

CMD Ideas April 2016

Books

Recommended this time by Norman Graham from Falkirk Baptist Church

Empowered Church Leadership: Ministry in the Spirit According to Paul

Brian Dodd, Inter Varsity Press (USA)

This is a great antidote to the 'leadership as management' approach to ministry. One of the best books on the subject but not flaky, plenty of good textual exegesis and theological reflection communicated in a straightforward and easy style.

A Thicker Jesus: Incarnational Discipleship in a Secular Age

Glen Harold Stassen, Westminster John Knox

Stassen focuses his attention on the Sermon on the Mount, providing a very insightful, thought provoking, at times disturbing but ultimately 'thicker' vision of Jesus than we are used to, and one that challenges the philosophical assumptions that underpin much of 21st Century Western life. A heavier read but worthwhile.

Preaching: Communicating Faith in an Age of Scepticism

Timothy Keller, Hodder & Stoughton

Preaching is perhaps the core task of pastoral ministry, and it is the focal point of most services, but it is not easy to do well and many do it badly. I cannot think of a better book on the subject than this one, it is a goldmine that you will want to revisit again and again.

St Agnes' Stand

Thomas Eidson, Penguin

Ok...it's a novel set in the final years of the American West, so technically it's a western, but just go with it. Great story well told and actually, it's about the sovereignty of God at work in and through the lives of people...even people who don't believe in the sovereignty of God.

Incarnate: The Body of Christ in an Age of Disengagement

Michael Frost, Inter Varsity Press (USA)

The incarnation is a core aspect of the Christian faith, but in the West we tend to live disembodied, disconnected cyber-based lives. Frost offers an

astute, insightful critique of the modern world and our place in it as disciples. But this is no pop-theology, and it will raise a lot of questions, about your own life and the life of your congregation.

Sentenced to Life

Clive James, Picador

Secularism is increasingly the dominant force in Western cultures. So what goes through the mind of a thoroughly secular person when they are confronted with the reality of their impending death in a terminal diagnosis? This collection of poems is deeply moving, disturbing and enlightening all at once, it is an insightful look into a life coming to its end.

The Holy Thief

William Ryan, Pan Books

Sometimes you need to rest, switch your brain off and just relax...its ok God doesn't mind. This novel is one of a set of 3 crime thrillers, (all independent stories) set in Stalinist Russia before WWII they perfectly capture the mood and paranoia of the times. The Holy Thief is a ripping yarn that will keep you turning the pages without taxing your brain.

Spiritual Development

Another Kind of Life

Learning about spiritual formation and the 'with God life'.

Presented by Trevor Hudson, lecturer at the Renovaré International Institute for Spiritual Formation.

Saturday 9th April 2016

10am - 3pm

Bearsden Baptist Church

No charge but donations welcome

Further info call Steve on 07898 803 221

Online Resources

Recommended by Iain Macaulay from Queen's Park Baptist Church

Podcasts

[Godpod](#) - theological conversations hosted by Graham Tomlin, Jane Williams and Mike Lloyd of St Miletus Anglican college. Answer listeners' theological conundrums and interview various thinkers and leaders: eg Alistair McGrath, John Lennox, Nicky Gumbel, Tom Wright and many others.

[Keeping up with the Joneses](#) - practical and helpful conversations from Alyn and AJ Jones on wide-ranging topics from relationships to revival to recipes and Apple products – great stuff on marriage, conflict, forgiveness etc

[Gospel In Life](#) - Timothy Keller sermons podcast – intelligent Biblical reflection

Twitter

[@scottmcknight](#) - NT scholar and prolific book reader has daily updates on books he is reading and commentary on theology politics and baseball (if that floats your boat)

[@MirsolavVolf](#) - tweets regularly with wise insights from the issues he is writing and speaking about (Volf and McKnight recently had a twitter conversation flowing which was great to listen into!)

Facebook

[Theology on the web](#) - theological and biblical studies updates and comments

[Junia Project](#) - theology and comments on women in leadership from an egalitarian perspective

[Northumbria community](#) – posts on spirituality and community

Web

[Textweek.com](#) – study sermons links etc based on lectionary and searchable by text

[NTgateway.com](#) – Mark Goodacre's gateway to all things New Testament

[ntwrightpage.com](#) – NT Wright papers and sermons online

[bobekblad.com](#) – friend and charismatic liberation theologian and activist – academic presentations and personal reflections online

Conferences

[Fresh Streams Summer Theology Conference](#)

Fresh Streams is a network of Baptist churches south of the border. They have some great speakers at their conference this year which is conveniently located in Newcastle (24-25 June) or less conveniently in London (1-2 July).

[Friday](#) - Communities of conviction and persuasion: Christianity's intellectual content and contests (led by Dr Nigel Wright) AND What is it about the gospel that makes it good? (led by Chris Duffett and Glyn Jones)

[Saturday](#) - Women in leadership: Re-examining Paul's arguments in 1 Corinthians (led by Dr Lucy Peppiatt) AND Having confidence in our text: Can the Bible still be trusted? (led by Dr Calvin Samuel)

[BMS Catalyst](#)

16 November (Birmingham) or 17 November (Reading)

Philosophy, theology, art and science are valuable in themselves, but in a culture where faith is increasingly seen as irrational, Christian engagement with the intellectual dimension of things is not a slightly self-indulgent pastime. It is essential to our witness. It is, in a very real sense, the mission of the mind. Speakers this year include Os Guinness.

[Transformational Ministry from the Margins](#)

This is an expression of "The Peoples Seminary" which Bob and Gracie Ekblad grew from their remarkable ministry to migrants, gang members and prisoners in central America and Washington State, USA.

April 21 -23, and September 12-14 2016 in Glasgow
More info: ian@qbbc.org

[Exile: Living Faithfully And Hopefully](#)

Exploring faithful ministry and mission in a season of displacement and disorientation.

Centre For Ministry Studies (Aberdeen University)
Summer School August 22nd – 26th 2016

And for those specifically in Dundee...

[North Sea Cities Consultation](#)

The objective is for up to 80 city leaders to explore together the nature of mission that seeks to transform lives. With Dr Ray Bakke and representatives of Dundee City Council.

4-6 May 2016

Hosted by the Steeple Church, Dundee.

Cost for Wednesday to Friday is £50 per person.