophy and Theology* is a readable account of the importance of philosophy to theology in the 21st century. We should recognize that neither theology nor philosophy live in a vacuum. “Theology” represents what we are trying to do. “Philosophy,” in a manner of speaking, provides the logical parameters for this enterprise. Caputo’s casual folksy narrative is ideally suited for an introductory course on the philosophy of religion or as a text for an adult discussion group.

An Introduction to Jesus and the Gospels, by Frederick J. Murphy. Nashville: Abingdon, 2005. 394pp. \$29.00. ISBN 0687496926.

Reviewed by John E. Shaffett, Library Director, Baptist College of Florida, Graceville, FL.

Murphy is a professor in the department of Religious Studies at the College of Holy Cross. His new book, *An Introduction to Jesus and the Gospels*, is a useful undergraduate-level textbook intended “to enable its readers themselves to interpret the Gospels in ways that do justice to the nature of those texts as historical artifacts, as sources for understanding Christian origins, as expressions of faith, and as foundations of a living religion” (xii). Murphy mainly looks at the Gospels as “historical artifacts” and “sources for understanding Christian origins.” His main method for studying the gospels is the historical-critical method.

The first two chapters introduce the reader to the different critical methods of studying the Gospels and the historical context of the Gospels. The next four chapters cover the four canonical Gospels: Mark, Matthew, Luke, and John. Each of these chapters provides an introduction (authorship, date, sources), overview of the Gospel’s structure, and a summary of the contents contained in each

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book. The final three chapters examine other Gospels, the historical Jesus, and canonization of the Gospels. Each chapter concludes with extensive bibliography for further reading.

An Introduction to Jesus and the Gospels is a good introductory textbook for studying the canonical Gospels. Murphy does a good job of helping the reader to understand the Gospels as “historical artifacts” and as sources for understanding the origins of Christianity. It is recommended for undergraduates and adult readers interested in the subject.

Passion for God: Theology in two Voices, by Jurgen Moltmann & Elisabeth Moltmann-Wendel. Louisville: Westminster John Knox Press, 2003. 104pp. \$14.95. ISBN 0-664-22703-1.

Reviewed by Sharon Hinton RN, BSN, LP, Librarian, First United Methodist Church, Floydada, and RNR Parish Nurse Community Outreach Library, Floydada, TX.

Jurgen Moltmann is a scholar in contemporary Christian theology. Elisabeth Moltmann-Wendel is active in the field of feminist theology. They have been married and working as theologians of reconciliation together for over fifty years. Feminist theology is still developing with Elisabeth Moltmann-Wendel as a major influence. She believes that theology should not promote suffering and sacrifice for women, but should emphasize Jesus’ active devotion to life and self-determination.

The main essays presented were given as the Cole Lectures at Vanderbilt University Divinity School and at St Paul School of Theology. Topics include Experiencing God physically, Friendship—the forgotten category for faith and Christian community, Do women believe differently?, Praying with open eyes, The crucified God yesterday and today, and Globalization, terrorism, and the beginning of life. The authors provide many theological challenges for contemplation by the reader. As with other books on theology, this text requires an active reader willing to contemplate and weigh the ideas presented. *Passion for God* is appropriate for congregational and academic libraries and women’s religious study collections.

Eat This Book: A Conversation in the Art of Spiritual Reading, by Eugene H. Peterson. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2006. 186 pp. \$20.00. ISBN 0-8028-2948-1.

Reviewed by Steven Paschold, Instructional Services Librarian, John Brown University, Siloam Springs, AR.

Readers of books by pastor and professor Eugene H. Peterson may have wondered whether he would return to writing such books after he completed his major translation project *The Message*. Indeed he has done so, embarking on an ambitious five-volume work on spiritual theology, of which two titles have already been published. The first book, with the grand title *Christ Plays in Ten Thousand Places*, is now followed by the second, bearing the abrupt title *Eat This Book*. In this volume, Peterson aims to show how reading the Bible can be a deep and enriching experience for Christians, and he effectively supports his aim by discussing ways of reading Scripture.

