

OTIRA THEOLOGICAL BOOK CLUB

“Some books are to be tasted, others to be swallowed, and some few to be chewed and digested.”

Francis Bacon (1561-1626)

For more information:

Centre for Theology & Ministry



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Website: <http://ctm.uca.edu.au/page/otira-theological-book-club>

Lay Education at the Centre for Theology & Ministry (CTM) offers a fantastic resource for the congregations and Presbyteries who love to read and digest books.

We have available for loan a wide range of books which have been chosen to:

- create fascinating discussions,
- offer an alternate perspective,
- enable an opportunity for adult Christian education,
- provide an excuse to get together a group of people and share in community.

We have over 100 titles to choose from, so you're bound to find at least one title to suit your group.

We also have available study guides and questions for some of the titles to help start your conversations.

Merryn Gray

Otira Theological Book Club Coordinator

So how does the borrowing system work??

One person acts as contact person and accepts the responsibility to:

- invite a group of people to the club
- secure their commitment
- select a title and borrow books (one title at a time or reserve titles for a year's worth of meetings)
- distribute books, set up meeting date
- lead discussion meetings (or delegate this job to another group member)
- return books by the due date

Does it cost anything to borrow the books??

It does not cost your group anything except for the postage to return the books back to the CTM. Donations are certainly welcome to enable us to continue supplying new titles regularly.

How long do we have the books for??

Normal borrowing time is about 6-8 weeks.

How do we get the books??

Either via mail (Australia Post) or by personal pick up at the CTM.

Normally the books will be available to be handed out at the previous meeting, to be read, then discussed & collected at the next meeting.

My group is interested how do I get more information??

- Keep reading for a comprehensive list of the titles that are available
- Fill in the form at the end of the book
- Contact us on 03 9340 8800 or info@ctm.uca.edu.au

Things to note:

- New books are the ones highlighted in grey.
- ****NEW**** The book group comments have been provided by you. It is important to note that these are a particular group's experience of the book and may not necessarily reflect your group's experience of the same book. They have been included for you as an additional reference when choosing your books. If you have a comment on a book, please feel free to include it when returning the books.
- Every effort will be made to supply you with the books requested for the time indicated. If the book has been reserved by another group, the book will be made available to you at the next possible time.

Albom, Mitch

Tuesdays With Morrie

18 copies

192 pp

1998

"The last class of my old professor's life took place once a week in his house, by a window in the study on Tuesdays. The subject was The Meaning of Life. It was taught from experience" 'A beautifully written book of great clarity and wisdom that lovingly captures the simplicity beyond life's complexities'.

Book Group Comments

- *We have enjoyed studying this book and reading it produced some interesting and valuable discussions. It was also easy to read and read by a wide group of people with pleasure*

Anderson, Bernhard.

The Living Word Of The Bible

18 copies

109 pp

1979

The Bible is approached by way of four perspectives: imagination, narration, liberation and obligation. The implications of biblical criticism for the life and worship of the church are discussed and clearly and simply provides a survey of more recent developments in biblical study, being particularly concerned to show their positive value rather than the negative effect.

Anderson, Robert, Harry ***The Way We See Things Now***

Wardlaw, Nigel Watson.

13 copies

54 pp

1993

Three eminent professors comment on significant changes that have occurred during their time as members of staff at the UC's Theological Hall and UFT in Melbourne.

Ariarajah, Wesley.

The Bible And People Of Other Faiths

16 copies

71 pp

1985

Most Christians in the modern world live in situations of religious pluralism. They are constantly challenged at many levels, to relate to people of other living faiths. But is the Bible supportive of a life in dialogue? That is the question the author seeks to answer.

Ariarajah, Wesley.

Not Without My Neighbour

17 copies

130 pp

1999

Although interfaith dialogue has established itself as a key concern for churches and the ecumenical movement, it continues to raise spiritual, social, political, practical and theological concerns. An excellent discussion book.

Bailey, Ivor.

The Ten Commandments

20 copies

80 pp

1992

Jesus' advice to the rich young man is meant for everyone who tries to live the way God wants. But what have these commandments to say about life today?

Bandy, Thomas.

Kicking Habits

17 copies

261 pp

2001

Upgrade Edition. This groundbreaking book on systemic change that has literally birthed new congregations, rejuvenated tired leaders, and transformed declining churches. It provides the big picture of thriving church life in the postmodern world.

Barber, Bruce.

The Lord's Prayer

19 copies

57 pp

1993

An exposition of the prayer of the Christian church. Each phrase is introduced by a biblical text and taken in association with those readings. By the *Forum on Faith and Society*.

Barr, Liz And Andrew.

Jobs For The Boys

17 copies

249 pp

1998

In 1992 women won the right to be ordained as priests in the Church of England after a long struggle against what had sometimes seemed to be overwhelming opposition. This book is not about the struggle to be ordained but the story of changes these exceptional women are making, often against all the odds.

Bass, Dorothy

Practising Our Faith

18 copies

231 pp

1997

The gap between theory and practice in religion is one of growing consternation for people. Aside from going to church on Sunday, how does a Christian manifest the power of this religion in his or her own life? Instead of just *being* a Christian, how can one bring the meaningfulness of Christianity into one's life? Dorothy C. Bass and 12 other Christian leaders offer concrete practices such as hospitality, simplicity, and community gathering that serve to enrich our lives and the lives of others while reinforcing faith in God. Although presented from a Christian point of view, the practices themselves are universally applicable.

Book Group Comments

- *We all found this a very helpful book and easy to read*
 - *The group really valued this insightful book*
 - *Many helpful passages*
-

Beare, Hedley And Lyn. ***Praying In Secret***

19 copies

80 pp

1988

Look at how meditative prayer can be an important part of your day and how daily devotions can be a source of spiritual energy. Follow the pattern of a service of worship, drawing on insights from a wide range of devotional traditions

Beresford, Quentin.

