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Resource Reviews

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The Christian Librarian **TCL** R E V I E W S

Leadership That Works, by Leith Anderson. Minneapolis, Minnesota: Bethany House Publishers, 1999. 220 p. \$16.99 ISBN 1556619944

*Reviewed by Deborah M. Powell,
Library Director, Saint Louis Christian
College, St. Louis, Missouri.*

The ability to consolidate leadership into one neatly packaged consortium is no longer the case for those involved in twenty-first century leadership. Leith Anderson opens this work with a series of leadership cases that takes snapshot observations at the transitional nature of twenty-first church leadership. Clarifying Anderson's exploration even further Anderson states, "leadership in the church and other religious organizations isn't what it used to be." The challenges faced by twenty-first century leaders are intertwined with the ability to discern between what was appropriate yesterday and what is appropriate today.

Leadership That Works serves as an insightful ministerial guide that takes a remarkably intricate look at Christian leadership in the twenty-first century. The concerns addressed by Anderson are valid concerns for Christian leaders. Through the enlightenment of such views leaders can gain a better understanding of the difficulties faced by religious leaders. Anderson strengthens the conclusion of his work by offering some valuable guidelines on what leaders can do in the midst of changing times.

Leith Anderson serves as the senior pastor of Wooddale Church in Minneapolis. He is a nationally known author, speaker, and educator. His passion for ministry radiates in his writing as he seeks to find methods to assist leaders struggling with the harsh realities of transitional church leadership.

This resource is a superb addition to leaders seeking to gain a greater

understanding toward church or pastoral leadership in the twenty-first century.

The Mind of the Master, by Robert E. Coleman. Wheaton, Illinois: Harold Shaw Publishers, 2000. 159 p. \$11.99 ISBN 0877885753

*Reviewed by Deborah M. Powell,
Library Director, Saint Louis Christian
College, St. Louis, Missouri.*

A simple glance or reading of the life of Christ is not sufficient. To know and understand Christ is to have an intimate relationship with the Master. It is to take a close look at His life by stopping to pause at the crossroads that made Christ the ultimate evangelist. This work helps the reader to learn more about the evangelistic nature of *The Mind of the Master*. In this scholarly work, Robert E. Coleman concentrates on six aspects of Christ's life: 1) "His Source of Life" (the Spirit's work), 2) "His Communion Through Prayer" (The Spirit imparts the divine nature, but sustains it through prayer), 3) "His Word of Authority" (Jesus lived by the Word [Rhema] of God), 4) "His Understanding of the Gospel" (redemption by grace), 5) "His Way of the Cross" (death on the cross makes the Gospel a reality), and 6) "His Heavenly Vision" (Jesus never entertained the notion of failure).

Coleman's approach to understanding the life of Christ gently and compellingly leads the reader through an insightful and in depth perspective of Christ's inner life. Following the example of Christ, Coleman, likewise is "content to let the Holy Spirit apply it to [the readers] hearts, without undue anxiety about the tabulation of results."

Robert E. Coleman serves as the director of the School of World Mission

and Evangelism and professor of evangelism at Trinity International University in Deerfield, Illinois. Coleman's intellectually tantalizing work comes complete with a study guide and serves as a useful tool for those interested evangelism.

This resource would be an excellent addition to any library.

Turn Your Radio On, by Ace Collins. Grand Rapids, Michigan: Zondervan, 1999. 269pp. \$18.99. ISBN 0-310-21153-0

*Reviewed by Phyllis E. Fox, Head,
Media Services, Point Loma Nazarene
University, San Diego, California.*

You may be familiar with the story behind the song Amazing Grace and with John Newton, who wrote the words to this song. However, were you aware that legendary country singer Hank Williams composed the song I Saw The Light and that Elvis Presley won a Grammy for an unforgettable Bill Gaither tune? Behind every song is a story. The stories behind these classic gospel songs and 62 other accounts can be found in Ace Collins' book *Turn Your Radio On*.

