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Mbewe's "Pastoral preaching: Building a people for God" (book review)

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Book Reviews



Mbewe, C. (2017). *Pastoral preaching: Building a people for God*. Carlisle, Cumbria UK: Langham Preaching Resources. 193 pp. \$17.99. ISBN 9781783681808

Zeal without knowledge is a recurring problem among pastors of poor and undeveloped regions in Africa. Conrad Mbewe offers a salient solution in this engaging and practical primer for preachers. Mbewe states this book's "primary audience is pastors serving here in Africa" (p. 4). He adds that the wealth of preaching resources produced by the West often fails to connect with African audiences unfamiliar with Western thought patterns. With a foot in both worlds, Mbewe is able to "take the same principles and clothe them in African attire" (p. 4). By doing so, he also allows jaded Western eyes to see familiar principles presented in a new and refreshing way.

Mbewe, pastor of Kabwata Baptist Church in Lusaka, Zambia for thirty years, first appeared on the radar screens of many Western Christians when he delivered a one-two punch of powerful messages against Pentecostalism at John MacArthur's 2012 Strange Fire Conference. Those messages echo in this book when Mbewe laments that "true preaching has given way to 'deliverance' ministry" (p. 1). Deliverance ministry, currently enjoying a resurgence in charismatic churches, can best be countered by an embrace of pastoral preaching. The book systematically trains readers in this particular approach, defining terms, demonstrating techniques, and addressing the challenges. A strength of the book is its pastoral tone. This book is more than training in technique, it speaks to the pastor as a man of God, offering counsel and encouragement for his prayer life and personal life.

Mbewe states, "the goal of pastoral preaching is to produce a people who know their God and are living lives that glorify him" (p. 1). Those with a calling to preach will be challenged, convicted, and course-corrected to fulfill that mandate. This book would prove a welcome addition to libraries serving ministry students, especially to those in Africa or with African-immigrant congregations.

Reviewer

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