

# Read Book Gods Neighborhood A Hopeful Journey In Racial Reconciliation And Community Renewal

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## KEY=JOURNEY - MOLLY LANE

## GOD'S NEIGHBORHOOD

## A HOPEFUL JOURNEY IN RACIAL RECONCILIATION AND COMMUNITY RENEWAL

**InterVarsity Press** *Roley was once a rising star in the contemporary Christian music scene, but then he felt called to racial reconciliation and moved to a disadvantaged neighborhood where he embodies the ideals that are needed to forge a just society.*

## SOCIAL JUSTICE HANDBOOK

## SMALL STEPS FOR A BETTER WORLD

**InterVarsity Press** *2010 Outreach Magazine Resource of the Year award winner: justice category Every day we are confronted by challenging societal problems, from poverty and institutional racism to AIDS and homelessness. It can all seem so overwhelming. But while none of us can do everything, all of us can do something. This handbook will help you discover what you can do. Mae Elise Cannon provides a comprehensive resource for Christians like you who are committed to social justice. She presents biblical rationale for justice and explains a variety of Christian approaches to doing justice. Tracing the history of Christians in social engagement, she lifts out role models and examples from the Great Awakenings to the civil rights movement. A wide-ranging catalog of topics and issues give background info about justice issues at home and abroad, such as sex trafficking domestic violence living wage initiatives debt relief environmental stewardship bioethics and much, much more This handbook includes dozens of practical exercises for taking action, as well as profiles of key figures and movements like William Wilberforce, the Salvation Army and Bono, highlighting how Christians and churches can make a difference. Also included are spiritual practices and resources to help us move from immobility to advocacy. God has always worked through his people to accomplish improbable tasks, and he can use you too. This handbook will be an essential companion for living justly, loving mercy and walking humbly with your God.*

## BEAUTIFUL 1

**Xulon Press** *LaDawn Knicely might be a new name to you but in her freshly released devotional we hear a familiar voice full of age-old wisdom. With 'Beautiful One I Am With You' she captures how God continually floods His children with the Grace and Mercy of The Gospel. Out of her heart, which understands suffering, she touches the reader and points us to Jesus. It is The Lord who calls us 'Beautiful One' and speaks specifically to our souls. LaDawn recognizes and gives a daily portion of Christ's love enabling us to 'Trust and Believe'... This is a devotional you will go back to and quote from your entire life. Scott RoleyChristian Artist and ActivistDirector of The Franklin TableAuthor of 'God's Neighborhood (A Hopeful Journey In Racial Reconciliation AndCommunity Renewal)' IVP and 'Hard Bargain (A Beautiful Place To Live)' Safe House Books LaDawn's Spirit-inspired devotional book is honest and refreshing, brimming with encouragement and hope for those who seek a closer relationship with Jesus. The reader is urged to interact with the Scriptures through meditation and journaling, which is a powerful avenue to spiritual growth. Through from-the-heart devotionals, LaDawn reveals, like Apostles Peter and John, that she has "been with Jesus." We are all "Becoming" and LaDawn's open-hearted vulnerability can help both new believers and mature Christians to enhance their intimacy with Christ.Angie WilliamsMennonite PastorAuthor and Inspirational Speaker*