Each entry is organized alphabetically and devotes a few pages to the tale and inspiration behind the composition of the song as well as the singer or group who might have made the song famous. The author keeps the reader's interest and fuels his/her desire to turn the next page to read the next account.

Ace Collins has written numerous books, including *Country Music's All-Time Greatest 100 Songs and the Stories Behind Them*, *The Mandrell Family Album*, and *Father Does Know Best*.

A shortcoming of the book is its lack of an index, making it less useful for research. It also would have been helpful if the lyrics for each of these

songs were included. However, this book is recommended as a supplemental item for libraries that support a strong music collection.

Zondervan Dictionary of Bible Themes: An Accessible and Comprehensive Tool for Topical Studies, by Martin H. Manser, Alister E. McGrath, J. I. Packer, and Donald J. Wiseman. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 1999. 1232 pp. \$39.99. ISBN 0-310-20668-5.

Reviewed by Rory Patterson, Reference Librarian, Department of Energy contract, LSSI, Germantown, Maryland.

Martin Manser, the managing editor of the *Zondervan Dictionary of Bible Themes*, also edited the *NIV Thematic Study Bible* and based this dictionary on that work. The dictionary seeks to go beyond traditional lexical works, which are based on single translations, and allow study by theme, of which it has over 2,000. The dictionary can be used in both thematic studies, by listing all occurrences of a theme, and passage studies, where it outlines the ideas in a passage and shows how the ideas are used throughout the Bible. The work might be considered as a cross between Vines and Strongs.

The book contains four sections. First is the orientation section, which includes the "How to use this book" chapter, gives the layout of the book, the abbreviations used, and the classification scheme for the themes. The alphabetical list of themes comes next, and is followed by themes by category, the first large section. These three parts make up the first half of the book. The last half of the volume is the Scripture index. This index goes through the Bible verse by verse and outlines it by themes.

If your library serves classes that deal with Bible studies, the *Zondervan Dictionary of Bible Themes* will be very useful as a reference text. The dictionary can help outline passages, find occurrences of a theme, find a verse when you know the idea of it but not the exact wording, and help win discussions.

Eschatology in Bible & Theology: Evangelical Essays at the Dawn of a New Millennium, edited by Kent E. Brower & Mark W. Elliott. Downers Grove, Ill.: InterVarsity Press, 1999. 341 pp. \$24.99 ISBN 0-8308-1582-1

Reviewed by Freeman Barton, Goddard Library, Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary, S. Hamilton, Massachusetts.

This book includes sixteen addresses on eschatology, twelve from the United Kingdom (four from Oxford University) and four from the United States. They include many of the addresses read at the third Triennial Plenary Conference of the Tyndale Fellowship. The sixteen are divided into five sections: Biblical theology, Old Testament, New Testament, Christian doctrine, and practical theology. Three deal with the current lively debate about the destiny of unbelievers.

The essays range from the general (G.K. Beale on the centrality of eschatology to the NT) to the specific (D.I. Block on Gog and Magog in Ezekiel 38-39). They range from the heavy going (S. Williams' survey of [non-evangelical] eschatology from 1967-1997) to the more easily readable (R. Bauckham on Moltmann and the millennium). All are serious scholarly works which go much deeper than the popular evangelical fare on eschatology.

A good example is one of the two "practical theology" entries, Howard Peskett's "Missions and Eschatology." Peskett of Trinity College, Bristol, served with the OMF in Singapore for twenty years. He points out that the majority of missionaries are Americans, the majority of whom are premillennialists, of whom a significant proportion are dispensationalists. He traces the missions-eschatology connection through Edwards-Brainerd-Carey-postmillennialism-optimism through Pierson-Bible Conferences-fundamentalism-premillennialism-pessimism to the current mixed state following Carl Henry's *Uneasy Conscience* (1947).

Peskett might more directly draw parallels between prophetic views and mission impetus, although that may be asking more than the evidence makes possible.

With its abundance of footnotes, this is a terrific selection tool for library acquisitions.

