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# Misreading Scripture With Western Eyes

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*Misreading Scripture With Western Eyes*

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### **Misreading Scripture with Western Eyes**

#### **Removing Cultural Blinders to Better Understand the Bible** *InterVarsity Press*

Brandon O'Brien and Randy Richards shed light on the ways that Western readers often misunderstand the cultural dynamics of the Bible. Identifying nine areas where commonplaces of modern

Western thought diverge with the text, the authors ask us to reconsider long-held opinions about our most beloved book.

### **Misreading Scripture with Individualist Eyes**

#### **Patronage, Honor, and Shame in the Biblical World** *InterVarsity Press*

The Bible was written within collectivist cultures, and it's easy for Westerners to misinterpret—or miss—important elements. Combining the expertise of a biblical scholar and a missionary practitioner, this essential guidebook explores the deep social structures of the ancient Mediterranean, stripping away individualist assumptions and helping us read the Bible better.

### **Paul Behaving Badly**

#### **Was the Apostle a Racist, Chauvinist Jerk?** *InterVarsity Press*

Randolph Richards and Brandon O'Brien explore the complicated persona and teachings of the apostle Paul. Unpacking his personal history and cultural context, they show how Paul both offended Roman perspectives and scandalized Jewish sensibilities, revealing a vision of Christian faith that was deeply disturbing to others in his day and remains so in ours.

#### **Reading Scripture as Wesleyans** *Abingdon Press*

Through Bible study, people hear God's voice, share in God's grace, and become more like Jesus Christ

### **Abusing Scripture**

### **The Consequences of Misreading the Bible** *InterVarsity Press*

Virtually all Christians recognize the centrality of the Bible to their faith. Yet many Christians misquote and misapply Scripture regularly. Often those who are most passionate about the authority of the Bible are at the greatest loss when it comes to understanding its message clearly and applying it faithfully. Professor Manfred Brauch believes this kind of mistaken interpretation and application of Scripture is a detriment to the integrity of our Christian witness and contributes to profound misunderstandings in Christian belief and practice. In this practical book written with the non-specialist in mind, Manfred Brauch identifies and corrects a number of basic errors that interpret and apply biblical texts in ways that distort their meaning and message. Chapters explore issues of context, genre, consistency, author intent and other important considerations, addressing not just the act of interpretation, but also the attitudes behind the ways we choose to apply Scripture. Whether you lead a Bible study or small group, are a pastor or Sunday school teacher, are engaged in biblical study at a college or seminary, or are just an everyday Christian who wants to understand how to interpret God's Word well and recognize good interpretation (or the lack thereof) when you encounter it, this important book will be an invaluable guide.

### **Reading Romans with Eastern Eyes**

### **Honor and Shame in Paul's Message and Mission** *InterVarsity Press*

According to Jackson W., some traditional East Asian cultural

values are closer to those of the first-century biblical world than common Western cultural values. In this work Jackson demonstrates how paying attention to East Asian culture provides a helpful lens for interpreting Paul's most complex letter, and we see how honor and shame shape so much of Paul's message and mission.

### **Fresh Eyes on Jesus' Miracles**

### **Discovering New Insights in Familiar Passages** *David C Cook*

What can readers learn about personal transformation from Jesus turning water to wine? How does His feeding of the five thousand refocus their own call to serve? In *Fresh Eyes on Jesus' Miracles*, Pastor Doug Newton finds hidden truths in the gospels' most familiar stories. From the wedding at Cana to Peter's miraculous catch, Newton offers cultural context, modern-day insights, and spiritual depth to awaken even the most seasoned reader's heart and mind. Most importantly, he equips readers to study Scripture with a fresh perspective—and join God's miraculous work in their most ordinary moments.

### **Paul and First-Century Letter Writing**

### **Secretaries, Composition and Collection** *InterVarsity Press*

Informed by the historical evidence and with a sharp eye for telltale clues in the Apostle Paul's letters, E. Randolph Richards takes us into his world and places us on the scene with Paul the letter writer offering a glimpse that overthrows our

preconceptions and offers a new perspective on how this important portion of Christian Scripture came to be.