## BE THE BRIDGE

## PURSUING GOD'S HEART FOR RACIAL RECONCILIATION

**WaterBrook** *NEW YORK TIMES BESTSELLER • ECPA BESTSELLER • “When it comes to the intersection of race, privilege, justice, and the church, Tasha is without question my best teacher. Be the Bridge is THE tool I wish to put in every set of hands.”—Jen Hatmaker WINNER OF THE CHRISTIAN BOOK AWARD® • Winner of the Christianity Today Book Award • A leading advocate for racial reconciliation calls Christians to move toward deeper understanding in the midst of a divisive culture. In an era where we seem to be increasingly divided along racial lines, many are hesitant to step into the gap, fearful of saying or doing the wrong thing. At times the silence, particularly within the church, seems deafening. But change begins with an honest conversation among a group of Christians willing to give a voice to unspoken hurts, hidden fears, and mounting tensions. These ongoing dialogues have formed the foundation of a global movement called Be the Bridge—a nonprofit organization whose goal is to equip the church to have a distinctive and transformative response to racism and racial division. In this perspective-shifting book, founder Latasha Morrison shows how you can participate in this incredible work and replicate it in your own community. With conviction and grace, she examines the historical complexities of racism. She expertly applies biblical principles, such as lamentation, confession, and forgiveness, to lay the framework for restoration. Along with prayers, discussion questions, and other resources to enhance group engagement, Be the Bridge presents a compelling vision of what it means for every follower of Jesus to become a bridge builder—committed to pursuing justice and racial unity in light of the gospel.*

## REAL STRUGGLES, REAL HOPE

## A JOURNEY TO TRUTH, TRUST, AND FREEDOM

**WestBow Press** *In my mind’s eye, a little girl crouches in a dark and cluttered hallway closet. Mountains of stuff fill this tiny room, where she remains hidden from everyone and everything. Besides the stuff of anger and doubt in this small space, the walls have writing on them that names the fears, insecurities, and reasons for shielding herself from the unfamiliar and the unknown. Many times, the little girl tries to exit her safe place. With a mask of self-prescribed extroversion, she determinedly leaves the four walls of her secret domain to be good at things and people—a good student, wife, even a mother. Hesitantly, she tells herself that hope and joy are within reach. But after a short stay away from the security of the hallway closet, the little girl goes back inside and continues hiding from life. I was that young girl. I did not want to live this way any longer, so I cried out to God—who had been with me all along. He knew my pain, insecurities, anger, and fear. Bigger than any wall of self-protection I built, God would bring down these walls if I let him. My crying out was the first step.*

## CROSSING THE TRACKS

## HOPE FOR THE HOPELESS AND HELP FOR THE POOR IN RURAL MISSISSIPPI AND YOUR COMMUNITY

**Kregel Publications** *An inspiring story of how God called one man to "go back and make a difference" Dolphus Weary knows from personal experience just how harmful racial division can be. Growing up in rural Mississippi, he leared that if poverty, hunger, and disease didn't kill him, racism, bigotry, or the Klan just might. So when a college basketball scholarship gave him the opportunity to get away from the broken, racially divided city of Mendenhall, he jumped at the chance. But he couldn't outrun racism. Eventually God called him back to his hometown--to the city where the railroad tracks not only separate economic classes but also represent a divide in the church. Believing that prejudice is ultimately a spiritual issue, Weary went back to Mississippi and worked to break down racial divides and promote productive dialogue, greater understanding, and ultimately racial reconciliation. The*

founder and part-time president of R.E.A.L. (Rural Education and Leadership) Christian Foundation, Weary helps ministries and communities realize that a "kingdom mentality" is possible only when we stop limiting God's work to a denomination or racial group. "Crossing the Tracks" offers an insider's look at Weary's life and experiences. It recounts both the heartbreaking and victorious events that helped him overcome the odds. Profoundly honest and never more timely, this book encourages Christians to partner together to turn the ugly legacy of racism wherever it is found into a beautiful community of hope.

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## CRAYONS FOR THE CITY

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### RENEIGHBORING COMMUNITIES OF FAITH TO REBUILD NEIGHBORHOODS OF HOPE

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**Wipf and Stock Publishers** When a fire severely burned a small boy and displaced his family, it left lingering marks on the entire neighborhood. As a community pastor, Dr. Kevin Yoho not only witnessed the visible signs of despair but also came to understand the pain hidden in the flames. He will be your guide as you step outside your organizational structures through the practice of what he calls reneighboring. Crayons for the City is about training leaders to be a new kind of community network engineer who will realign their organization's priorities, resources, and values to serve the public good. It's a story about how one community of faith improved the lives of hundreds of families by taking a walk across the street with fresh expressions of the good news. How do leaders grow and change—from holding on to ineffective ministry models to building new connections of grace and gratitude? The journey is not an easy one for most. Crayons for the City starts with the reader's own context and offers a new methodology of how to engage it. Awaken your own capacity to change the world. All you need to begin is this book and a box of crayons.

