Jones' "Reaching the unreached: Becoming raiders of the lost art" (Book Review)

Noelle 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 http://www.acl.org/

Follow this and additional works at: http://digitalcommons.georgefox.edu/tcl

Part of the Christianity Commons

Recommended Citation
Keller, Noelle (2017) "Jones' "Reaching the unreached: Becoming raiders of the lost art" (Book Review)," The Christian Librarian: Vol. 60 : Iss. 2 , Article 88.
Available at: http://digitalcommons.georgefox.edu/tcl/vol60/iss2/88

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 arolfe@georgefox.edu.

Peyton Jones, author of *Reaching the Unreached: Raiders of the Lost Art*, has served as a minister and church planter across denominations for over 25 years. This bi-vocational, “ninja” church planter has founded a magazine and developed a video curriculum and YouTube channel to use 21st century modalities to preach 1st century church founding principles. He has previously authored *Church Zero: Raising 1st Century Churches out of the Ashes of the 21st Century Church*.

This non-traditional trainer of church planters in *Reaching the Unreached* presents the biblical principles of the book of Acts to challenge lay church members to reach the unreached for Christ. Peyton bluntly calls stagnant believers and churches to their fundamental purpose – the cause of Christ – discipleship. The church should not be entertainment as empty worship. The mission of the church – its individual members not the building – is to be missionaries where they are.

Acts 1:8 is the scriptural inspiration around which the chapters of the book are structured. Indiana Jones is the unlikely pop culture model for the organizing metaphor of the book. Peyton believes the Holy Spirit is the inside adventurer in believers that should motivate us in the everyday, real world settings of our lives to get out of the pews and boldly engage our communities. For example, New Testament hospitality can be updated to modern contexts like a Bible study at a coffee shop or a video game, film, or book group at a college campus that brings the Word of God to the unchurched. Church growth – increasing the size of or the numbers in church – is not the objective – but rather increasing the outreach of the church.

The modern media cultural references and approach and contemporary language (some might say slang) may turn off or bristle some. However, the blunt acknowledgement of the failures of the contemporary church may not just step on some toes but may kick some in the seat of the their pants and out of the pews. This book is a challenge to return to “…being the underground, countercultural dynamic force that we used to be during the first century.” He compares the modern church
to the 7 churches in Asia of the Book of Revelation and the pre-Christian world the apostles faced. Acts 1:8 is then used “...to show us how to advance the church in an unchurched world.”

The Great Commission (Matthew 28:18-20) is the unfinished mission of the church no less today than when Jesus issued it almost 2,000 years ago as his final command to us. Evangelism is about creating Christians out of non-Christians. This non-traditional study based on Acts 1:8 is a call to “ceaseless action and prayerful dependence” (p. 36) to our neighbors, co-workers, and community to live the book of Acts. Contemporary and historic illustrations are throughout the book. The endnotes range from literature to TV and Christian history to Wikipedia. The study questions at the end of each chapter are suitable for “professors” or “adventurers” and small group discussion.

So, if you are interested in reaching out in “bold faith that takes prayerful risks” empowered by the Holy Spirit to reach out to the unreached for Christ, then this book may just challenge you to action as seen in Acts and “Raiders of the Lost Ark/Art.”

Reviewer
Noelle C. Keller, Adrian College