### **Miraculous Movements** *Harper Collins*

How do the people most resistant to the transformative power of the gospel come to be its most devoted followers? *Miraculous Movement* recounts an amazing change taking place within Muslim communities where the truth of Jesus Christ is turning around the lives of many thousands of Muslims from more than twenty people groups. Discover through the sometimes humorous, often sobering, but always enlightening and encouraging true stories how imams, sheikhs, and entire mosques are forsaking Islam and embracing Christ. This close look at what the Lord is doing to spread the gospel highlights the key scriptural principles that help Christians reach out in love to share the gospel in their own community. The authors outline the principle of service to others that open doors of opportunity to the work of the gospel. Author Jerry Trousdale works with CityTeam Ministries, an organization dedicated to helping disciples make disciples through CityTeam's own ministry and through training other ministries in more than thirty countries. Features includes: Outlines important principles on how to share the gospel with non-Christians Explains how ordinary people can lead neighbors to Christ in love and humility Tells many exciting and encouraging stories of Muslims who have accepted Jesus Describes CityTeam's unique program focused on God's work through disciple-making movements, a strategy that harnesses the power of disciples making disciples and churches planting churches

### **Western Christians in Global Mission**

#### **What's the Role of the North American Church?** *InterVarsity Press*

Missions specialist Paul Borthwick brings an urgent report on how the Western church can best continue in global mission. Providing current analysis of the state of the world and Majority World opinion, Borthwick offers concrete advice for Western churches who want to avoid the pitfalls of colonialism.

### **Jesus and Judgment**

#### **The Eschatological Proclamation in Its Jewish Context** *Augsburg Fortress Publishing*

New Testament scholar Marius Reiser demonstrates that the theme of judgment lies close to the heart of Jesus' teachings. Reiser shows that the certainty of the coming of judgment is the presupposition of the ultimate coming of the reign of God.

### **Saving the Bible from Ourselves**

#### **Learning to Read and Live the Bible Well** *InterVarsity Press*

Does the Bible need to be saved? Over the course of the centuries, Bible scholars and publishers have increasingly added "helps"—chapter divisions, verses, subheads, notes—to the Bible in an effort to make it easier to study and understand. In the process, however, these have led to sampling Scripture rather than reading deeply. According to author Glenn R. Paauw, the text has become divorced from the Bible's literary and historical

context, leading to misinterpretation and a "narrow, individualistic and escapist view of salvation." Rather than being a culture-shaping force, the Bible has become a database of quick and easy answers to life's troubling questions. But these deficiencies can be corrected by engaging in what the author calls "big readings." In these pages Paauw introduces us to seven new (to us) understandings of the Bible as steps on the path to recovering one deeply engaged Bible. With each "new" Bible presented, deficiencies in how we currently interact with the Bible are explored, followed by recommendations for a new practice. The Bible's transformative power is recovered when we remove the chains Christians have applied to it over the centuries. The Bible does not need to be saved because of any defect in itself, but because we have distorted and misread it. *Saving the Bible from Ourselves* provides students of the Bible a new paradigm for reading and living the Bible well.

### **Crossing Cultures with Jesus**

#### **Sharing Good News with Sensitivity and Grace** *InterVarsity Press*

You can be a missionary by crossing an ocean or by crossing the street. Filled with compelling stories, practical resources and relational tools, this guide from veteran crosscultural minister Katie Rawson shows how we can witness the way Jesus did, entering into people's worlds and drawing them into God-centered community.

#### **A Little Book for New Bible Scholars** *InterVarsity Press*

Many young Bible scholars are passionate for the Scriptures. But is passion enough? Randolph Richards and Joseph Dodson encourage students of the Bible with wisdom from years of experience. Full of warmth, humor, and an infectious love for Scripture, this book invites a new generation of young scholars to dig into the complex, captivating world of the Bible.

### **How to Read the Bible in Changing Times**

#### **Understanding and Applying God's Word Today** *Baker Books*

Many find it difficult to take words that were written thousands of years ago and apply them to twenty-first-century life in the Western world. How do we read God's unchanging Word in a world that is increasingly defined by change? *How to Read the Bible in Changing Times* shows everyday Christians how to interpret and apply the Scriptures regardless of time and culture. Rather than seeing the Bible as a magic answer book, a list of commands to obey, or a series of promises to claim, this insightful book allows the Bible to retain its identity as a complex, inspired document while showing that the truth it contains is relevant and life-changing. It shows the reader how to determine the meaning of the text in its original context identify culturally relative features understand what the text teaches about God, his will, and his purposes apply the truths discovered to contemporary life situations It even shows readers how to discern God's will on the many modern issues that the Bible does not directly address.