The first half of the book discusses the metaphor of eating Scripture in terms of God’s revelation and Christians’ role in participating with God as He acts in their lives and in the world. With this theological background in place, the second half of the book explains ways to read the Bible, expounding on *lectio divina*, with its four components of *lectio, meditatio, oratio, and contemplatio*.

As in his previous works, Peterson combines Scriptural exegeses with practical application, and so this book is both scholarly and devotional. *Eat This Book* is a wonderful resource for students and faculty, and indeed for all thoughtful Christians who seek to deepen their faith. As such the book is highly recommended for the academic library.

Short History of Christianity, by Stephen Tomkins, Grand Rapids, MI : Eerdmans, c2005. 256 pp. \$15.00; ISBN 0-8028-3382-9.

Reviewed by Jo Ann Rhodes, Library Director, G. Allen Fleece Library, Columbia International University, Columbia, SC.

One has only to read the author’s opening preface paragraphs to understand that his claim to an entertaining, storybook-like history

of Christianity is going to be just that ... an easily-read glimpse at “what has been going on round here for the last 2,000 years” (p.8).

This short history is obviously not intended for anything more than a way to learn some of the basic historical facts surrounding the development of Christianity since the birth of the church in 30 A.D. The historical narrative has been broken up into four parts: the beginning years (30–630), the rise of the Roman Church (630–1516), the Reformation (1517–1660), and globalization of the Church (1609–2000). Its thirty-seven short chapters each open with a relevant quotation from (or about) the era under discussion.

The author admits to passing over some events and people that others would consider important, doing so for the sake of space and entertainment. This makes for truly entertaining yet informative reading. There is a less-than-complete index and a helpful glossary of basic terms of value for the knowledge of Christian history. It is disappointing that there is no bibliographical information for quotations and other pertinent information in the text.

This book is recommended as supplementary material for undergraduate libraries of all kinds and particularly for non-theological students, but it will be of little value for research.

Broken Minds: Hope for Healing When you Feel Like You're Losing it, by Steve & Robyn Bloem. Grand Rapids, MI: Kregel, 2005. 301pp. \$13.99. ISBN 0-8254-2118-7.

Reviewed by Sharon Hinton RN, BSN, LP, Librarian, First United Methodist Church, Floydada, and RNR Parish Nurse Community Outreach Library, Floydada, TX.

This book is written by a Christian minister and mental health professional from a personal point of view sharing his family experience with depression. It strongly emphasizes the love, power, and mercy of God and the tragedy that medical science has been embraced by the church for physical illness, but ministry leaders remain fearful and skeptical of the role of medical science in treating mental illness. The book's intent is to dispel the myths surrounding mental illness and encourage the church to

care for those in need with compassion and understanding. The main focus is depression with brief discussions of other mental illnesses with a Biblical basis for care that includes medical science.

According to the authors, 121 million people suffer from depression with barriers to treatment including lack of resources and trained caregivers, and social stigma especially for Christians. As a Christian healthcare provider, I strongly encourage clergy and lay leaders to learn from this book. People struggling with depression and other mental illnesses deserve the support of faith communities in the same way that those with cancer and other physical illnesses already receive. The key to compassion is to remove the fear and stigma attached to mental illness with education and understanding. *Broken Minds* is an excellent, appropriate resource for personal, clergy, congregational, and academic libraries and would make an excellent depression support group text.

Kregel Dictionary of the Bible and Theology: Over 500 Key Theological Words and Concepts Defined and Cross-Referenced, by Henry W. Holloman. Grand Rapids, MI: Kregel Publications, 2005. 600 pp. \$32.99 ISBN 0-8254-2795-9.

Reviewed by Jeff Gates, Information Services Librarian, Cedarville University, Cedarville, OH.