Duh-votions: Words of Wisdom for the Spiritually Challenged, by Sue Buchanan. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan Publishing House, 1999. 189 pp. \$9.99. ISBN 0-310-22865-4

Reviewed by Douglas L. Fruehling, Instructional Services Librarian, Point Loma Nazarene University, Ryan Library, San Diego, California.

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Sue Buchanan is a Christian speaker who uses humor to make her point. She is vice president of Dynamic Media, Inc. Her previous titles include *I'm Alive and the Doctor is Dead* and *Friends Through Think and Thin*. The latter was co-authored with Gloria Gaither, Joy MacKenzie and Peggy Benson. She says of herself, "I'm not deep. I'm shallow. But I'm deep for a shallow person." Each of the sixty devotionals titles is listed in the table of contents. Titles include "Two Shall Be As One: Then Again, Maybe Not!" or "We Thought They Were Asleep Till They Said Amen". This is followed by a Bible verse. Buchanan then relates the verse to her life's roles as a woman, wife, and mother. Devotionals end with a paragraph prayer tying together all that preceded it. Each devotional is about 2 ½ pages in length. Her conversational style and openness to her life gives the reader a sense of familiarity as if you were having coffee break with a close friend. For Buchanan God is the Lord of the Everyday Things.

The CIP places the book under the subject heading "Christian women — Religious life Humor". While not a scholarly work it does lend itself to illustrations for women's gatherings and retreats. Perhaps it is best for gift giving rather than adding to the library's collection.

The Promise of the Father; Jesus and God in the New Testament, by Marianne Meye Thompson. Louisville, KY : Westminster John Knox Press, 2000. 196p. \$16.95. 0-664-22197-1

Reviewed by Dr. Dennis Ingolfsland, Director of Library Services and Associate Professor of Bible, Bryan College, Dayton, Tennessee.

The Promise of the Father by Marianne Meye Thompson, is a biblical study of the term "father" as a reference to God. Thompson introduces the study with a discussion of contemporary challenges to the concept of God as father presented by recent feminist writers. These challenges range from attempts to reform the church's language, to more radical attempts to transform Christianity, all the way to the outright rejection of Christianity as a viable religious option.

After a review of the issues and an analysis of Jeremiahs' work on the use of Abba for God in the New Testament, Thompson provides a detailed study of the term "father" for God in the Old Testament and Second Temple Judaism. She moves from there to discussion of the historical Jesus and his views of the father. Finally, the use of father for God is discussed throughout the New Testament.

Thompson argues that traditionalists

generally plot the doctrine of the fatherhood of God from Jesus' statements, to Pauline statements, to Johannine statements and finally to the church's creedal formulations. She calls this "creedal trajectory." While not dismissing creedal trajectory, Thompson argues that creedal trajectory must be placed in a broader "eschatological trajectory" which begins with the revelation of God in the Old Testament as the life-giving, protecting, merciful, loving, father who provides an inheritance to his children that will be realized in the kingdom. According to Thompson, this eschatological trajectory argues against the teaching of those feminists who make women's experiences determinative for their theology and also against those traditionalists who imply that God is in some way masculine.

Marianne Meye Thompson is a professor of New Testament at Fuller Seminary. Her book is thorough, well documented, indexed, and solidly based on her interaction with the biblical text. Future studies on the fatherhood of God cannot afford to ignore her work.

A Simply Beautiful Wedding, by Eileen Silva Kindig. Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 1999. 149 pp. \$9.99. ISBN:0-8308-1923-1

Reviewed by Corina Hansen Kojack, Assistant Circulation Supervisor, Guillermin Library, Liberty University, Lynchburg, Virginia.

From proposal to altar, a bride-to-be is in an absolute whirlwind of choices. A woman's wedding day is the day she has been dreaming of her whole life. Making a fantasy into reality is normally impossible, but society tells her, with enough money that dream can come true. *A Simply Beautiful Wedding* by Eileen Silva Kindig takes the bride out of the whirlwind of commercialism and into a shelter of priorities. In light of what is important and long lasting, a bride can finally have a beautiful, affordable wedding that her guests will be

talking about for years to come.