Rob Riley, An Aboriginal Leader's Quest For Justice

18 copies

336 pp

2006

A biography of triumph and tragedy. Much of Rob's life was a triumph of the human spirit against great adversity and this legacy remains. All who care about reconciliation should read this book.

Bird, Carmel.

The Stolen Children

18 copies

185 pp

1998

Stories out of the pain, separation and displacement of the stolen children. Acknowledging the human tragedy created during a misunderstood and shameful part of our history.

Blanksby, Arthur. ***Some Of My Lives Back There***

11 copies 394 pp 1995

Arthur was Principal of Otira College from 1968-1979. This book is written by one who is both preacher and poet: a man committed to spreading the gospel of Christ, a man with an eye for detail and a concern for truth.

Bodycomb, John. ***A Matter Of Death And Life***

28 copies 63 pp 1986

Addressing the question of the future of Australia's churches, the writer indicates some signposts and offers suggestions on what churches can and should do without delay.

Bodycomb, John. ***The One With Many Names***

16 copies 72 pp 1993

The author explores the many titles given to God, not to discover what these names tell us about God, but rather to discover what they say about us. Explore the ways we talk about God to deepen our understanding of personal wholeness, human relations and life today.

Borg, Marcus And ***The Last Week***

Crossnan, John

Dominic.

18 copies 238 pp 2007

Two top Jesus experts offer what they believe is the real story of Jesus' final week in Jerusalem. 'Holy Week' the most sacred time of the Christian year with its climax on Good Friday and Easter. Includes a Reader's Guide for individual and group use.

Book Group Comments

- *Tremendous book! Several of our members plan to buy copies*
- *Gave us many valuable insights and much discussion*

**Borg, Marcus And
Wright, N.T.**

The Meaning Of Jesus – Two Visions

17 copies

250 pp

2000

Two leading Jesus scholars with widely divergent views go to the heart of these questions presenting opposing visions of Jesus that shape our faith today. Candid, spirited, and thoughtfully debated.

Borg, Marcus J.

The Heart Of Christianity

25 copies

226 pp

2004

What is the heart of Christianity? What does it mean to be Christian today? Here are two quite different answers. An earlier vision of Christianity then an emerging vision. We live in a time of conflict and change in the church.

Borg, Marcus J.

The God We Never Knew

18 copies

178 pp

1997

From the distant, authoritative God of our childhood to an equally powerful, dynamic adult understanding of God we trace the author's own spiritual journey as he reveals how to embrace a fresh, authentic view of God that is fully compatible with good science, critical thinking and religious pluralism - a view that promotes a much healthier and more vital life of faith today.

Borg, Marcus J.

Meeting Jesus For The First Time

15 copies

140 pp

1995

We have all met Jesus before. We received some impression, some image of him, however vague or specific. Here is an account of contemporary Jesus scholarship, (told in simple language), and of his personal struggle to find authentic faith.

Borg, Marcus J. ***Reading The Bible Again For The First Time***

17 copies 302 pp 2002

Many inside and outside organised religions are searching for an enlightened, contemporary way to be believers and to appreciate the profound richness of the Bible. Borg offers a bold new understanding of scripture that respects both tradition and reality, blending the best of biblical scholarship with concern for authentic faith and how it is lived today.

Bowker, John. ***Beliefs That Changed The World***

18 copies 205 pp 2007

The History and Ideas of the Great Religions. From the Jewish exodus over 3,000 years ago to the importance of Shinto in modern Japan, the histories of the world's prominent religions are brought to light and the central tenets behind each are revealed. A timely reflection on the way religious beliefs continue to shape our world.

Book Group Comments

- *We all thought this a good reference book about the basics of the faiths presented*

Boyd-Macrae, Clare. ***The Whole Shebang***

18 copies 235 pp 2008

Clare shares her doubts, her dark as well as luminous moments with simplicity and sincerity in her latest book of articles and reflections. As Olga Lorenzo writes in the introduction she offers something of immeasurable generosity in this collection of stories about her life.

Boyd-Macrae, Clare. ***Three Gates To Paradise***

18 copies 242 pp 2006

The shops and streets of Brunswick, family, friends, birth and death, walking the dog, demolishing a house or standing up for refugees, Clare writes about her life and faith with breathtaking frankness, inviting us into an intimate space. Clare's articles and reflections appear regularly in *The Age*.

Butler Bass, Diana. ***Christianity For The Rest Of Us***
18 copies 321 pp 2006
How the Neighbourhood Church is Transforming the Faith. Church renewal isn't only about the dramatic and large-scale but about transformations in local communities nourished by the readiness to learn from a wide spectrum of Christian wisdom. The author is a popular speaker at retreats and workshops and made a visit to Australia mid-year 2009. You can visit her online at www.dianabutlerbass.com
Book Group Comments
• *This was a great book with many aspects relevant to our congregation*

Byrne, Brendan, S.J. ***Inheriting The Earth: The Pauline Basis Of A Spirituality For Our Time***
11 copies 110 pp 1990
The Pauline basis of a spirituality for our time (110pp) A teacher of New Testament at the United Faculty and a Jesuit priest, Brendan traces in the writings of St Paul, God's concern for relationship with individual Christians, our life together and the world. Explore the two poles of freedom and responsibility.

Capon, Robert Farrar. ***The Supper Of The Lamb***
18 copies 270 pp 2000
From a passionate and talented chef who also happens to be an Episcopalian priest comes this surprising and thought-provoking treatise on everything from prayer to poetry to puff pastry.

**Chacour, Elias And
Mary E. Jensen.** ***We Belong To The Land***
18 copies 205 pp 2007
The story of a Palestinian Israeli, Elias Chacour, the Archbishop of Galilee of the Melkite Greek Catholic Church, who lives for Peace and Reconciliation.

Chacour, Elias.