This book has hundreds of entries that give a brief definition and concise survey of how a word or concept is used in the Bible. Each subject word or phrase has a thorough list of relevant Bible references, and many entries include pertinent Hebrew or Greek terms, bibliographies, and ‘See also’ references to related subjects. Holloman has a Th.D. from Dallas Theological Seminary, teaches systematic theology at Talbot School of Theology, and has a dispensational perspective. He refers to several standard scholarly works, such as *A Greek-English Lexicon of the New Testament and Other Early Christian Literature (BAGD)*, *Theological Dictionary of the New Testament*, and *Theological Wordbook of the Old Testament*, but writes for educated laypersons, pastors, and Bible students. This work would

be very helpful in sermon or Bible lesson preparation.

The Human Personality in Theology and Psychology: A Biblical Anthropology for the Twenty-First Century, by James R. Beck and Bruce Demarest. Grand Rapids, MI: Kregel Publications, 2005. 428 pp. \$24.99 ISBN: 0-8254-2116-0.

Reviewed by Jeff Gates, Information Services Librarian, Cedarville University, Cedarville, OH.

The authors have written this book as a handbook for those interested in the Christian view of human persons and issues in modern psychology. They hoped it would influence those outside the discipline of theology. It would be useful for college students and educated lay persons.

Beck and Demarest admit in their introduction that they have followed the approach of *A System of Biblical Psychology* (1855,1861) by Franz Delitzsch. The book is organized into four sections, i.e. origin and destiny, substance and identity, function and behavior, and relationality and community; and each of these sections contains three chapters. The first chapter presents a conservative historical and theological perspective, while the second chapter presents a contemporary snapshot of psychology. The third chapter gives a brief essay of how theology and psychology relate to each other in these areas and includes “Christian certainties” and areas of further research.

The authors are evangelical: Beck graduated from Dallas Theological Seminary and Rosemead Graduate School; Demarest is a graduate of Wheaton College and Trinity Evangelical Divinity School and earned his doctorate in biblical and historical theology at the University of Manchester, where he was mentored by Professor F. F. Bruce.). In this book they attempt to present an integrated approach to many of the issues common to theology and twenty-first century psychology. The work is well supported with biblical verses and secular literature. Though only selected issues are addressed, they are relevant and are treated rather thoroughly.

Women’s Retreats: A Creative Planning Guide, by Sue Edwards, Kelley Mathews, and Linda Robinson. Grand Rapids, MI: Kregel, 2004. 176pp. \$12.00. ISBN 0-8254-2507-7.

Reviewed by Sharon Hinton RN, BSN, LP, Librarian, First United Methodist Church, Floydada, and RNR Parish Nurse Community Outreach Library, Floydada, TX.

This helpful guidebook for planning retreats for women is very well thought out and complete. It is divided into two sections – part one focuses on preparation and planning, while part two provided a variety of sample retreat programs easily adaptable to various audiences. The sample themes include tips for decorations, activity schedules, publicity, special gift ideas, and drama scripts. The appendixes include samples of forms for retreat site contracts, registration, and scholarship applications. Also included is a website for additional information. The step-by-step planning process guide from six months to retreat day is very clear and helpful to avoid omission of crucial steps. I appreciated the chapter on defining your purpose – why retreat? This consideration is often forgotten in the excitement of creating a gathering for women.

The authors have prior experience and expertise in the field of women’s ministry and have produced a guidebook suitable for outreach, congregational and academic libraries. It will prove particularly beneficial to novice retreat planners.

Short Trip to the Edge: Where Earth Meets Heaven – A Pilgrimage, by Scott Cairns. [San Francisco]: HarperSanFrancisco, 2007. 263 pp. \$22.95. ISBN 0-06-084322-5.

Reviewed by Steven Paschold, Instructional Services Librarian, John Brown University, Siloam Springs, AR.

Within the Christian community and beyond, Scott Cairns has gained a reputation as a poet of distinction. Currently he serves as Professor of English and creative writing at the University of Missouri-Columbia, and a few years ago he joined the Orthodox Church. At age forty, however, he experienced a crisis of faith, realizing he did not know how to pray. So he undertook several pilgrimages to the “Holy

Mountain,” Mount Athos in Greece, to visit Orthodox monasteries and to find a “prayer father” to guide him on his way. That is the background for the well-written memoir *Short Trip to the Edge*. In this book Cairns aims to recount his observations, experiences, and the people he met at Mount Athos and at another monastery in Arizona, and to indicate what he learned in regards to his faith journey. In so doing he successfully accomplishes his aims.