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## RACE AND PLACE

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### HOW URBAN GEOGRAPHY SHAPES THE JOURNEY TO RECONCILIATION

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**InterVarsity Press** We long for diverse, thriving neighborhoods and churches, yet racial injustices persist. Why? Urban missiologist David Leong reveals the profound ways in which geographic structures and systems sustain the divisions among us and create barriers to reconciliation. For the flourishing of our communities, here is a vision of belonging and hope in our streets, cities, and churches.

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## REPARATIONS

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### A CHRISTIAN CALL FOR REPENTANCE AND REPAIR

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**Baker Books** "Kwon and Thompson's eloquent reasoning will help Christians broaden their understanding of the contemporary conversation over reparations."--Publishers Weekly "A thoughtful approach to a vital topic."--Library Journal Christians are awakening to the legacy of racism in America like never before. While public conversations regarding the realities of racial division and inequalities have surged in recent years, so has the public outcry to work toward the long-awaited healing of these wounds. But American Christianity, with its tendency to view the ministry of reconciliation as its sole response to racial injustice, and its isolation from those who labor most diligently to address these things, is underequipped to offer solutions. Because of this, the church needs a new perspective on its responsibility for the deep racial brokenness at the heart of American culture and on what it can do to repair that brokenness. This book makes a compelling historical and theological case for the church's obligation to provide reparations for the oppression of African Americans. Duke Kwon and Gregory Thompson articulate the church's responsibility for its promotion and preservation of white supremacy throughout history, investigate the Bible's call to repair our racial brokenness, and offer a vision for the work of reparation at the local level. They lead readers toward a moral imagination that views reparations as a long-overdue and necessary step in our collective journey toward healing and wholeness.

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## HEALING RACIAL TRAUMA

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### THE ROAD TO RESILIENCE

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**InterVarsity Press** People of color have endured traumatic histories and almost daily assaults on their dignity. Professional counselor Sheila Wise Rowe exposes the symptoms of racial trauma to lead readers to a place of freedom from the past and new life for the future. With Rowe as a reliable guide who has both been on the journey and shown others the way forward, you will find a safe pathway to resilience.

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## THE THIRD OPTION

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### HOPE FOR A RACIALLY DIVIDED NATION

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**Howard Books** Miles McPherson, founder of The Rock Church in San Diego, presents "a discussion about race that we desperately need...a must read" (Bishop T.D. Jakes, Senior Pastor, The Potter's House) and argues that we must learn to see people not by the color of their skin, but as God sees them—humans created in the image of God. Pastor Miles McPherson, senior pastor of The Rock Church in San Diego, addresses racial division, a topic many have shied away from, for fear of asking the wrong question or saying the wrong thing. Some are oblivious to the impact racism has, while others pretend it doesn't exist. Even the church has been affected by racial division, with Sunday now being the most segregated day of each week. Christians, who are called to love and honor their neighbors, have fallen into culture's trap by siding with one group against another: us vs. them. Cops vs. protestors. Blacks vs. whites. Racists vs. the "woke." The lure of choosing one option over another threatens God's plan for unity among His people. Instead of going along with the culture, Pastor Miles directs us to choose the Third Option: honoring the priceless value of God's image in every person we meet. He exposes common misconceptions that keep people from engaging with those of different racial and ethnic backgrounds, and identifies the privileges and pitfalls that we all face. The Third Option challenges us to fully embrace God's creativity and beauty, as expressed in the diversity of His people. By following the steps and praying the prayers outlined in his book, Pastor Miles teaches us how we can all become leaders in unifying our communities, our churches, and the nation.