The time the bride spends preparing for her marriage is more important than the time she spends planning her wedding. However, on average, a bride will spend 392 more hours in wedding planning than in pre-marital counseling. Kindig's advice to the couple-to-be is "You are both so much more than the bride and groom" (61). Kindig involves both bride and groom in the decision making process. A wedding, when presented the right way, can spark romance, cultivate friendships, and bond families.

It is the bride's day. Therefore it is her responsibility to respect, not necessarily honor, everyone's wishes. She must take advice and make her decisions with taste and tact. Kindig shows how to allow others to help in a way that they are glad and honored to do so. They will not feel obligated or demanded to participate. A simply beautiful wedding is, as Kindig says, "spiritually enriching" and "less stressful". Before she purchases any bridal magazine, the Bride needs to read *A Simply Beautiful Wedding*.

Eileen Silva Kindig is a contributing editor for *Today's Christian Woman*. Although it may be best suited for a public library's collection, this slim, plain-spoken volume will likely become a popular, dog-eared addition to any Christian college library, where, along with academics, many women are involved in the serious pursuit of wedding planning.

Biographical Dictionary of Christian Missions, edited by Gerald H. Anderson. Grand Rapids, MI: Wm. B. Eerdmans, 1998. 845 pp. \$162.50
ISBN 0-0286-4604-5

*Reviewed by Francisco Arriola,
Director, Bolin Library of Pentecostal
Research, Southeastern College,
Lakeland, Florida.*

This is an important reference book written by 350 experts from 45 countries presenting 2,400 biographical articles on Christian missionaries ranging from New Testament times to the present. The dictionary attempts to be comprehensive in scope presenting biographies of missionaries from Roman Catholic, Orthodox, Anglican, Protestant, Pentecostal, independent and indigenous churches. The names listed include many of the familiar contributors to the expansion of Christianity, as well as those whose contributions are significant though their names may not be as well known. The preface mentions the inadequate representation of non-Western and Western missionary women as well as non-Western missionaries in general, due to the lack of documentation of their important contributions. There are 280 women and 289 non-Western missionaries listed in the appendix. The dictionary is arranged in an alphabetical format with each article signed by its author. There are cross references throughout the dictionary and nearly all articles are accompanied by a bibliography. The appendix is the great strength of the dictionary and one that will make it a valuable tool for doing historical research in missions.

The names of the missionaries are arranged according to time period, women, martyrs, region of service, selected major agencies, religious orders and traditions, non-Western persons and by the type of work done by the missionary (eg. Bible translations, medical). The index, which is not exhaustive, lists geographical, institutional, and personal names. This title is

recommended for all libraries with missions collections.

Dictionary of Deities and Demons
2nd extensively revised edition. Leiden:
E.J. Brill; Grand Rapids, MI: Wm. B.
Eerdmans, 1999. 960 pp. \$95.00
ISBN 0-8028-2491-9

*Reviewed by Francisco Arriola,
Director, Bolin Library of Pentecostal
Research, Southeastern College,
Lakeland Florida.*

The *DDD* is a dictionary that discusses all the gods and demons whose names are found in the Bible. In this second revised edition errors and lacunae have been repaired, thirty new entries have been added and bibliographies updated.

The articles are arranged in alphabetical order and signed by their respective authors. Five categories of deities are discussed in the dictionary. There are the deities clearly mentioned in the Bible, deities that are attached to a place (eg. AnatAnatoth), and deities that are mentioned in the Bible, but not in their capacity as gods. These are the so-called demythologized deities such as the moon or sun. Also included are deities that depend on variant readings of the biblical text such as the Hebrew word "raevil" being interpreted as Re the Egyptian sun god. The final category of gods is constituted by human figures that rose to attain divine or semi-divine status in the later tradition (eg. Jesus, Enoch, Moses). Some deities (eg. Enlil, Anu), though important in the culture contemporary with the biblical testimony are not assigned a separate article due to the lack of their mention in the Bible. They are discussed within the context of other articles, which may be located in the index. There is a helpful alphabetically arranged entries guide before the start of the articles. Though this is an indispensable tool for scholars and students, the academic content of the articles do not make it appropriate for all levels of users.