But may the North American evangelical reader be forewarned. The Mount Athos terrain is unfamiliar in itself, but more strange, and even esoteric, are the Orthodox conventions that Cairns recounts, from the *trapeza* mealtimes, to the prayer rope, to the veneration of icons, to the middle of the night worship services that culminate in reception of the Holy Mysteries. With Cairns’s sharp focus on the Orthodox Church, this reader felt that the Christian faith overall seemed to be expressed in a narrow and limited fashion. Also, while the Jesus Prayer is invoked frequently, Jesus Himself is not much discussed.

Nonetheless, *Short Trip to the Edge* admirably joins the classic literature of Christian pilgrimage, and provides a good account of Orthodox practice as experienced by a sincere and humble pilgrim. The book should be acquired by academic libraries to serve as a complement to and perhaps a commentary on Scott Cairns’s fine volumes of poetry.

Transforming Power: Biblical Strategies for Making a Difference in Your Community, by Robert Linthicum. Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 2003. 216pp. \$14.00. ISBN 0-8308-3228-9.

Reviewed by Sharon Hinton RN, BSN, LP, Librarian, First United Methodist Church, Floydada, and RNR Parish Nurse Community Outreach Library, Floydada, TX.

Linthicum is active in urban ministry and has worked with community organizers, mission executives, and urban pastors around the world. This book is designed to teach Christians how to use relational power, grounded in biblical witness, to make a difference in society.

Divided into two major sections, the text first explains and outlines the concept of the biblical theology of power using scriptural examples and life experiences. The second section of the book examines biblical practices and strategies for developing and implementing relational power that leads to community transformation. Communities of Shalom are discussed as well as a wonderfully effective concept called the “Iron Rule of Organizing” – what the author states should be the Iron Rule of all ministries – *Never do for others what they can do for themselves*. This rule emphasizes an understanding of ministry not as helping and serving others, but as enabling others to help themselves.

Linthicum discusses steps to develop relational power beginning with individuals and building groups, leaders, and communities. I was intrigued with the discussion that power is not programs. Power is relationship in action.

Transforming Power will be of interest to readers seeking change in church and society based on biblical example. It is appropriate for congregational and academic libraries.

Parables of Jesus: Through the Lens of Bible Times (DVD), Part 3 in the series: People Who Met Jesus, Produced 2005 by International Media Ministries, Madrid, Spain, Released and distributed Spring 2006 by Vision Video, Worcester, PA. 58 minutes \$19.99.

Reviewed by Jeff Gates, Information Services Librarian, Cedarville University, Cedarville, OH.

According to the IMM website, *Parables of Jesus* was produced to assist people in understanding the customs and cultures and let them feel the impact of Jesus’ words. This DVD contains seven short dramas portraying the following parables: The Good Samaritan, Unmerciful Servant, Treasure and the Pearl, Lost Son, Midnight Visitor, The Dinner (The Great Supper), and the Manager (The Unjust Steward). The special features include “Director’s commentary for each story” and scene selections. A *Leader’s Guide* by Dawn Moore and the staff of Christian History Institute is available from www.imm.edu that includes the following for each of the seven parables presented in the DVD: scripture reference, theme, questions to

use before viewing the parable, questions to use after viewing the parable, heart questions, and “odds and ends from the director” (historical and cultural background of the parable with occasional citations).

The scriptwriter, director, and host of this presentation is Christopher Gornold-Smith, who taught Educational Media Development at ICI University in Brussels, Belgium and was involved in co-productions with IMM for broadcast on national television in Slovakia. Gornold-Smith and the rest of the staff of IMM are missionaries from the Assemblies of God in the United States who serve for a four year term and then return to the USA for one year of raising support before returning.