## Perspective Criticism

### **Point of View and Evaluative Guidance in Biblical Narrative** *ISD LLC*

Perspective Criticism sets out a new and illuminating biblical methodology designed to help the reader of biblical narratives in which there is a character engaged in action but no explicit indication from the storyteller on how the action is to be evaluated. Gary Yamasaki argues that in these cases we are receiving cryptic guidance from the author through the narrative technique of point-of-view. In such cases the methodology of Perspective Criticism may be applied to reveal this abstruse guidance. Gary Yamasaki provides a series of frames of analysis within the theory of Perspective Criticism which may be applied to biblical stories: the spatial, psychological, informational, temporal, phraseological, and ideological perspectives. Because the majority of the point-of-view devices found in biblical narratives are also used in cinematic storytelling, the book includes accessible analyses of film scenes, providing pop-culture illustrations of the workings of the point-of-view perspective. Gary Yamasaki concludes by applying his method to two case studies: the New Testament story of Gamaliel, and the Old Testament story of Gideon. In his work Yamasaki creates a valuable foundation for the deeper understanding of biblical narrative, a gift to anyone who has struggled with the concealed messages that should be divined in biblical point-of-view narratives.

### **Rediscovering Paul**

### **An Introduction to His World, Letters, and Theology** *InterVarsity Press*

For some of us, the apostle Paul is intimidating, prickly, and unpredictable. But maybe it's time to get to know Paul on his own terms. Drawing on the best of contemporary scholarship, and with language shaped by conversations with today's students, this expanded edition of *Rediscovering Paul* gives fresh consideration to Paul's conversion, call, and his ongoing impact on church and culture.

### **Reading the Bible with Rabbi Jesus**

### **How a Jewish Perspective Can Transform Your Understanding** *Baker Books*

What would it be like for modern readers to sit down beside Jesus as he explained the Bible to them? What life-changing insights might emerge from such a transformative encounter? Lois Tverberg knows the treasures that await readers willing to learn how to read the Bible through Jewish eyes. By helping them understand the Bible as Jesus and his first-century listeners would have, she bridges the gaps of time and culture in order to open the Bible to readers today. Combining careful research with engaging prose, Tverberg leads us on a journey back in time to shed light on how this Middle Eastern people approached life, God, and each other. She explains age-old imagery that we often misinterpret, allowing us to approach God and the stories and teachings of Scripture with new eyes. By helping readers grasp the perspective of its original audience, she equips them to read the Bible in ways that will enrich their lives and deepen their

understanding.

## **Biblical Theology**

### **The God of the Christian Scriptures** *InterVarsity Press*

John Goldingay takes the New Testament as a portal into the complete canon of Scripture. Without searching out an overarching unity, he allows Scripture's diversity and tensions to remain, letting Scripture speak to us in its own voice. This landmark biblical theology is hermeneutically dexterous, biblically expansive, and nourishing to mind, soul and proclamation.

## **Torn to Heal**

### **God's Good Purpose in Suffering** *Cruciform Press*

## **Sacred Word, Broken Word**

### **Biblical Authority and the Dark Side of Scripture** *Wm. B. Eerdmans Publishing*

The Bible is a religious masterpiece. Its authors cast a profound vision for the healing of humanity through the power of divine love, grace and forgiveness. But the Bible also contains "dark texts" that challenge our ethical imagination. How can one book teach us to love our enemies and also teach us to slaughter Canaanites? Why does a book that preaches the equality of all people -- male and female, slave and free, Greek and Jew -- also include laws that permit God's people to trade in slaves and to persecute those of a different faiths or ethnicities? In Sacred

Word, Broken Word Kenton Sparks argues that the "dark side" of Scripture is not an illusion. Rather, these dark texts remind us that all human beings, including the biblical authors, stand in need of God's redemptive solution in Jesus Christ.