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## WHITE LIES

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### NINE WAYS TO EXPOSE AND RESIST THE RACIAL SYSTEMS THAT DIVIDE US

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**Zondervan** What can you do to be a force for racial justice? Many White Christians are eager to fight against racism and for racial justice. But what steps can they take to make good, lasting change? How can they get involved without unintentionally doing more harm than good? In this practical and illuminating guide drawn from more than twenty years of cross-cultural work and learning from some of the greatest leaders of color, pastor and racial justice advocate Daniel Hill provides nine practices rooted in Scripture that will position you to be an active supporter of inclusion, equality, and racial justice. With stories, studies, and examples from his own journey, Hill will show you: How to get free of the impact of White supremacy individually and recognize that it works systemically How to talk about race in an intelligent and respectful way How to recognize which strategies are helpful and which are harmful What you can do to make a difference every day, after protests and major events We cannot experience wholistic justice without confronting and dismantling White supremacy. But as we follow Jesus--the one who is supreme over all things--into overturning false power systems, we will become better advocates of the liberating and unconditional love that God extends to us all.

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## RESTORERS OF HOPE

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### REACHING THE POOR IN YOUR COMMUNITY WITH CHURCH-BASED MINISTRIES THAT WORK

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**Wipf and Stock Publishers** It's easy to get discouraged at the reports of continuing decay in our inner cities and impoverished rural areas. Yet in the midst of the dark realities, some churches are transforming lives and reclaiming communities through effective, holistic ministries. 'Restorers of Hope' tells their stories and identifies the keys to their success. And it goes further by challenging churches to take up Christ's command to love your neighbor and offering specific, practical guidance on how to reach out. By understanding the challenges of persistent poverty - and the opportunities afforded

by welfare reform - you and your church will be better equipped to engage in redemptive ministry that presents the gospel as the true solution.

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### WORSHIP FOR THE WHOLE PEOPLE OF GOD, SECOND EDITION

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**Westminster John Knox Press** This revised edition of the popular textbook on worship by renowned hymn writer and professor Ruth C. Duck provides theological foundations for worship and explores the ways Christians have adapted worship to various cultures to help them live faithfully and to communicate the gospel to others. The author celebrates the many languages and cultural settings in which the gospel has been, and is, preached, sung, and prayed. The goal of this volume is to support good pastoral and congregational reflection on what worship is and does. Consequently, Duck discusses many different forms of worship from several cultures (African American, Asian, Euro-American) and offers advice on how to read a congregation and define its culture in order to plan culturally appropriate worship. She includes many practical suggestions for preparing and leading worship, including diverse ministries of music, movement, and visual arts that are becoming more popular today. From worship's theological underpinnings, the book turns to worship leadership, forms of prayer, preaching, the sacraments, ordination, and various other liturgies. Because of its emphasis on vital and Spirit-led worship, this comprehensive book on Christian worship will be used in years to come, not only as a core textbook for seminarians and ministry students from a variety of cultures and traditions but also as a resource for local church pastors and laity who are dedicated to the enlivening of Christian worship. In this new edition, Duck updates and expands the recommended resources, updates the section on worship trends, enhances the section on multicultural worship, and revises marriage information based on cultural and denominational changes. Highlights include stories of four churches that are developing creative ways to grow and meet the possibilities and challenges of these times, especially in seeking justice, serving people in their neighborhood, and building bridges among cultures and religious groups. In addition, a new appendix by David Gambrell addresses the theological and practical questions surrounding online worship in the context of the Covid-19 pandemic and beyond.

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### A PATH TO FREEDOM: COME JOURNEY WITH ME

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**Dorrance Publishing**

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### LIVING INTO GOD'S DREAM

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### DISMANTLING RACISM IN AMERICA

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**Church Publishing, Inc.** Engages the question of how dismantling racism now has to be different from the work of the past and offer ways for that journey to progress.