The presentation is of high quality. The content is accurate and insightful. The acting, props, and costumes are authentic. The only shortcoming is that the whole production is narrated, even when the parables are being acted out. *Parables of Jesus* is recommended for laymen, but the “director’s commentary for each story” on the special features option and the “odds and ends from the director” on the *Leader’s Guide* make it appropriate for those who wish to do further study.

Joan of Arc: Child of War, Soldier of God, by Faith and Values Media distributed by Worchester, PA: Vision Video, 800-523-0226 www.visionvideo.com. 56 minutes, DVD \$19.95 ISBN: 7-27985-00799-1.

Reviewed by James L. Sauer, Director of Library, Eastern University, St Davids, PA.

Joan of Arc, the Maid of Orleans, is an enigma in history. How is it that a woman, a peasant girl, an illiterate; should rise out of nowhere to successfully lead French armies against the English and place the politically impotent Charles VII on his throne? The particular claims made by Joan require that the religious authorities, and even contemporary historians, explain her presence in history: Did she hear voices? Were the saints Margaret and Catherine speaking to her? Was she mentally ill? Was she a saint? Was she a witch? The English and Burgundian Catholics burned her for sorcery, cross-dressing, idolatry, and schism in 1431; she was retried post mortem and declared innocent in 1456. Vatican officials elevated her

to sainthood in 1920. Protestants see her as a religious phenomenon. Secularists like Bernard Shaw just found her fascinating.

The case for dealing with her is not straightforward: it is true that she had a simple minded piety, a mysticism that astounded people, a bravery that included pulling an arrow from her shoulder and returning to battle, and nearly miraculous events associated with her life – like recognizing the King without prior knowledge in a room of nobles. At the same time, she dressed as man, placed her “revelations” above any human governance, and refused to swear on the Bible during her trial. Mistreated, possibly raped in prison, she died a martyr’s death calling upon the Lord.

The filming is of fair quality, but keeps the viewer’s interest and creates a clear empathy for Joan. The style is one of narration, plus dramatic enactments, interspersed with commentary by scholars. A tinge of hagiography and sympathetic feminism, which could not easily be avoided considering the uniqueness of warrior-mystic Joan, flows through the academic commentary. And emphasis is also made – in the modern new age sense – of listening to one’s inner voices. Though in Joan’s case, they seem to have been actual voices.

The question for Evangelical viewers is how can this video be used? Churches might find both the contrasting attributes of Roman Catholicism and independent self assertion hard to use for moral instruction. But as an historical introduction in most classrooms – including College – it will provide a good place to begin.

Count Zinzendorf, distributed by Vision Video, 800-523-0226 www.visionvideo.com 2000. 100 minutes DVD \$19.95. ISBN: 7-27985-00851-1.

Reviewed by James L. Sauer, Director of Library, Eastern University, St Davids, PA.

The Moravians – like the Waldensians – are one of the few pre-Reformation Reformed Churches – owing to their origins among the Unitas Fratrum of John Huss. Huss was burned the stake in 1415 for Biblical Christianity; but his Bohemian brethren went on. In the early

1700's, remnants of this society were invited to the estate of Count Nicolas Ludwig Zinzendorf to receive protection. Herrnhut – which means the Lord's Watch – became a spiritual center. Zinzendorf's wealth, leadership, and piety proved the providential means for vitalizing this movement.

This video, winner of the Aurora and Aegis awards, is divided into four sections dealing with Count Zinzendorf and the history of the Moravians. Each episode begins with an ersatz PBS format introduction by Rev. John Jackman; and is then followed by a documentary style presentation with images, reenactments, and scholarly commentary.

As a denominational video, there is surprisingly adequate and healthy self criticism. Attempts are also made to reach out beyond the Moravian fold to show Zinzendorf in his relation to Lutherans, Reformed, and Wesleyans; and the influence he had on men like Willam Carey. At the same time, elements of Moravian practice have been adopted among Evangelicals generally: Bible studies, small group work, prayer vigils, and even the concept of a two day "Saturday-Sunday" Sabbath now common to the American culture.

