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Pier's "Disruptive generosity: Stories of transforming cities through strategic giving" (book review)

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Book Reviews



Pier, M. (2017). *Disruptive generosity: Stories of transforming cities through strategic giving*. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Books. 190 pp. \$14.99. ISBN 9781625915238

Mac Pier illuminates the many ways God is at work in cities around the world. Pier notes the Earth's population will grow 20 percent in twenty years, to nine billion people, and this growth provides the urgent need for effective Christian leaders to transform major cities with the passionate message of God's love. *Disruptive Generosity* offers 40 inspiring profiles of people who have "disrupted the world with the gospel." Each chapter begins with a passage from Isaiah that connects with that person's story, revealing unique links between generosity and mission that has affected millions of people in more than 10 countries.

Disruptive generosity has served as a great teaching tool this semester in my composition classes. My college English students created "verbal essays" that highlighted Pier's inspirational sketches of Christian leaders. Each chapter tells of regular people who use their material success to do good in the world, literally in countries worldwide, at a "disruptively generous" level. Pier includes details of each person's childhood and education, how they met their spouse, failed and succeeded at various business ventures, and then how each one currently serves God and humanity through charitable organizations, innovative mission work, and personal monetary sacrifice.

One example is Mart Green, whose father started the popular Hobby Lobby store chain, followed in his footsteps as a "called businessman." Green opened his first Mardel Christian and Education bookstore in 1981. There are now thirty-five stores in the southwestern United States carrying twelve thousand titles. Mart has a passion for empowering others with the Scriptures and hopes to see the Bible translated into every one of the six thousand languages spoken on our planet by 2033. However, Green's vision is digital and he founded Every Tribe Every Nation, a collaborative group of partners committed to creating a comprehensive digital Bible library.

The details of how these accountants, engineers, and businessmen and women strategically used their money to positively affect people all over the world are real-life examples of how God can use different kinds of career success to spread the

love of the Gospel. My students enjoyed telling each “Disruptively Generous” story in an interview form, explaining how each person in Pier’s book achieved success through education and hard work, and how they focus on real needs of specific groups of people in countries throughout the world. Each student theorized how they would personally be “disruptively generous,” if given the opportunity to share wealth like the innovative Christian leaders in Pier’s book.

Reviewer

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