Blood Brothers

20 copies

238 pp

2003

As a child Elias lived in a small Palestinian village. People were proud of their Christian heritage and lived peacefully with their Jewish neighbours. Early in 1947 their idyllic lifestyle was swept away as thousands of Palestinians were killed and many were forced into refugee camps. As an exile in his native land he began a year long struggle with his love for the Jewish people and the world's misunderstanding of Palestinians. How was he to respond?

Claiborne, Shane.

The Irresistible Revolution

18 copies

367 pp

2006

We enter into a movement of the Spirit that begins in the heart and extends through our hands into a broken world. The author stirs up questions about the Church and the world and challenges you to live out an authentic Christian faith. This book will comfort the disturbed, disturb the comfortable and invite believers to change the world with Christ's radical **love**.

Book Group Comments

- *We found the book very readable and very challenging. Not a comfortable read. It made us look honestly at what following Jesus really means*

Clendinnen, Inga.

True Stories

17 copies

118 pp

1998

We have seen nations destroyed by false and fatally divisive histories. The author believes that democratic peoples need true stories about their past so argues forcefully for the rejection of any single, simple account of the Australian past and urges responsiveness to a multiplicity of stories catching different experiences and situations.

Craven, Margaret.

I Heard The Owl Call My Name

28 copies

131 pp

1974

A young Anglican priest who has not long to live, is sent to the Indian village in the wilds of British Columbia. While sharing the hunting and fishing, the festivals and funerals, the joys and sorrows of a once proud tribe, he learns enough of life to be ready to die. This very readable novel, speaks of incarnation, identification with people and what it is to minister.

Critchett, Jan.

Untold Stories

18 copies

273 pp

1998

A series of Aboriginal biographies from the Western District of Victoria, drawing on the oral tradition of local Koorie Elders and on official records. This book opens our eyes to a number of remarkable individuals who managed to make a life in the interstices of the society that had dispossessed them.

Book Group Comments

- *Much of this book was quite a revelation to some members of our group*

**Delphin-Stanford,
Delphine And Brown
John.**

Committed To Change

21 copies

106 pp

1994

There is no sense in pretending reconciliation is easy. It's not paying off old scores or making up for bad debts; it's not even fairness and justice - it has to be more generous than that. Read the author's views.

**Department Of
Employment, Education
& Training (Deet)**

Stories From Home

16 copies

53 pp

2004

Stories of traumatic experiences, great loss and hardship, by new settlers, some migrants, some refugees or asylum seekers who have settled in the Goulburn Valley.

Diamant, Anita. ***The Red Tent***
18 copies 395 pp 1998
The story of Dinah, Jacob's only daughter in the Book of Genesis. Moving panoramically from Mesopotamia to Canaan to Egypt and narrated by Dinah, of her upbringing by the four wives of Jacob to her growth into one of the most influential women of her time.

Dicker, Gordon. ***Faith With Understanding***
16 copies 207 pp 1981
This book attempts to open up theology for the ordinary person, free from jargon or needless complexity. The author seeks to have the reader discover the joy of understanding what they believe and how their faith influences life.

Book Group Comments

- *Good solid read*

Dicker, Gordon. ***The Bible With Understanding***
13 copies 128 pp 1988
The writer's aim is to help readers understand and use the Bible more effectively for everyday living. He shows how differing views of the authority and interpretation of Scripture have caused unresolved arguments in the Church about beliefs and ethics.

Dingo, Sally. ***The Story Of Our Mob***
18 copies 312 pp 1998
This uplifting story spans three generations of an Aboriginal family's long struggle to find dignity and worth in a culture not their own.

Donaghy, Bronwyn. ***Anna's Story***
10 copies 254 pp 1996
Just fifteen she was leaving school to start the job of her dreams. Beautiful, with a loving family and many friends, on October 21 1995, she took an ecstasy tablet and died three days later. A family devastated, a community in shock.

Douglass, Jane Dempsey. ***Reform And Renewal***
20 copies 32 pp 1995
The author draws on her extensive knowledge of the sixteenth century reformation to recall the struggles and tensions of the time and to reflect on some lessons to be learned for the church today.

Dutney, Andrew (Ed.) ***From Here To Where?***
19 copies 153 pp 1988
We are encouraged to think about the way ahead. Issues are discussed: land rights, white Aboriginal relationships, prejudice, wealth and poverty and the church's role.

Dutney, Andrew. ***Where Did The Joy Come From?***
20 copies 56 pp 2001
A voyage of rediscovery. Andrew revisits the Basis of Union and uncovers the joy and excitement of the early days of the Uniting Church. Share his passion for the deep wisdom and sound teaching that are the marks of this foundation document of the church.

Dutney, Andrew. ***Playing God - Ethics And Faith***
17 copies 178 pp 2001
The author believes that bioethics has been left to experts for too long. This sensitive area of decision making should belong to those who wrestle personally with the hard decisions - the sick and those who care for them.

Dutney, Andrew. ***Food, Sex And Death***
15 copies 175 pp 1993
The writer shares with his readers his struggle to find meaning after his baby son died within days of birth. The reader joins him in a search for something meaningful to say about God in the light of human suffering.

Dutney, Andrew. ***Introducing The Uniting Church In Australia***

18 copies 39 pp 2008

Andrew is one of the leading interpreters of the history and theology of the Uniting Church. Through books, essays, lectures, seminars and academic courses on the Uniting Church he has helped a generation to share the vision of the UCA's founders.

Edwards, Tilden. ***Living Simply Through The Day - Spiritual Survival In A Complex Age***

15 copies 255 pp 1977

The author takes us through the 'basic windows of the day', eating, sleeping, relating and praying and offers suggestions from his own experience on prayer.

Evans, Alwyn. ***Walk In My Shoes***

18 copies 346 pp 2004

After a perilous and terrifying escape from war-torn Afghanistan a family find themselves in Australia, a place they know nothing about. They are exhausted and traumatised, but so full of hope. But their struggle isn't over yet. An inspiring novel for all Australians.