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### A HOPE IN THE UNSEEN

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### AN AMERICAN ODYSSEY FROM THE INNER CITY TO THE IVY LEAGUE

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**Crown** The inspiring, true coming-of-age story of a ferociously determined young man who, armed only with his intellect and his willpower, fights his way out of despair. In 1993, Cedric Jennings was a bright and ferociously determined honor student at Ballou, a high school in one of Washington D.C.'s most dangerous neighborhoods, where the dropout rate was well into double digits and just 80 students out of more than 1,350 boasted an average of B or better. At Ballou, Cedric had almost no friends. He ate lunch in a classroom most days, plowing through the extra work he asked for, knowing that he was really competing with kids from other, harder schools. Cedric Jennings's driving ambition—which was fully supported by his forceful mother—was to attend a top college. In September 1995, after years of near superhuman dedication, he realized that ambition when he began as a freshman at Brown University. But he didn't leave his struggles behind. He found himself unprepared for college: he struggled to master classwork and fit in with the white upper-class students. Having traveled too far to turn back, Cedric was left to rely on his intelligence and his determination to maintain hope in the unseen—a future of acceptance and reward. In this updated edition, *A Hope in the Unseen* chronicles Cedric's odyssey during his last two years of high school, follows him through his difficult first year at Brown, and tells the story of his subsequent successes in college and the world of work. Eye-opening, sometimes humorous, and often deeply moving, *A Hope in the Unseen* weaves a crucial new thread into the rich and ongoing narrative of the American experience.

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### WHERE THE CROSS MEETS THE STREET

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### WHAT HAPPENS TO THE NEIGHBORHOOD WHEN GOD IS AT THE CENTER

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**InterVarsity Press** From his childhood in the barrios of Texas and California to his leadership of the Christian Community Development Association, Noel Castellanos has never seen the work of the cross separated from the needs of the neighborhood—except in the imaginations of too many Christians. A robust presentation of the gospel and its calling on every Christian.

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### THE AUDACITY OF FAITH

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### CHRISTIAN LEADERS REFLECT ON THE ELECTION OF BARACK OBAMA

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As presidential campaign time approaches, reflect on what some of the nation's most prominent Christian leaders had to say about the election of Barack Obama, particularly as related to issues of race. Original.

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### O LORD, HOLD OUR HANDS

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### HOW A CHURCH THRIVES IN A MULTICULTURAL WORLD : THE STORY OF OAKHURST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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**Westminster John Knox Press** Can people actually touch the reality that Paul talks about in his letter to the Ephesians, a reality where Christ has "broken down the dividing wall"? The experience of Oakhurst Presbyterian Church says "Yes!" Oakhurst Presbyterian Church in Decatur, Georgia has been nationally recognized as a model of a successful multicultural church. Here, in *O Lord, Hold Our Hands*, pastors Nibs Stroupe and Caroline Leach share their story—with all of its peaks and valleys—and, in doing so, provide a guide to multicultural ministry that any church can use to build or enhance its own ministry.

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### THE RACE OF A LIFETIME: SECOND WIND

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### A TRUE STORY ABOUT SPIRITUAL GROWTH, GRACE, MERCY, FAITH, ENDURANCE & BEING ANCHORED IN THE FOUNDATION OF CHRIST'S LOVE.

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**AuthorHouse** In Romans 10:9, once you've confessed with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you are saved. And it's amazing to know that you're sealed as a child of God forever, but it's not over. We're just like the disciples of Jesus. He had to take them on a journey of growth on so many levels, but most importantly, He had to grow them spiritually. Their journey was packed with many highs and lows, but at the end, there's a living hope in Jesus Christ. I'm on the same journey with life being packed with highs and lows. In the meantime, I'm still on the right path, being conformed to the image of Christ.

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### BLINDSIDED BY GOD

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## DISAPPOINTMENT, SUFFERING, AND THE UNTAMABLE GOODNESS OF GOD

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**Baker Books** *It took thirty years to build Peter's faith, but only three months to knock it down. When Peter Chin moved his family into an inner-city neighborhood to plant a church, he was sure he was doing what God wanted. But in the span of a few months his family experienced a heartbreaking miscarriage, a break-in at their home, a breast cancer diagnosis, and the termination of their health insurance. Why would God allow these things to happen? But God had one more surprise prepared for the Chins: a child, conceived in the most unlikely and dangerous of circumstances, through whom Peter would realize that although God's ways were wild and strange, they were always good. Filled with twists and turns, deep insights, and surprising humor, *Blindsided by God* explores the reality of suffering, the mystery of God's ways, and why, even in the darkest times, there's always reason for hope.*