When Count Zinzendorf was a young man, he was struck by a painting depicting the suffering Christ, which contained the words: "This have I done for you. What will you do for me?" Zinzendorf took it to heart – and unlike the Rich Young Ruler of the Bible, gave everything for Christ. An encouraging video: useful for most Evangelical Churches or Colleges with a cross-denominational emphasis.

Robber of the Cruel Streets: The Prayerful Life of George Muller, by CTA Production distributed by Vision Video, 800-523-0226 www.visionvideo.com. 60 minutes+ 30 minutes supplemental. \$24.99 ISBN: 7-27985-00939-1.

Reviewed by James L. Sauer, Director of Library, Eastern University, St Davids, PA.

If Protestants had saints, George Muller would be one of them. Born in 1805 in Prussia, he immigrated to England as a young Christian and in 1843 began a life of faith and works

that centered on helping the orphaned street children of Bristol, England. Most of his work was funded without fanfare, literature solicitation, fundraising sermons, or even prayer requests. Over 120,000 orphans went through the institutions he founded. It is estimated that he raised the equivalent of \$180 million dollars (current value) without using any fund raising techniques. His only method was prayer.

Converted as a young man from a life of gambling, drinking, and womanizing – Muller was influenced by the pietistic work of Augustus Franke and the Pietist movement at Halle University in Germany. In England, Muller encountered a semi-denominational reformation movement going on with men like Anthony Norris Groves and Henry Craik – two men among the Plymouth Brethren. (Oddly enough, only Craik's early Baptist connection is mentioned; while the Christian Assembly work of Groves, Craik, and Muller himself is ignored.)

As Mueller aged, he began a worldwide outreach. Traveling to Canada and the United States, he later met with the American President Rutherford Hayes. He spent 17 years traveling to over 42 countries, logging in over 200,000 miles. He died in 1898. His influence as a man of faith and charity are unparalleled. He lived by prayer and faith in the Son of God.

The video is generally well filmed, with a number of 19th century melodramatic scenes, which could have used editing or deleting. The acting is stuffy. Nevertheless, the video functions well with its back and forth traditional documentary structure coupled with dramatic reenactments. Two men play Mueller at different stages in his life.

The main laws of Muller's life: First, living absolutely by faith; and second, telling no one but God about physical and financial needs – seem pious; but reflect a super-spirituality that no one, not even Muller, could ultimately live up to. Later in life, Muller began to make the needs of his orphans known to outsiders. This video is not designed with academic critical apparatus to balance the hero worship prone to Christian media. Rather, the film is designed to let us see how Christ can use one

Christian wholly devoted to himself do great things.

The History of Orthodox Christianity, distributed by Worchester, PA: Vision Video 84 minutes. \$59.99 ISBN: 7-27985-00844-8.

Reviewed by James L. Sauer, Director of Library, Eastern University, St Davids, PA.

Eastern Orthodoxy has a remarkable history of preserving the basic theological truths of God's nature, the Incarnation, and morality; while accruing theological and liturgical peculiarities exempt from Biblical critique. In three clear and well filmed segments generated by GOTELECOM, a Greek Orthodox foundation, the producers have created a good overview of orthodoxy from its infancy to the present.

Part 1: The Beginnings: The first segment gives a history of the early church from an Eastern, Greek cultural perspective. Emphasis is placed on the Hellenistic background, Greek language and philosophy, and the Christianized Graeco-Judaic culture which culminates in the establishment of Christianity as a State religion under Constantine.

Part 2: Byzantium: The second section traces the rise of the Eastern Roman Empire, the Seven Ecumenical Councils, the Iconoclast controversy, relationship to the Roman Church as well as the Oriental Orthodox churches. Missionaries move out to ethnic peoples. The Eastern and Roman churches divide.

Part 3: Hidden Treasure: The third portion deals with the issues resulting from the triumph of Islam – and gives an account of Islam's dominance over the Patriarchal churches of Alexandria, Antioch, Jerusalem, and Istanbul (formerly Constantinople). Moscow has now become the "Third Rome," while Eastern Churches have a renewed contact and success in the West.