## **Interpreting Scripture with the Great Tradition**

### **Recovering the Genius of Premodern Exegesis** *Baker Books*

The rise of modernity, especially the European Enlightenment and its aftermath, has negatively impacted the way we understand the nature and interpretation of Christian Scripture. In this introduction to biblical interpretation, Craig Carter evaluates the problems of post-Enlightenment hermeneutics and offers an alternative approach: exegesis in harmony with the Great Tradition. Carter argues for the validity of patristic christological exegesis, showing that we must recover the Nicene theological tradition as the context for contemporary exegesis, and seeks to root both the nature and interpretation of Scripture firmly in trinitarian orthodoxy.

## **The Forgotten Jesus**

### **How Western Christians Should Follow an Eastern Rabbi** *Zondervan*

Through the years, our understanding of Jesus has been shaped by different cultural influences, and many Christians have forgotten that Jesus was a Jewish man living in a Jewish land, observing Jewish customs, and investing his life into Jewish men and women. Trading the popular, but inaccurate Western

perspective of the Bible for the context in which Jesus actually ministered in 2000 years ago, author Robby Gallaty reveals the fascinating Hebraic culture, customs, and nuances many Christians have never experienced or learned about. By uncovering the teaching of the first and second century rabbis and Christian theologians, and highlighting little-known Jewish idioms and traditions, Gallaty takes Christians on a biblical journey to rediscover a forgotten Jesus from a biblical perspective, deepening your relationship with God.

### **Jesus Through Middle Eastern Eyes**

#### **Cultural Studies in the Gospels** *InterVarsity Press*

Beginning with Jesus' birth, Ken Bailey leads you on a kaleidoscopic study of Jesus throughout the four Gospels, examining the life and ministry of Jesus with attention to the Lord's Prayer, the Beatitudes, Jesus' relationship to women, and especially Jesus' parables. The work dispels the obscurity of Western interpretations with a stark vision of Jesus in his original context.

### **Preaching in Hitler's Shadow**

#### **Sermons of Resistance in the Third Reich** *Wm. B. Eerdmans Publishing*

What did German preachers opposed to Hitler say in their Sunday sermons? When the truth of Christ could cost a pastor his life, what words encouraged and challenged him and his congregation? This book answers those questions. Preaching in

Hitler's Shadow begins with a fascinating look at Christian life inside the Third Reich, giving readers a real sense of the danger that pastors faced every time they went into the pulpit. Dean Stroud pays special attention to the role that language played in the battle over the German soul, pointing out the use of Christian language in opposition to Nazi rhetoric. The second part of the book presents thirteen well-translated sermons by various select preachers, including Dietrich Bonhoeffer, Karl Barth, Rudolf Bultmann, and others not as well known but no less courageous. A running commentary offers cultural and historical insights, and each sermon is preceded by a short biography of the preacher.

### **Through Western Eyes**

#### **Eastern Orthodoxy: A Reformed Perspective** *Mentor*

The culture of the Eastern Church, to many, is alien. Yet there are recognizable family resemblances. This book aims to start to get to know one another again from a Reformed Protestant perspective.

### **Rediscovering Jesus**

#### **An Introduction to Biblical, Religious and Cultural Perspectives on Christ** *InterVarsity Press*

Who is your Jesus? This textbook introduction gives an enjoyable and challenging look at how we encounter Jesus in Scripture and our culture—from the New Testament to the gnostic gospels, historical Jesus studies, Islam, Mormonism, Hollywood and Americana. Follow the path to seeing Jesus truly and notice the

difference it makes for faith and life.

### **Not From Around Here**

#### **What Unites Us, What Divides Us, and How We Can Move Forward** *Moody Publishers*

Tidy categories may suit the media, but people are more complex up close. News outlets, historians, and sociologists can (and do) tell us all about the statistics, but they don't (and can't) tell us about what it's really like in a given place—how the squish of creek water between your toes or the crunch of autumn leaves on a city sidewalk shape your sense of normal and good and right. To understand that—to understand the people in the places—we need stories. We need to listen, get to know the nuance of people, and have empathy for their way of seeing things. Brandon O'Brien is, in many ways, a man torn between places. Raised in the rural South, educated in the suburbs, and now living and doing ministry in Manhattan, he's seen these places, and their complexity, up close. With the knack of a natural storyteller, he shares what he learned about himself, faith, and the people who make up America on his own journey through it.

