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Dostoevsky's (translated by Boris Jakim) "The Insulted and Injured" (Book Review)

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“Creativity is inside all of us and is of God! (...) From practicing creativity comes hope. When the church speaks in hope with one another about who God is and what God wants us to do, the faith community can deal with the messiness and work together for the good of all, even those beyond the immediate community.” (p. 153-154)

Creativity is an important ingredient to producing beautiful and captivating art. Hip-hop throughout decades of forming and shaping has been one of the most creative genres of music. Incorporation of beats, movements, words, singing, melodies and such is what attracts many people to this type of music. Creative expression of love, pain, happiness, and sorrow is what Christian communities do (or at least should be doing) during their worship time. Why not take the creativity of hip-hop movement, soak it in the Word and let it inspire many?

The authors bring an analytical and insightful expose’ on hip-hop culture as well as on the attitude of the nowadays church towards creativity of that culture. In a fluid language, this historical account of the establishment of one of the most powerful musical genre of this day, the writers inspire church folk to embrace hip-hop community. Integration of this style into the worship and church community is just the next step in integrating all cultures and styles to the new American Dream. “Wake Up” is a call to the modern church; it is not only a shout out to accept the hip-hop influenced Christianity, but also to become inspired to creativity.

The Insulted and Injured,

by Fyodor Dostoevsky, translated by Boris Jakim. Grand Rapids, MI:
Eerdmans, 2011. 368 pp. \$18.00; ISBN 9780802825902.

*Reviewed by Sonia Blank, Reference Department, Library Services,
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I opened the pages of Boris Jakim’s translation of *The Insulted and Injured* after reading Dostoevsky’s *Brothers Karamazow* as well as some of his short stories. After reading these other writings of the prominent Russian novelist and I anticipated a lack of enthusiasm as I encounter this title by the same author. To my pleasant surprise, the flow and the energy of Jakim’s translation was absolutely refreshing and seemed much more accessible. It is completely faithful to the heart of Fyodor Dostoevsky’s style, and at the same time, because of Jakim’s careful choice of vocabulary, it gives the English readers an opportunity to find themselves more easily engaged in the story.

Boris Jakim is declared to be one of the foremost translators of Russian religious thought and literature into English, and this title is not an exaggeration or over-praise. The success and uniqueness of his translations might be hidden in his passion for the ‘big picture’ of every text with which he works. In *The Insulted and Injured* particularly, Jakim recognizes the various types of communities: the insulted, the injured, and their

helpers. His goal is to diagram them and emphasize the dynamics of the kinds of ‘loves’ that drive each one. One of the novel’s main characters, Ivan Petrovich, is in a way Dostoevsky’s alter ego, and the whole book became a type of author’s memoir. For this reason, the novel has a very personal and emotional quality, which comes out through Dostoevsky’s word choice. The book contains many “nervous” and “sad” words, which assume the role of a guide, in order for the reader to explore the realities describing states of the human soul. Jakim’s translation attempts to penetrate the “fine structure” and get into the word-fabric of Dostoevsky’s text, as he himself states in the preface. Therefore, in his translation, he does a marvelous job of choosing English words which connect the reader to the emotions of the text, and which stand out enough for the reader to recognize them and be impacted by them on their journey through this novel. Another detail, which plays a great role in the dynamic of the text, is punctuation. Dostoevsky, for the sake of the character of his story, seemed to suspend normal punctuation, and Jakim is very faithful to this component in his translating endeavor.

Authors such as Fyodor Dostoevsky do not have a deficit of people willing to take on the task of translating their valuable and culture-defining novels. With a plethora of translations on the bookstore shelves, one might question the need for another “new” translation of 19th century Russian novel, to which Boris Jakim might respond, “the texts that form our culture contain messages that cannot be simply translated word by word, but must be translated thought by thought in order to be able to move the reader in his own language.” Contemporary readers will benefit from this faithful and intriguing English version of the classic Russian title. Libraries with liberal arts collections should consider this version a worthwhile purchase.

**Living by Revealed Truth: The Life and
Pastoral Theology of Charles Haddon Spurgeon,**

by Tom Nettles. Ross-shire, Scotland: Mentor Imprint, 2013.

683 pp., \$40.00. ISBN: 1781911223

*Reviewed by Robert Burgess, Head, Acquisitions, Midwestern Baptist
Theological Seminary, Kansas City, Missouri.*

Charles Spurgeon is one of the most significant figures in Christian history. This English Baptist preacher wrote and published more than any other Christian. Spurgeon pastored the Metropolitan Tabernacle, which was the largest Protestant church in the Victorian era. He also set up several schools and orphanages in London. Tom Nettles, professor of historical theology at The Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, has spent his entire career researching and writing on Baptist history.

Nettles not only gives historical information on the life of Spurgeon, but also his views on specific points in theology. The strength of this book is that the author heavily quotes Spurgeon’s sermons and writings to indicate how Spurgeon’s