Fisher, Judi & Wood, Janet (Ed.) ***A Place At The Table - Women At The Last Supper***

20 copies 89 pp 1993

This book attempts to answer the questions "Why were no women present?" 'If in fact they were present, why were they omitted from the story?' It reconsiders the New Testament accounts of the Last Supper and considers the contribution art makes to our theological and biblical understanding.

Ford, David.	<i>Theology - A Very Short Introduction</i>	
17 copies	191 pp	1999
This book provides believers and non-believers with a balanced survey of the central questions of contemporary theology. The author's interrogative approach draws the reader into considering the principles underlying religious belief.		

Forest, Jim.	<i>Praying With Icons</i>	
9 copies	162 pp	1997
Fascinating and beautiful, this book offers a simple introduction to the tradition of icons with special emphasis on their function in the spiritual life. Forest provides a personal and practical guide to how one prays with icons.		

Forrester, Duncan B.	<i>Apocalypse Now ?</i>	
16 copies	136 pp	2005
How may people of faith respond wisely, constructively and courageously to the challenges of a time of terror: How might religious reasons in public debate be a force for reconciliation rather than violence and hatred? We are at a turning point – this is a book which should be read.		

Foster, Richard.	<i>Celebration Of Discipline - The Path To Spiritual Growth</i>	
25 copies	179 pp	1978
An American Quaker writes simply and encouragingly about the ways to a spiritual life. Classical spiritual disciplines are described with present day illustrations and helps the inner journey. Plus study guides.		

Fraser, Ian M.	<i>Living A Countersign: From Iona To Basic Christian Communities</i>	
19 copies	126 pp	1990
In a day of increasing anonymity, the place of community and especially Christian community is increasingly being recognised. Ian Fraser gives many examples of Christian communities from Iona, Scotland to many other parts of the world.		

Fung, Raymond. ***The Isaiah Vision***
16 copies 55 pp 1991
An "ecumenical strategy for congregation-based evangelism", based upon a belief that mission and witness belongs with local congregations and communities - the restored community where old and young find their place and fulfilment.

Galbraith, Douglas (Ed.) ***Worship In The Wide Red Land***
20 copies 106 pp 1985
One feature of the church at worship is the increasing participation by lay people in the leading of services. Fifteen authors, all recognized for their contribution to the development of worship in the UCA, explore the meaning and practice of worship and preaching today.

Glynn, Paul. ***A Song For Nagasaki***
10 copies 168 pp 1988
The story of a Japanese atheist, born into a medical family where the ancient Shinto faith was the mainstay and who became a Christian. A M.D. pioneer professor of radiology at the University of Nagasaki who exemplified the characteristic of Japanese Christian history, total commitment and even martyrdom and who died of atomic disease.

Gondarra, Djiniyini. ***Let My People Go***
15 copies 35 pp 1986
By a noted church leader in the Northern Synod on Church renewal, Christian Theology of the Land Contextualization and Unity. Gondarra writes as an Aboriginal Christian and visionary leader of his people.

Graham, Duncan (Ed.) ***Being Whitefella***
18 copies 189 pp 1994
Sixteen 'whitefellas' explore their relationship with Aboriginal Australia, looking at events which shaped their understanding and appreciation of Aboriginal culture and history. In their lively, highly readable and personal stories these writers share experiences and wrestle with the issues of today.

Grant, Arch. ***Aliens In Arnhem Land***
14 copies 71 pp 1995
The Methodist Church had been active in Darwin from the beginning in 1873. Church ministry had been to Europeans, then the Chinese when they were brought to the area. Work among the aborigines was sporadic and mainly limited to those in prison. In 1914 discussions took place with the Government and new ministry began in 1916.

Grant, Stan. ***The Tears Of Strangers - A Memoir***
18 copies 259 pp 2002
"My father's name is Stan and I am named after him. Strangely, or maybe not, I've never felt comfortable with that name - Dad calls me Dylan while others call me Guy." In a career in journalism, Stan's own story is the most difficult and powerful that he could ever tell - a journey of coming to terms with his aboriginality and identity.

Grierson, Denham. ***Conversations At The Edges Of The Raft***
16 copies 63 pp 1993
Where should Christians place themselves? At the centre or at the edge of social experience? This writer argues that Christians should place themselves at the edge of social experience, so they can critique and evaluate current social practice and trends.

Book Group Comments

- *Stimulated considerable discussion, both on and off the topic*

Guinness, Michele.	<i>Tapestry Of Voices</i>	
17 copies	250 pp	1993
The original idea was to compile a book of meditations specifically for women, but the author didn't really believe the sexes differ very greatly in the needs of their spiritual diet. A book about women for women and the men who like them.		

Habel, Norman.	<i>Reconciliation Searching For Australia's Soul</i>	
18 copies	188 pp	1999
Reconciliation between indigenous and non-indigenous Australians continues to tear at the heart of Australia, exposing our struggle or soul. In the deepest sense, this is not just political and social, but also spiritual and human.		

Hansen, Ian.	<i>The Naked Fish</i>	
15 copies	225 pp	2002
A memoir that arises out of an overlooked strata of Australian society: the Christian middle-class family, where faith and feeling run deep. Not often is a book a life story and also a faith journey. Ian Hansen tells his story of growing up in the 1930s and 1940s in a suburban, church-going family. A moving story of a man's continuity of faith.		

Holloway, Richard	<i>Doubts And Loves</i>	
18 copies	251 pp	2001
Prepare to be challenged by this inspiring book by the former Bishop of Edinburgh. He is disturbed about the Institutional church and its emphasis upon preserving tradition and methods. Easy to read but difficult to forget are the concepts of what part Christianity plays in today's world. This is a sensitive, brave, inspiring book.		

Horsfield, Rodney.	<i>Baptism An Evangelical Sacrament</i>	
16 copies	51 pp	1984
Six studies on the various aspects of baptism. Theological argument and examples of pastoral situations with questions for discussion are included in each chapter.		