### **Muscle and a Shovel**

#### **Hardback Edition**

Hardback Collector's Library Limited Edition, 2020. Amazon best-seller. 1 million sold. 80k+ baptized into Christ. *Muscle and a Shovel* is a raw and gritty true story about a pair of young newly-

weds who move to the city to chase the American dream. In the process they're befriended by a man who turns their belief about God, their church, and their faith upside down! Baptists, Methodists, Presbyterians, Catholics, the Community Churches - none are spared when Truth is at stake and their new friend Randall isn't about to "candy coat" God's Word for the sake of "political correctness" or "religious tolerance." This story will grip you from opening to close and will stimulate your spirit on levels you didn't think possible. Get ready to fight or flee because *Muscle and a Shovel* is one of those rare books that will raise your heart-rate and your blood-pressure. You won't want to wait to share it with your friends or you'll want to douse it in gasoline and set on fire! There'll be no middle ground. Many Christian reviewers have said, "This book will turn our current religious world upside-down!"

### **Living By the Book**

#### **The Art and Science of Reading the Bible** *Moody Publishers*

For every person who draws strength and direction from the Bible, there are many more who struggle with it. Some call it a long book with fine print and obscure meaning. Some call it a mystery, a chore to read, or an undecipherable puzzle. The good news is you can easily solve this problem. With over 300,000 sold, this revised and expanded edition of *Living by the Book* will remove the barriers that keep Scripture from transforming your life. In a simple, step-by-step fashion, the authors explain how to glean truth from Scripture. It is practical, readable, and applicable. By following its easy-to-apply principles, you'll soon

find yourself drawing great nourishment from the Word—and enjoying the process! The Living by the Book Workbook is the perfect compliment to provide practical application of lessons.

### **Reading the Bible Badly**

#### **How American Christians Misunderstand and Misuse their Scriptures** *Wipf and Stock Publishers*

Reading the Bible Badly exposes how American Christians misunderstand and misuse the Bible, reading Scripture through “lenses” that distort its true character. As Americans, we often read the Bible’s stories and instruction unmindful of their historical and cultural settings, disregarding the testimony of our spiritual ancestors, and finding mostly a mirror image of our own values and selves in Scripture. Some of us insist that the Bible must be the “inerrant word of God,” historically factual in every way and doctrinally infallible, and overlook so much of what makes Scripture beautiful and relevant. Others follow a lectionary that dices and splices Scripture into bite-size morsels for Sunday worship, divorces passages from their biblical settings, strikes verses deemed offensive, and undermines the literary artistry that is the lifeblood of Scripture’s profound revelation. Many of us read the Bible in fear, warping our witness to Jesus and tragically neglecting Scripture’s ever-persistent call to compassion, hospitality, and love. We come to the Bible looking for simple rules that affirm our sense of right and wrong, while missing the point of what Jesus taught about wisdom and true righteousness. Reading the Bible Badly challenges Christians to set aside their misaligned lenses, that they may encounter the Bible more fully

and faithfully.

### **The Story of Israel**

#### **A Biblical Theology** *InterVarsity Press*

This book by C. Marvin Pate, J. Scott Duvall, J. Daniel Hays, E. Randolph Richards, W. Dennis Tucker Jr. and Preben Vang explores the unitive theme of the story of Israel from Genesis to Revelation--offering both close-up examinations of key texts and panoramic shots of the biblical terrain to unfold an intriguing and compelling perspective on biblical theology.

### **The Immigration Crisis**

#### **Immigrants, Aliens, and the Bible** *Crossway*

Hoffmeier combines biblical, archaeological, and sociological evidence to form a definition and understanding of aliens in Israelite society, which helps inform the current debate on the status of illegal immigrants in the United States.