An accompanying booklet for Instructors and Discussion leaders, prepared by Patrick Henry Reardon, Pastor of St. Athanasius Orthodox Church – and an editor of Touchstone magazine – gives a fair overview with some self-criticism of orthodoxy not found in the video itself.

In America today, Orthodoxy appears as a collection of ethnic, and therefore, parochial churches. Yet the gold, incense, iconographic art, beautiful architecture, and mystical catholic liturgy of the Eastern Church is highly attractive to modern Evangelicals steeped in the stark commonplace traditionalism, or insipid frivolity, of American Protestant worship. For the Orthodox Churches, this video will be useful as an evangelistic and public relations tool. Evangelicals, on the other hand, will find it a good introduction to Orthodoxy – a church from which we can learn much about persecution and perseverance; but whose obsession with Tradition as an authority equal to Scripture, makes Biblical Reformation a great challenge.

Journey of the Heart: the Life of Henri Nouwen, by WTTW/Chicago: Windborne Productions, 2003. 56 minutes. DVD. \$19.99.

Reviewed by Sharon Hinton RN, BSN, LP, Librarian, First United Methodist Church, Floydada, and RNR Parish Nurse Community Outreach Library, Floydada, TX.

This documentary of Henri Nouwen's life is very well done. Not only does it give a glimpse into the spiritual life of this powerful author and speaker, it also provides an intimate look at Nouwen as a person. From his ambition to become a Roman Catholic priest at five years old and throughout his life, Nouwen's greatest desire was to follow Christ's leading and to help others to do the same. I have read many of his books for counseling and theology courses. After watching *Journey of the Heart*, I am interested in reading additional books mentioned as the documentary revealed details of Nouwen's life and circumstances. Nouwen combined spirituality and psychology in order to draw people into community with themselves, other people and Jesus Christ. *The Wounded Healer* and other titles remain popular worldwide.

The documentary includes interviews with Henri, himself, along with his brothers and sister, friends, and colleagues. Those who have read his books will appreciate knowing how these books came to be and the authenticity of this amazing man. Those who have not yet read any of Nouwen's work will be encouraged to

sample from his wide selection of spiritually encouraging materials. I highly recommend this documentary. It is an appropriate resource for counselors, clergy, congregational, and academic libraries.

Introduction to the History of Christianity, by George Herring. New York Univ. 2006. Photogs. Maps. Index. ISBN 0-8147-3099-8. \$70; pap. ISBN 0-8147-3700-5 \$22.

Reviewed By John E. Shaffett, Director of Library Services, Baptist College of Florida, Graceville, Fl.

George Herring is the author of *What Was the Oxford Movement?* He is a Church historian who studied at Leicester University and Keble College, Oxford. He has taught history in higher education for over 20 years.

This book is “beautifully crafted and clearly written” introduction to the history of Christianity. It adopts an approach that is different from many general Church histories in terms of “length, structure and presentation.” It looks in detail at three 200-year periods – “Christ and Caesar, Christianity Circa 300-500,” “Expansion and Order, Latin Christendom, Circa 1050-1250,” and “Grace and Authority, Western Christianity, Circa 1450-1650.” Each of these three sections is preceded by an introduction. The book includes maps, quotations from primary source material, and a further reading section.

This well-researched book places the history of the Christian church in its historical context. The author shows how sacred and secular interacted with each other and influenced each other. He intended this book to be read by more than just undergraduate students. He has “assumed only the most basic understanding on the part of the reader.” This book is highly recommended for all libraries.

The Life of the Mind : On the Joy and Travails of Thinking, by James V. Schall. Wilmington, Delaware: ISI Books, 2006. 214 pp. \$25.00.

Reviewed by John E. Shaffett, Library Director, The Baptist College of Florida, Graceville, Fl.