Hotham Mission.	<i>Finding Shelter</i>	
18 copies	139 pp	2009
Through the stories of asylum seekers, staff and volunteers, this book describes the experiences of those with whom the Hotham Mission Asylum Seeker Project has worked and the ways in which the agency has developed in response to their needs.		

Keck, Leander.	<i>The Church Confident</i>	
20 copies	128 pp	1993
The author examines four central aspects of the church's life - worship, theology, ethos, and communication. A call to restore the praise of God to the centre of worship.		

Kushner, Harold S.	<i>When All You've Ever Wanted Isn't Enough</i>	
19 copies	191 pp	1987
Rabbi Kushner applies his compassionate mind to a problem, one more delicate than that of sudden tragedy but just as dangerous - the feeling that life is utterly meaningless. A deeply moving and compassionate book which brings us renewed faith, comfort and inspiration.		

Kushner, Harold S.	<i>When Bad Things Happen To Good People</i>	
39 copies	155 pp	1992
The author and his wife were confronted with the knowledge their son had an incurable terminal disease which would take him in childhood. He wrestles with the conflict between the goodness of God and the bitterness of suffering.		

Le Griffon, Heather.

Campfires At The Cross

18 copies

316 pp

2006

When the Bunting Dale Mission at Birregurra near Colac, was threatened with closure, it's aboriginal inhabitants displayed admirable self-determination and local settlers rallied around them until political circumstances changed. This story of the life and work of its founder Francis Tuckfield is an important contribution to our understanding of colonial history.

Book Group Comments

- *Some of us thought this writer had chosen a position and collected material with only that point of view. Nevertheless we enjoyed the book*

Levine, Amy-Jill.

The Misunderstood Jew

17 copies

240 pp

2006

After two thousand years of ignorance, the time has come for church and synagogue, Jews and Christians to understand our intertwined histories, to see Jesus as a Jew who made sense to other Jews in a Jewish context, to learn how our two traditions came to a parting of the ways. Explore how the gains in interfaith relations can be nurtured and expanded.

Book Group comments:

- *Stimulated much discussion, but found this book quite difficult, at some stage quite annoying*

**Linn, Dennis, Sheila
And Matthew.**

Don't Forgive Too Soon

18 copies

184 pp

1997

Most of us know that we should forgive those who hurt us. But how can we forgive when we have tried everything we can think of, including prayer, yet we still feel stuck in a hurt? This book tries to untangle a complex issue for many Christians.

Loader, Bill.

The Christmas Stories

16 copies

72 pp

1986

Many Christians, uneasy about how we celebrate Christmas, which has become so commercialised and trivialised, are looking for ways of rediscovering the real significance of this special time.

Loader, William. ***The New Testament With Imagination***
17 copies 150 pp 1998
This book offers a new way of reading the New Testament and many different ways of introducing it through imagination and sampling key passages. There are no wild flights of imagination, no making up stories, just reflections of what we already know but from a likely perspective within the scene. Each of the five chapters begins with an exercise in imagination followed by four sets of passages from the N.T. each with a reflective comment.

Loader, William. ***Jesus And The Fundamentalism Of His Day***
18 copies 150 pp 1998
This book is about how we read the Bible, handle the religious tradition we have received and sort out what matters most from what matters little or not at all. For those who accept the Bible as God's Word yet struggle to understand its teaching for our lives.

Mackay, Hugh. ***Generations - Baby Boomers, Their Parents And Their Children***
17 copies 207 pp 1997
Hugh, a distinguished social researcher and novelist, devotes his analytical skills to the task of exploring the attitudes, values and outlook of three generations of contemporary Australians. His analysis will change the way you think about inter-generational differences and conflicts.

Mackay, Hugh. ***Right & Wrong***
18 copies 236 pp 2004
As our lives become more complicated, we face a growing number of moral choices. Happiness and peace of mind depend upon knowing we have made the *right* choices – but how can we decide what is right or wrong, especially when there is no one to guide us?

Maddox, Marion. ***God Under Howard***
18 copies 319 pp 2005
In the 2004 federal election campaign religion seemed to spring out of nowhere to take centre stage. Assiduously cultivated by John Howard, an extreme form of conservative Christianity now has real influence on our politicians and their policies.

Main, John. ***Christian Meditation***
22 copies 60 pp 1977
Until his death in 1982, John Main was Prior of a Benedictine Community in Montreal. This book is a brief introduction to meditative prayer by use of a prayer word or 'mantra'.

Mallouhi, Christine. ***Waging Peace On Islam***
18 copies 343 pp 2000
Relations between Islam and the West grow more polarised. At a personal level, many Christians are scared of meeting Muslims. Christine, who has married into a Muslim family and lived much of her life in the Middle East, suggests we should start seeing Muslims as people. "Muslims need to see Jesus, and the only way most of them will see him is in us.

Mavor, John (Ed.) ***Growing As Disciples***
14 copies 250 pp 1995
This book draws on the collective wisdom of many Christians in Australia. The stories are simple, moving and effective. They reveal how people deepened their spirituality & rediscovered for themselves the importance of prayer, community and service.

Mayfield, Paul. ***Soul Cry.***
17 copies 67 pp 2004
"This book began as a collection of poetry written over 10 years. At the suggestion of friends, I filled out the particular experience from which such verse emerged. This exercise brought prayer to the fore as a determinant in my journey."

Mcbride, James.

The Color Of Water

18 copies

291 pp

2000

The author grew up one of twelve in the all black housing projects of Brooklyn, the son of a black minister and a woman who would not admit she was white. McBride was an adult before he discovered the truth about his mother: the daughter of a failed Orthodox rabbi, she had run away to Harlem, married a black man and founded an all-black Baptist church in her living room.

Book Group Comments

- *Amazing*

Mcdonagh, Sean.

To Care For The Earth - A Call To A New Theology

14 copies

214 pp

1986

In a passionate appeal for a new theology the author looks for a new story of creation. He is led to take a fresh look at the Bible and the Christian tradition, to highlight the richness of the Benedictine and Franciscan spirituality as a response to the gift of creation, offering new insights into sacramental practice, Christian prayer and missionary practice. He above all asks for a new appreciation for the sacredness of the earth.