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## THE CHURCH AS MOVEMENT

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## STARTING AND SUSTAINING MISSIONAL-INCARNATIONAL COMMUNITIES

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**InterVarsity Press** *JR Woodward and Dan White Jr. have trained church planters all over North America. In this interactive field manual, they help you and your team gain eight key competencies crucial for church planting so that you can create churches that flourish and launch their own sustainable missional and incarnational congregations.*

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## THE CHURCH SCHOOL JOURNAL

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## FREEDOM'S JOURNEY

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## AFRICAN AMERICAN VOICES OF THE CIVIL WAR

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**Chicago Review Press** *Presents a collection of primary documents by African Americans describing their experiences and perspectives of the Civil War.*

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## MEMOIR OF A MISFIT

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## FINDING MY PLACE IN THE FAMILY OF GOD

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**Jossey-Bass** *"In a sense, of course, all believers are strangers in a strange land— some, as they say, are just stranger than others. That would be my friends and me." Like Marcia Ford, most of us have felt, at one time or another, as if we are on a different wavelength from the rest of the world. Try as we might, we don't fit in— not in society and certainly not in the church. Despite our best efforts at camouflage, despite our hopes that we may finally have found a group of kindred believers, people still look at us funny. But if we stop to think about it, we're not in bad company. After all, Jesus was something of a misfit in His day, too. In this funny, fresh, and frank memoir, Marcia Ford chronicles her spiritual journey as a self-proclaimed misfit, telling the engaging story of one woman's efforts to fit into both society and the Christian church. Candid about her shortcomings and her sneaking suspicion that she may really be a square peg in a round hole, Marcia discovers that it is precisely because of her uniqueness that she is able to claim God's abundant grace and come to experience God more fully.*

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## MAJORING IN THE MINORS

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## A BLUEPRINT OF HOPE: FROM A CHRISTIAN PERSPECTIVE OVERCOMING RACISM, INJUSTICE, DOMESTIC VIOLENCE, AND OTHER EVILS

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**Christian Faith Publishing, Inc.** *If you or someone you know has never experienced racism, bigotry, injustice, abuse, or domestic violence, then this book is not for you. But if you or someone you know has been such a victim and suffered from such societal evils, then perhaps you are not reading these words by chance. Perhaps God has brought you to this moment to make a difference, for deep down in your heart, you know that this is fundamentally wrong. And just maybe, God through his Spirit, has brought you to this very moment to say, "Enough is enough," and start doing something to begin eliminating racism, bigotry, injustice, abuse, and domestic violence. Rev. Gallo lays out a twelve-step process that he has termed A Blueprint of Hope from a Christian Perspective. Utilizing twelve messages or themes of hope (one from each of the minor prophets), as well as the teachings of Jesus, he formulates a plan. This plan incorporates both small group ministry within the local church and neighborhood outreach to the surrounding community where these societal evils rear their ugly heads and have devastated individuals for generations. These twelve messages, as well as a unique perspective and insights that he has gained over forty-two years of police work and active ministry, he formulates a blueprint of hope that encourages individuals to catch a vision of what might be if people begin to look at each other through eyes of love and hope, rather than hate and despair.*

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## THE GOD PLAN

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## DAILY INSPIRATION FOR VICTORY OVER THE SCALES

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**Deborah C. Crocker** *Are you struggling with weight loss? Are you struggling with your walk with God? God wants you to be healthy. "Most of my life has been weight gain, weight loss, and weight gained again, getting bigger with each failed diet, reaching 241 pounds. What brought the miracle that changed my life was a defeated cry of desperation before God. This cry of defeat was the key to my victory." In the must-read devotional, *The God Plan*, Deborah C. Crocker offers daily inspiration for anyone who knows the challenge of losing weight, and who is finally ready to overcome their seemingly never-ending battle with food addiction. Complete with 80 heartfelt devotions, Deborah shares her candid conversations with God as He guides her (and all of us) into submission to His ways. Seeking and following God's directions, Deborah has lost over 90 pounds, and now experiences a freedom she never thought was possible. You too can have victory over the scales. Your journey to deliverance begins today. Get it Now*

