



Volume 59 | Issue 1

Article 66

2016

Giesecke, Cawthorne, and Pearson's "Navigating the Future with Scenario Planning: A Guidebook for Librarians" (Book Review)

Noelle C. Keller
Adrian College

The Christian Librarian is the official publication of the Association of Christian Librarians (ACL). To learn more about ACL and its products and services please visit [//www.acl.org/](http://www.acl.org/)

Follow this and additional works at: <https://digitalcommons.georgefox.edu/tcl>

Recommended Citation

Keller, Noelle C. (2016) "Giesecke, Cawthorne, and Pearson's "Navigating the Future with Scenario Planning: A Guidebook for Librarians" (Book Review)," *The Christian Librarian*: Vol. 59: Iss. 1, Article 66. DOI: <https://doi.org/10.55221/2572-7478.1217>

This Book Review is brought to you for free and open access by Digital Commons @ George Fox University. It has been accepted for inclusion in The Christian Librarian by an authorized editor of Digital Commons @ George Fox University. For more information, please contact arolf@georgefox.edu.

In one chapter by contributor Ken Finch, a spiritual benefit is mentioned. The author, however, qualifies this stating he is referring to emergent worldview instead of religious beliefs. A Christian would likely see a benefit in exposing the child to all the wonders of God's creation.

The book provides information on budgeting and other financial considerations such as fundraising and tuition, zoning considerations, marketing and publicity, and facilities. Essentials such as the availability of restrooms and cell phone reception are discussed as well as desirable things. The book contains best practices in several areas as no standards currently exist for these programs. Included are assessment rubrics to aid in program evaluation. The final chapter shows a typical autumn day in one such school.

A bibliography is included for those wishing to pursue the subject further, and an index makes it easier to locate specific content. While the premise that children are not playing enough is likely true, other methods of incorporating play, even outdoor play, exist. I question allowing children to play outdoors in sub-zero temperatures. Sobel is a well-regarded in this movement and serves as the director of Teacher Certification Programs for Antioch New England Graduate School. The book is an optional purchase for most libraries.

Navigating the Future with Scenario Planning: A Guidebook for Librarians,

by Joan Giesecke, John Cawthorne, and Deb Pearson. Chicago: Association of College & Research Libraries, 2015. 118pp. \$36.00. ISBN 9780838987513

Reviewed by Noelle C. Keller, Technical Services Librarian, Shipman Library, Adrian College, Adrian, MI.

This guidebook to using scenario planning theory to address possible future organizational change is an update of editor Joan Giesecke's 1998 American Library Association book, *Scenario Planning for Libraries*. The three authors, Giesecke, Cawthorne, and Pearson, bring their professional academic library experience in planning, accreditation and assessment to bear in organizing this brief book.

Part one, chapters 1-4, covers the process and models of scenario planning theory. It lays out step-by-step instructions for writing and conducting scenario planning cases or examples. Part two, chapters 5-9, presents essays on the use of scenario planning within higher education, as well as, case studies.

The book is rich with bibliographic references to both articles and books on the subject from business and library literature. This book is appropriate for library directors or leaders particularly in large university libraries but with broader applicability to higher education settings and perhaps large public libraries. This process for planning would require a supportive institutional environment to be practical. This work is also available as an e-book or print/e-book bundle.

**Our Sufficiency Is of God: Essays on Preaching in Honor of
Gardner C. Taylor,**

edited by Timothy George, James Early Massey, and Robert Smith, Jr. Macon, GA:
Mercer University Press, 2010. 342 pp. ISBN 9780881462067

Reviewed by Deborah McConkey, Librarian, Horizon College & Seminary

As the title suggests, this work is a collection of essays about preaching in honor of Gardner C. Taylor, long-time pastor of the 14,000 member Concord Baptist Church of Christ in Brooklyn. In addition to a legacy of preaching, Taylor worked with Martin Luther King, Jr., joining him in the fight for civil rights. One will find numerous references to King, as well as others involved in the early struggles for social justice. The editors admit that the essays are written with affection and great respect, by his “colleagues, students, and friends” (p. ix). I wish there had been more stories, and my main criticism of the work is that there weren’t enough of them. The introduction, written by Timothy George, establishes the context for the work, providing insightful information about Taylor’s life along with some personal anecdotes describing their friendship. George also introduces the reader to the other writers, and the lineup refreshingly comes from very diverse backgrounds. I have to admit, though, my initial question was, “I wonder how many pages it will take before George mentions John Calvin?” (The answer is five). The authors stayed true to their assignments, writing about preaching, albeit with varying degrees of quality. Sometimes an essay made me feel like I was taking homiletics 101, with lecture notes reformatted with the ending, “and, Taylor preached like this.” Sometimes an author complained about pet peeves in modern preaching, and postmodernism was definitely a targeted theme. Some of the writers would use words that left me wondering what point they were trying to make. For example, after Joel C. Gregory dropped exotic names such as Csikszentmihalyi in a section summarizing psychological theories about creativity, he then followed with an illustration on “perspectival anamorphoses in painting” (p. 31). Say what? Big words can be intimidating and incomprehensible. In my opinion, the greatest strength of this work is when it embodied good preaching by using Taylor’s life and words as a challenge to continue his prophetic efforts today, reminding us that we still have a long way to go with respect to social justice. To