McGinlay, Hugh (Ed.)

Joy Pain

22 copies

96 pp

2000

The debate on sexuality at the U.C.A.'s 1997 Assembly was followed by a report as to how the church should continue to address the unresolved issues. The Assembly published a 'resource to assist the church in its continuing dialogue on the matters as yet unresolved in relation to sexuality'. Joy Pain is that resource.

McGrath, Alistair.

***A Cloud Of Witnesses Ten Great
Christian Thinkers***

23 copies

140 pp

1997

Key ideas and some biographical details are presented by ten leading Christian thinkers. The contributions of Athanasius, Luther, Barth, C.S. Lewis and others to Christian thought, will stimulate and inform your own thinking on the meaning of grace, God in Scripture and nature and the human longing for God.

McLaren, Brian

A Generous Orthodoxy

18 copies

348 pp

2004

In a sweeping exploration of belief, author Brian McLaren takes us across the landscape of faith, envisioning an orthodoxy that aims for Jesus, is driven by love, and is defined by missional intent. A Generous Orthodoxy rediscovers the mysterious and compelling ways that Jesus can be embraced across the entire Christian horizon. Rather than establishing what is and is not “orthodox,” McLaren walks through the many traditions of faith, bringing to the centre a way of life that draws us closer to Christ and to each other. Whether you find yourself inside, outside, or somewhere on the fringe of Christianity, A Generous Orthodoxy draws you toward a way of living that looks beyond the “us/them” paradigm to the blessed and ancient paradox of “we.”

**Mcrae-McMahon,
Dorothy.**

***Memoirs Of Moving On A Life Of Faith,
Passion And Resilience***

12 copies

277 pp

2004

Dorothy, a retired UCA minister, has held many local and international positions in the church and been an activist in community affairs for almost 50 years. She is the recipient of a Jubilee Medal from the Queen for work with women in NSW, an Australian Government Peace Award and the Australian Human Rights Medal.

Mead, Loren.	<i>The Once And Future Church</i>	
19 copies	92 pp	1991
A challenging and thought-provoking discussion on the changing face of the church and the world. Suggestions and implications offer stimulating and fresh approaches for transforming congregations. A list of study questions is also available.		
Mead, Loren.	<i>Five Challenges For The Once And Future Church</i>	
15 copies	100 pp	1996
Mead presents five key challenges facing today's church and how they represent opportunities for the evolutionary, transformative changes which must take place if the Church is to remain a viable institution. It is an excellent resource for small groups and elders councils.		
Miles, Sara	<i>Take this Bread</i>	
18 copies	283 pp	2007
A self-proclaimed blue-state, secular-intellectual, lesbian, left-wing journalist with a strong sceptical streak, Miles was hardly a candidate for Christian conversion. Yet convert she did, wholeheartedly at age 46. The journey from sceptical secularist to devout Christian was long, complicated, and often convoluted, but the story she makes of it is engaging, funny, and highly entertaining.		
Miller, Doug.	<i>The Dead Sea Scrolls And Jesus Christ</i>	
16 copies	23 pp	1992
A discussion of the views of Dr Barbara Thiering, written at the request of the Synod of Victoria in 1993.		
Moore, Thomas	<i>Care Of The Soul</i>	
18 copies	309 pp	1992
The author draws on his own life as a therapist practising 'care of the soul', his studies of world religions, teaching of Jungian psychology and art therapy, music and art, to provide this inspirational guide to examine the connections between spirituality and the problems of individuals and society.		

Morgan, Sally.

My Place

17 copies

358 pp

1987

An autobiography of an Australian aboriginal woman, who travelled back to her grandmother's birthplace, allowing us to hear the stories of three generations, in a search for truth. Sally Morgan and her family are confronted with their own suppressed history and fundamental questions about their identity.

**Mortenson, Greg And
Oliver Relin, David.**

Three Cups Of Tea

18 copies

349 pp

2006

One Man's Mission to Promote Peace ... One School at a Time (349pp)
After a terrifying and disastrous attempt to climb K2 in northern Pakistan, a mountaineer called Greg Mortenson drifted, cold and dehydrated into an impoverished village. Moved by the inhabitants' kindness he promised to return and build a school. This is the story of that promise and its extraordinary outcome as over the next decade he built not just one but fifty five schools in remote villages across the forbidding and breathtaking landscape of Pakistan and Afghanistan, just as the Taliban rose to power.

Book Group Comments

- *Found this book to be one of the most inspiring books we have read. Highly recommended.*
- *Wonderful book – some members recommending it to friends or planning to give it as a gift*

Negus, George.

The World From Islam

18 copies

286 pp

2003

In the authors inimitable no-nonsense style, this journey is hell-bent on demystifying the issues, misconceptions and prejudice that have set the Islamic and non-Islamic worlds against each other. Explore the questions pre-occupying non-Muslims in our post-September 11, post-Bali, post-Saddam World: Should we fear Islam?

Newbegin, Leslie. ***Truth To Tell The Gospel As Public Truth***
13 copies 90 pp 1991
The author affirms the gospel as the truth for both personal life and life at the public level, thus running counter to much contemporary thinking about the impossibility of knowing ultimate truth. He argues that other modes of thought are to be evaluated in the light of the gospel

Newell, Christopher And Calder, Andy. ***Voices In Disability And Spirituality From The Land Down Under***
18 copies 170 pp 2004
In recent years disability theology has emerged alongside Black theology and women's theology as a new genre seeking to express the concerns of people whose experience has often been marginalized. This is a thoughtful book, placing criticism where it is due, telling how it is for excluded people. The editors have brought together a collection of authors, expert in a variety of fields to comment on spirituality and the world of disability. They raise issues of importance to everyone – the person next door as well as health professionals and religious workers.