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## TEN ESSENTIAL STRATEGIES FOR BECOMING A MULTIRACIAL CONGREGATION

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**Westminster John Knox Press** *How do churches build immunity from racial and ethnic tensions that threaten to divide rather than unite congregations? Jacqui Lewis and John Janka believe that the answer lies in the development of multiracial, multicultural communities of faith. Born of the authors' work with *The Middle Project*, an institute that prepares ethical leaders for a more just society, *The Pentecost Paradigm* is a collection of wisdom and best practices. Here you will find lessons, questions for conversation, and spaces for journaling. Use the workbook with your planning team, board members, lay leaders, and staff. Ten essential strategies are presented to help build communities that celebrate racial/ethnic and cultural diversity: *Embracing Call and Commitment* •  *Casting the Vision* • *Managing Change and Resistance* • *Creating Congregational Identity* • *Building Capacity* • *Cultivating Community* • *Celebrating in Worship* • *Understanding Congregational Conflict* • *Communicating and Organizing* • *Collaborating in the Public Square* *In welcoming communities of faith where everyone is accepted just as they are, we can lead the way toward racial reconciliation and dismantle the prejudices that segregate our houses of worship.**

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## GOD'S COUNTRY

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## FAITH, HOPE, AND THE FUTURE OF THE RURAL CHURCH

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**MennoMedia, Inc.** *With the poetic force of Kathleen Norris and the pastoral warmth of Eugene Peterson, Kansas pastor Roth sets forth a vision for vibrant rural churches, for ministry in congregations that bear a profound sense of both loss and possibility, and for harvesting fruits of transformation and renewal. Rooted in stories from Scripture, his own ministry, and interviews with rural church leaders, Roth offers a sturdy theological and practical alternative to church-growth strategies that rely on success stories and flashy metrics. Reclaiming God's vision for the rural church, Roth writes, means learning how to praise, abide, watch, pray, grow, work the edges, die, befriend, and dream. In *God's Country*, rediscover the stunning abundance of God's presence in rural communities. Name the ways that the rural church testifies to God's glory and goodness. Learn to live and love and minister right where you are, no matter how small or unassuming it may seem. Winner of the Award of Merit, Christianity Today 2018 Book Awards, *The Church / Pastoral Leadership* category. Free downloadable study guide available here.*

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## WHITE AWAKE

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### AN HONEST LOOK AT WHAT IT MEANS TO BE WHITE

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**InterVarsity Press** *You may be white, but that doesn't mean you have no culture. Charting his own journey toward understanding his white identity, Daniel Hill shows us the seven stages we encounter on the path to cultural awakening. This timely book will give you a new perspective on being white and also empower you to be an agent of reconciliation in our increasingly diverse and divided world.*

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### LOOKING FOR GOD IN MESSY PLACES