#### **Grasping God's Word** *Harper Collins*

'Excellent, practical, and accurate. It leads students from the most fundamental building blocks of interpretation (including skills that most beginning students lack) through all the essential processes.' ---Craig S. Keener, Professor of New Testament, Eastern Seminary Just as a rock climber's handhold enables him to master the mountain, a firm grasp on God's Word empowers us to traverse the challenging, risky slopes of life. This workbook is designed for use with the textbook Grasping God's Word. While

the textbook shows you the principles and tools of interpretation, the workbook lets you try them out by applying them to specific genres and contexts. Together, these books will help you get a grip on the solid rock of Scripture---how to read it, how to interpret it, and how to apply it. Features include: \* Proven in classrooms across the country \* Emphasis on real-life application \* Supplemented by a website for professors providing extensive teaching materials \* Updates corresponding to the second edition of the textbook, including new exercises

Grasping God's Word progresses through the following five sections: 1. How to Read the Book---Basic Tools 2. Contexts---Now and Then 3. Meaning and Application 4. The Interpretive Journey---New Testament 5. The Interpretive Journey---Old Testament

### **Indestructible Daughters** *Xulon Press*

An army is on the horizon sending forth a warrior's cry. Its mission is indestructible. Are you one of those warriors? An indestructible daughter stepping forth in full revelation of all God created you to be? In *Indestructible Daughters*, author Karen Schagunn guides women into overcoming the most vulnerable and prevalent challenges they are facing today. With a powerful life story interwoven with biblical wisdom and a down-to-earth bootcamp approach, Karen breaks through the barriers of culture, religion, fear and unbelief to shine a light of truth into the hearts of women about their rightful place in the world. *Indestructible Daughters* reveals the global vision of a woman's role in the kingdom of God and the power of the gospel that will set you free from bondage and brokenness and equip you to live life as a warrior-chosen, loved, and indestructible. This book embodies the

ripple effect of one woman; set free in God's power and healing, mobilizing an army of unshakable women. Her story, woven into practical biblical teaching, empowers those reading it to go forth boldly in faith and confidence; it is a message all generations need to hear! -Whitney Bunker, Executive Director/Co-founder at City Without Orphans

Karen's personal story is so powerful . . . the most compelling part of the book/study. This is a good guidebook for Christian women. -Liz Harrison, Co-anchor, ABC30 News, and Emmy-winning reporter

With Biblical authority and straightforward reasoning, Karen Schagunn lays out the roadmap for women of God to overcome the past, empower the present, and propel into the future. You will be challenged and emancipated for personal growth and entitlement of all God's desires for your life. Ladies, there will be no excuses left as we work to finish God's work. -Bonna Rogers-Neufeld, MD

### **Sitting at the Feet of Rabbi Jesus**

#### **How the Jewishness of Jesus Can Transform Your Faith** *Zondervan*

A rare chance to know Jesus as his first disciples knew him. What would it be like to journey back to the first century and sit at the feet of Rabbi Jesus as one of his Jewish disciples? How would your understanding of the gospel have been shaped by the customs, beliefs, and traditions of the Jewish culture in which you lived? *Sitting at the Feet of Rabbi Jesus* takes you on a fascinating tour of the Jewish world of Jesus, offering inspirational insights that can transform your faith. Ann Spangler and Lois Tverberg paint powerful scenes from Jesus' ministry, immersing you in the

prayers, feasts, history, culture, and customs that shaped Jesus and those who followed him. You will hear the parables as they must have sounded to first-century Jews, powerful and surprising. You will join the conversations that were already going on among the rabbis of his day. You will watch with new understanding as the events of his life unfold. And you will emerge with new excitement about the roots of your own Christian faith. Sitting at the Feet of Rabbi Jesus will change the way you read Scripture and deepen your understanding of the life of Jesus. It will also help you to adapt the rich prayers and customs you learn about to your own life, in ways that both respect and enrich your Christian faith. By looking at the Jewishness of Jesus, Ann Spangler and Lois Tverberg take you on a captivating journey into the heart of Judaism, one that is both balanced and insightful, helping you to better understand and appreciate your own faith. This newly expanded softcover edition includes a discussion guide for both individuals and groups, and instructions for a simple home Passover Seder celebration.

### **Honor, Patronage, Kinship & Purity**

#### **Unlocking New Testament Culture** *InterVarsity Press*

David A. deSilva demonstrates in this book how paying attention to the cultural themes of honor, patronage, kinship and purity opens us to new facets of the New Testament documents.