Nichols, Alan. ***On The Path To Mutual Respect***
17 copies 81 pp 2007
A small handbook with questions for discussion, by the Victorian Council of Churches and part of a project designed to help congregations and their leaders understand the Racial and Religious Tolerance Act and see the values of tolerance, respect and harmony in a mixed society.

Nolan, Albert. ***Jesus Before Christianity***
18 copies 185 pp 2000
Nolan's portrait of Jesus introduces us to the man as he was *before* he became enshrined in doctrine, dogma and ritual, a man deeply involved with the real problems of his time - the real problems of our time as well.

Nouwen, Henri. ***Reaching Out***
31 copies 150 pp 1976
The three movements of spiritual life examined are Loneliness to Solitude, Hostility to Hospitality and Illusion to Prayer.

Purnell, Douglas. ***Conversations As Ministry***
17 copies 154 pp 2003
This book is one half of a conversation with a wise friend: you will have to imagine our side. The author provides a structure for thinking about the 'where, when, and who' of a conversation and suggestions for how to begin and end a conversation.

Book Group Comments

- *We thought this book so good that we have recommended it to our church council to buy.*

Ramsland, John & Christopher Mooney ***Remembering Aboriginal Heroes***
18 copies 373 pp 2006
This book offers an unparalleled biographical exploration of various Aboriginal people such as Albert Namatjira, Harold Blair, Harry Penrith lives, offering an understanding of the resilient Aboriginal culture and its vital place in Australian society.

Ray, Colin. ***A Guide For Elders***
20 copies 320 pp 1994
Elders have the responsibility and privilege of sharing with the minister in the spiritual oversight of the congregation. This book shows how the gifts of elders have been used in congregations all over Australia and how elders can fulfil their mission in the church. It includes practical and proven advice for this calling.

Reynolds, Henry. ***Black Pioneers***
17 copies 293 pp 2000
The author debunks the notion that indigenous peoples have contributed nothing towards the creation of a prosperous modern society. *Black Pioneers* pays tribute to the labour and skill of thousands of black men, women and children who worked for the Europeans in a wide range of occupations. Their intriguing stories are revealed.

Reynolds, Henry. ***Why Weren't We Told?***
18 copies 259 pp 1999
This book is a frank account of the authors personal journey towards the realisation that he grew up with a distorted and idealised version of the past - a vision of peaceful settlement. Why were we denied the truth?

Robinson, Anthony ***Changing The Conversation***
18 copies 199 pp 2008
Robinson invites church leaders and members into ten crucial conversations that will change their congregation's culture and help them respond with greater vitality, effectiveness, and faithfulness to our postmodern culture and its challenges.

Rowe, Keith. ***Living With The Neighbour Who Is Different***
15 copies 61 pp 2000
The story of a faith tradition and culture that is not Christian. For some in the churches this presence is welcomed as an enrichment of our Australian society; others see it as threatening our way of life and sense of community

Rutherford, Graeme. ***Watchers In The Morning***
18 copies 137 pp 1994
Spirituality for contemporary Christians. The author shares his profound vision of what other traditions have to offer the lives of modern Christians, presenting a passionate case for a renewed spirituality that is faithful to the Word of God.

Sacks, Jonathan. ***The Dignity Of Difference***
18 copies 209 pp 2006
Philosopher, theologian, Chief Rabbi of the United Hebrew Congregations of the Commonwealth since 1991, Jonathan is well known outside the Jewish community as a writer and broadcaster. He writes with a plea for tolerance in an age of extremism, ethnic tensions, civilization clashes and the use of religious justification for acts of terror, a clear and present danger to humanity.

Song, Choan-Seng.

The Stranger On The Shore

18 copies

44 pp

1992

How do you communicate the Christian gospel in a world of many cultures? Often, the gospel message has been used to destroy these cultures and life-styles of people who have been urged to abandon their traditions and customs. We are asked not to ignore these traditions but to make theological sense of them.

Spong, John Shelby.

***Rescuing The Bible From
Fundamentalism***

17 copies

249 pp

1992

In this provocative book, the outspoken and controversial Bishop Spong reveals how literal interpretations of Scripture have been used to *justify slavery * ban textbooks *deny the rights of gays and lesbians *subordinate women and *justify war and revenge. * Spong liberates the Bible's message of hope for *all* people.

Spong, John Shelby.

Why Christianity Must Change Or Die

17 copies

257 pp

1999

The author challenges, provokes, amuses and inspires in good measure which will bring many to re-think their attitudes to Christian believing.

Tacey, David.

The Spirituality Revolution

17 copies

228 pp

2003

We are in the midst of a spiritual revolution. Churches are emptying and traditional forms of faith are being abandoned. Meanwhile, interest in a more personal spiritual experience has never been greater. What is happening to our society?

**Tanner, Ian & Merritt,
David (Eds.)**

What Does Our Church Say?

16 copies

134 pp

1989

Questions people in the UCA across Australia are asking with responses from church leaders in key areas of responsibility. Do you have to go to Church to be a Christian? Is sex before marriage sinful?

Trainer, Michael *Stories From The Edge***By Brady, Michael.**

18 copies

92 pp

1991

A refreshing approach for reflecting from the lives of a struggling people in the light of the Gospel of Luke. The book provides us with a starting point for our own theological reflection.

Trudgen, Richard. *Why Warriors Lie Down And Die*

18 copies

269 pp

2000

Essential reading for anyone interested in indigenous peoples. It provides hope and new direction for those simply searching for answers as to why "the problems" seem to persist in Aboriginal communities. It also offers insights for those who want a greater understanding of the issues involved in achieving true reconciliation.

Turley, Bruce. *Being There For Others*

10 copies

136 pp

1979

A resource to offer an informed basis for thought about and involvement in pastoral ministry. It is beamed at lay people in the church. The first section seeks to sketch a broad framework for action and reflection and in part two applying the broad principles to specific situations.