Choices That Can Change A Woman's Life, by Jill Briscoe. Wheaton, IL: Harold Shaw Publishers, 1998. 206 pp. \$10.99. ISBN 0-87788-208-8.

*Reviewed by Jule L. Kind, Director of
Off Campus Library Services, Indiana
Wesleyan University, Marion, Indiana.*

This is a revised edition of a title by a different name, published in 1994, *De-Baiting the Woman Trap*. Briscoe

uses the eight chapters in the book to detail traps commonly encountered by all women. The traps she discusses are self-centeredness; desire for more of the world's goods; unwise use of the tongue; wasting time; morality; wasting of God's gifts to us; self-pity; and the fear of standing for the truth. In each chapter she describes the trap and counters it with personal experiences, scripture from the book of James and what the Christ like counterpart should be for each growing woman in Christ.

Each chapter includes at the end a series of questions, discussion starters and suggestions for prayer that can be used for personal study or group study of the chapter. The book, therefore, lends itself well to personal/group Christian growth and discipleship. Its usefulness is its practical, everyday treatment of common pitfalls that Satan uses to ensnare women. It is not a unique presentation, but freshly written from the mind and soul of a woman with a gift for writing.

Jill Briscoe, a leading author in contemporary Christian evangelical circles, bases many of her examples on her lifetime of experience as a lay woman's leader and international speaker. She has written over forty books.

Chosen but Free: A Balanced View of Divine Election, by Norman Geisler. Minneapolis: Bethany House, 1999. 256 pp. \$18.99. ISBN 0-7642-2198-1.

Reviewed by Freeman Barton, Director of the Library, Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary, S. Hamilton, Massachusetts.

Geisler's intent is to set forth a theology, "moderate Calvinism," which settles the issues debated by classical Reformed theology ("extreme Calvinism") and Arminianism. He sometimes sounds Reformed: "Perhaps the most difficult thing to understand is that God is in sovereign control of everything we choose, even our salvation" (p. 17). Sometimes he sounds Arminian: "ought

implies can" (p. 30); "everyone can believe" (p. 35).

The problems begin with the invention of a pejorative label, "extreme Calvinism," to identify those with whom the author is debating. He grants that those whom he calls "extreme" (Edwards, Gerstner, Sproul) would insist that they are just Calvinists. He devotes 46 pages to "Avoiding Extreme Calvinism" and 14 to "Avoiding Extreme Arminianism" (i.e. the "neotheism" of Pinnock, Sanders, et al.). In the former work, he sets forth what he means by "moderate Calvinism," but he says little about "moderate Arminianism." Since he calls classical Calvinism extreme but focuses on an indubitably extreme Arminianism, one suspects that Geisler's middle way is closer to classical Arminianism than to any form of Calvinism. His illustration of the relationship between election and foreknowledge is revealing.

He insists that "election is not based on or dependent on foreknowledge. Rather, it is merely in accord with it" (p. 68). The illustration: "Jim" is contemplating marriage to one of two candidates, "Joan" and "Betty." Knowing that Betty will decline and Joan will accept, he proposes to Joan (p. 68). The choice is based on foreknowledge.

The most important distinction between Geisler and Sproul is the relationship between faith and regeneration. For the former faith is the free response of the still unregenerate person to the work of the Holy Spirit. For the latter faith is the response of the person who has just been regenerated by the Spirit.

We may be stuck with the labels Calvinist and Arminian until we are fully informed in the New Jerusalem. If Geisler does not quite succeed in constructing a coherent middle way, he pursues his goal with erudition and zeal. The attempt is well worthwhile in raising the issues and presenting them in an interesting and understandable fashion.

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AVAILABLE TITLES

Bolt, Peter and Thompson, Mark (Eds.) *The Gospel to the Nations*. InterVarsity Press, 2000.

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how:

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