### **Demanding Liberty**

#### **An Untold Story of American Religious Freedom** *InterVarsity*

#### *Press*

Historian Brandon O'Brien unveils an untold story of religious liberty in America. Between theocracy and secularism, Baptist pastor Isaac Backus contended for a third way—religious liberty and freedom of conscience for all Americans, regardless of belief. Backus's ideas impacted his era, giving us insight into how people of faith today can navigate political debates and work for the common good.

### **Pioneer Missions**

#### **Meet the Challenges, Share the Blessings** *CreateSpace*

A church planter in Cambodia seeks to help Christians reach for greater discernment in missions. He wrestles with some of the difficult issues we face in pursuing the great commission on pioneer fields. Using Scripture and personal experience from fourteen years of cross-cultural ministry, Forrest engages us all in a task that demands thoughtful methods from those going and sending. This book will challenge you to see the link between theology and practice in missions. It will also give you a window into the heart of missionaries serving in unreached places around the world. Be prepared to be challenged and blessed. Endorsements: "Pastors, read Forrest McPhail's book, and then read it again! Future missionaries, memorize it! For this old missionary, Forrest's book was written about 20 years too late. But even old dogs can, by God's grace, learn new tricks, and I've profited greatly from the humble wisdom, practical insight, and gentle rebukes of a man that I consider one of the finest missionaries I know." J.D. Crowley J.D. grew up in Japan and

Hawaii. He pastored in Hawaii for 12 years before leaving for Cambodia in 1994. He has served there under EMU International doing linguistic work and training pastors among the indigenous minorities of NE Cambodia. He is the author of *The Tampuan/Khmer/English Dictionary* and Khmer commentaries on Matthew and Romans. J.D. has also co-authored the book *Gospel Meditations for Missions* "Forrest McPhail is a first-rate pioneer missionary who has written a compelling work that comprises what he has learned, lived, and taught others. The book unpacks complex cross-cultural issues with clarity and time-earned wisdom, and demonstrates how to interact intentionally with culture in order to be both relevant and faithful to the gospel. Although set in the context of Southeast Asia, this boots-on-the-ground work is a must read for pastors and missionaries everywhere." Kevin Oberlin Kevin is Associate Professor Theology and Cross-Cultural Studies, Bob Jones University and Seminary "Missionaries, pastors, and all believers will benefit immensely from your work. Why? It will give Pastors a great understanding of the minefields of ministry in third world nations. It will give greater focus to churches that take short term mission trips. It will be useful in helping missionaries lay a foundation for their ministries that will be able to stand the test of trial. The writing is bold and filled with principles rooted in Scripture. This book reflects a wrestling with the issues both written in the Word and those experienced in the villages and marketplace. This will help many now and in the future if they would take your counsel to heart!" Matthew Recker Matt has served Christ in church planting

ministry in New York City since 1984, establishing churches in Brooklyn, Queens, and Manhattan. Matt has published three books, including *Behold the City!* and *Living on the Edge of Eternity*. Missionaries who "leave maps laying around" for those who are starting their mission journey are commendable. Forrest McPhail did just that--he created a map based on his journey as a missionary in Cambodia for pioneer missionaries (those going to the unreached people groups of the world). His map is as much about understanding the lay of the land and the critical points of the journey as it is about the destination. In other words, through personal stories, biblical observations, and practical insights, Forrest invites his readers to consider strategic elements and issues, such as syncretism, persecution, church discipline, poverty, and much more before they start building a foundation. Thank you Forrest for daring to share. Jean Johnson Formerly a missionary in Cambodia, Jean currently serves as Missionary \* Coach \* and Executive Program Director for World Mission Associates. She has authored *"We Are Not the Hero: A Missionary's Guide for Sharing Christ, Not a Culture of Dependency"*

#### **Family Portraits** *WestBow Press*

Pastor and Bible teacher Randy McCracken offers an intimate look at lesser-known members of 1 and 2 Samuel's four main families—those of Samuel, Eli, Saul, and David. Examining characters unfamiliar to many Bible readers, he reveals important lessons for today.