Tutu, Desmond. *God Has A Dream – A Vision Of Hope For Our Time*

18 copies

148 pp

2005

Nobel Laureate Desmond Tutu has been admired throughout the world for his heroism and grace in human rights struggles. In this book he shares the spiritual message that guided him through many troubled times.

Wallis, Jim *The Call to conversion*

15 copies

179 pp

1982

A book which brings together the concern for renewal in the life of prayer and spirituality and at the same time takes seriously the concern for social justice. Hailed as one of the challenging calls to the Church today.

Wilson, Bruce.

Can God Survive In Australia?

15 copies

224 pp

1984

Rather than being an abstract discussion of God's existence, probe the social changes which have made God appear to most Australians as irrelevant as ice-chests in a world that has invented the refrigerator. Seek to identify the new gods of post-Christian Australians and to explain where we are going spiritually.

Wilson, Bruce.

Reasons Of The Heart

16 copies

231 pp

1998

The author explores ways of knowing to secular rationalism - ways which create wholeness and purpose, open up other worlds of reality and put us in touch with ourselves and with God. A central theme is the concept of 'theophany' - a manifestation or appearance of God to a human being.

Wright, Edie.

Full Circle - From Mission To Community

18 copies

314 pp

2002

The remarkable and moving story of three generations of Edie Wright's family. Through its captivating description of life for an Aboriginal family *Full Circle* emerges with hope, that despite decades of government policy and action which worked to assimilate, fragment and disperse indigenous families, the circle of kinship, land and culture need not be broken.

Yancey, Philip.

What's So Amazing About Grace?

16 copies

293 pp

2000

We speak of grace often. But do we understand it or do we truly believe in it . . . and do our lives proclaim it as powerfully as our words? "There is nothing we can do to make God love us more. There is nothing we can do to make God love us less." Yancey, a courageous writer who challenges our misconceptions about Christianity

Yancey, Philip.

Where Is God When It Hurts?

17 copies

298 pp

1997

Sensitive and caring, this unique book discusses pain - physical, emotional, and spiritual - and helps us understand why we suffer from it and how to cope with our own and that of others. Using examples from the Bible this book speaks to everyone for whom life sometimes doesn't make sense. The author puts our questions into perspective, helping us find out exactly where God really is when we hurt.

Yancey, Philip.

Reaching For The Invisible God – What Can We Expect To Find?

18 copies

301 pp

2000

This relationship with God we can't see, hear, or touch – how does it really work? This book offers deep, satisfying insights that affirm and dignify the questions we are sometimes afraid to ask. Yancey explores six foundational areas: our thirst for God; faith during times when God seems unavailable; the nature of God himself; our personal relationship with God; stages along the way; and the end of spiritual transformation.

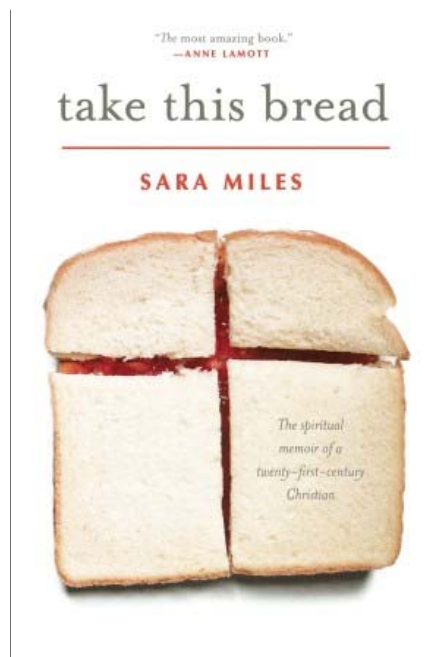
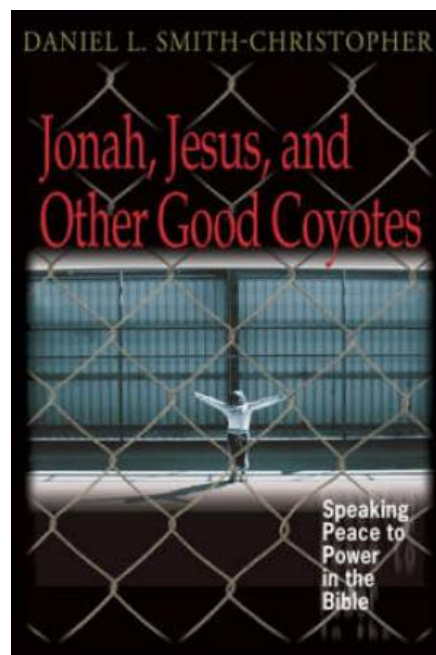
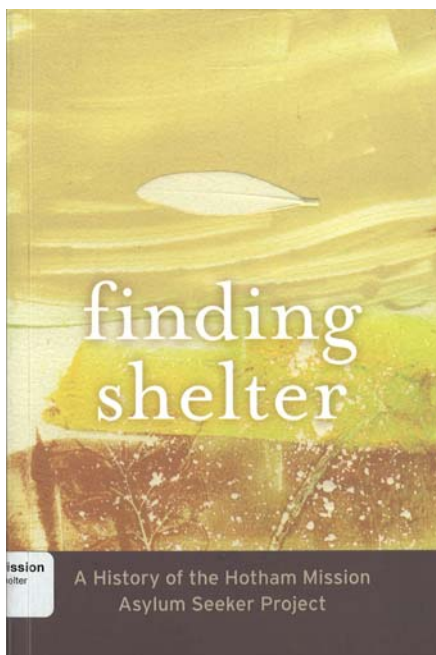
Study Guides

Study Guides are available for the following titles.

- God Under Howard
- Don't Forgive Too Soon
- I Heard the Owl call my name
- Shadow Land
- Soul Cry
- The Blackwater Light Ship
- The God we new knew
- The Once and Future Church
- The Tears of Strangers
- The World from Islam
- Why weren't we told
- Take This Bread

Please indicate if you would like a study guide included on the enclosed form.

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