James V. Schall, S.J., is Professor of Government at Georgetown University. He is the author

of numerous books, including *Another Sort of Learning, A student's Guide to Liberal Learning*, and *On the Unseriousness of Human Affairs*. Human beings take delight and pleasure in knowing. Because we have not only bodies but also minds, we are built to know “what is.” Reflecting on Aristotle, Plato, Aquinas, Josef Pieper, Walker Percy, Wendell Berry, and even Charlie Brown, Father Schall discusses the various ways of thinking about the “joys and travails of thinking.” We can ask for no better guide to the life of the mind and how to nourish it than Father Schall.

This is a “book about thinking and reading, about thinking while reading, about being aware and being delighted in the very acts of either reading or thinking”(Schall, Xiii). Schall describes the experience of going into a library and having “no idea what to read, even when we know how to read”(Schall, 21). This is the reason for this book. Schall instructs us on acquiring books, keeping them and on re-reading them. He refers to C.S. Lewis's perceptive remark “that if you have only read a great book once, you have not read it at all (though you must read it once in order to be able to read it again)” (Schall, 8).

Learning for Life: Educational Words of Wisdom, by Teri Ann Berg Olsen. Phoenix, AZ: Knowledge House, 2004. 420pp. \$19.95. ISBN 0-9759528-0-3.

Reviewed by Sharon Hinton RN, BSN, LP, Librarian, First United Methodist Church, Floydada, and RNR Parish Nurse Community Outreach Library, Floydada, TX.

Teri Ann Berg Olsen has compiled, edited, and self-published a wonderful collection of quotations by educators, authors, politicians, and historians from Plato and Socrates to modern day speakers like Zig Ziglar. Olsen, a home educator and columnist states that the purpose of the book is to provide a “unique reference book of quotations related to both traditional and alternative forms of education.” It includes religious and secular quotations. The appendix includes information on those quoted, biographical notes, an index of names and references to a website for further information. Categories of quotations

vary widely and include such topics as biblical scriptures related to knowledge and education, teaching, parenting, imagination & creativity, nature, travel, homeschooling, work, motivation, and success to name a few. It is appropriate for personal, congregational and academic libraries.

Aging and Spirituality, edited by David O. Moberg. New York: Haworth Pastoral Press, 2001. 249 pp. \$29.95. ISBN 0-7890-0939-0.

Reviewed by Elizabeth Pearson, Library Director, Montreat College, Montreat, NC.

Do adults become more spiritual as they progress through life? Does spirituality have a positive impact on older adults' physical and mental health? How does religious belief affect attitudes toward death and dying? How does prayer impact well-being in older adults? This book presents research that addresses these and other questions about spirituality and religion in the lives of aging individuals. Research studies and practical applications are addressed, making the book useful to students, scholars, and human service providers.

The book is organized in four parts surveying conceptual and theoretical foundations, research on spirituality, professional and practical applications, and policy implications for the future. In the first section the groundwork is established for studying the role of spirituality in the lives of older adults, and the connection to social gerontology theories is examined. The second part explains why research on spirituality is important and summarizes studies that have already yielded valuable findings. Attention is given to the impact of religion and spirituality on physical and mental health and well-being in old age. Human service professionals address practical applications in the third part of the book, with several chapters devoted to the delivery of social services with older persons in various settings. This section explains the role of the social worker, chaplain, counselor, and hospice and health care practitioners in spiritual care of the elderly.

The final section of the book addresses public policy implications with reference to proposals resulting from the White House Conferences on Aging. The affirmation that spiritual well-being is intrinsic to the lives of older adults was a significant outcome of those conferences. This section summarizes the history and current state of long term care policy in the U.S., noting that the challenge remains to fully integrate spiritual needs of elders in those policies. Guidelines for conducting research on spirituality are also delineated.

The contributors represent various professions engaged in geriatric practice, and Christian faith and values inform many of the chapters. Each chapter concludes with a list of references for further study.

This book blends theory and practice and provides a good survey treatment of the needs of older adults. It would be a useful resource for undergraduates, practitioners, and those who are developing services for the aging. It is appropriate for collections on gerontology, aging, social work, human services, and pastoral care.

INTERESTED IN REVIEWING A TITLE?

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