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### A BOOK ABOUT HOPE

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**Abingdon Press** *“This is beautiful and brilliant stuff, profound and plain, incredibly human, wise and charming. I trusted and enjoyed every word.” –Anne Lamott, New York Times bestselling author about Looking for God in Messy Places For any who feel frustrated and world-weary, and who want more than just wishful thinking or superficial spirituality, this book is for you! In these pages, my friend Jake Owensby poignantly shows how LOVE is what can truly give us hope to carry on: real love, God's love for us, our love for each other, right here, right now in all the struggles of this messy life. And God knows, we need this book NOW! —Bishop Michael Curry, Presiding Bishop of The Episcopal Church and author of Love is the Way: Holding on to Hope in Troubling Times Life is messy. We can get discouraged by setbacks, overwhelmed by busyness, and shaken by worry. Hope is the power that gets us out of bed in the morning and gives us the courage to face adversity. Looking for God in Messy Places by Jake Owensby is a book about how love gives us an inextinguishable hope. This book is for anyone who has ever been frozen in place by loss or regret, anyone who has endured suffering, cruelty, or rejection. From word to word and page to page, readers will experience themselves as God's beloved—so that they can be hopeful. From the introduction [This book is] For those whose struggles have been long and for those who are growing weary from heavy burdens. For those facing an unforeseen crisis or for those enduring a slow personal train wreck. For those whose throats have grown raw from crying for justice and for those whose wounds have gone unhealed. This is a book about hope, and I have written it especially for those who refuse to yield to discouragement and despair. Topics include: - The power of love to give us hope - The ways that God shows up in our daily lives - Recognizing God's call in our lives - Becoming your true self - Having a sense of belonging - Forming a friendship with Christ - Contemplative faith*

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### AUGUSTINE AND SOCIAL JUSTICE

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**Lexington Books** *This volume brings into dialogue the ancient wisdom of Augustine of Hippo, a bishop of the early Christian Church of the fourth and fifth centuries, with contemporary theologians and ethicists on the topic of social justice. Each essay mines the major themes present in Augustine's extensive corpus of writings—from his Confessions to the City of God— with an eye to the following question: how can this early church father so foundational to Christian doctrine and teaching inform our twenty-first century context on how to create and sustain a more just and equitable society? In his own day, Augustine spoke to conditions of slavery, conflict and war, violence and poverty, among many others. These conditions, while reflecting the characteristics of our technological age, continue to obstruct our collective efforts to bring about the common good for the global human community. The contributors of this volume have taken great care to read Augustine through the lens of his own time and place; at the same time, they provide keen insights and reflections which advance the conversation of social justice in the present.*

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### GRACE MATTERS

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### A TRUE STORY OF RACE, FRIENDSHIP, AND FAITH IN THE HEART OF THE SOUTH

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**Jossey-Bass** *A northern college student who helped found an interracial Christian community in the South, in which a group of black and white Christians worked to enhance the impoverished lives in the community, reveals how he pulled off this feat.*

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### TRANSFORMING THE MAINLINE CHURCH

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### LESSONS IN CHANGE FROM PITTSBURGH'S CATHEDRAL OF HOPE

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**Westminster John Knox Press** *In Transforming the Mainline Church, Robert Chesnut provides valuable lessons for inner-city churches. He urges congregations to be more open to diversity, to emphasize the arts and music, to support entrepreneurial leadership, and to move beyond denominational concerns to an approach that responds to the religious hungers of a new generation.*

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### THE SCANDAL OF WHITE COMPLICITY IN US HYPER-INCARCERATION

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### A NONVIOLENT SPIRITUALITY OF WHITE RESISTANCE

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**Springer** *The Scandal of White Complicity and US Hyper-incarceration is a groundbreaking exploration of the moral role of white people in the disproportionate incarceration of African-Americans and Latinos in the United States.*

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### GOD WHO? FROM STRANGER TO SUPERHERO

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### A WOMAN'S JOURNEY THROUGH FAMILY, FAILURE, AND FAITH

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**Booktango** *With the goal of answering the long-unanswered question of “God who?”, blogger-turned-book author Merideth Parrish recounts the many stories of pain, perseverance, and periods of self-mutilation and self-discovery she has endured in just thirty-two years of life. In this memoir, Parrish shares some of the most private and personal periods of her life, ranging from excruciatingly painful to exceedingly joyful. Encompassing episodes of sexual abuse and abandonment by her father, her journey brought her up against close-calls, violent encounters, and near-fatal collisions with the unforeseen conditions and bad choices that became her life. Parrish also tells how, along the way, she discovered the ultimate purpose for which God exists and the process that matured her into a restored and redeemed woman of God. Offering compelling and emotional insight into her life's journey, God Who? From Stranger to Superhero follows the path that unearthed and defined her Christian character.*

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### CONVERSION OF THE TEUTONIC RACE

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### CONVERSION OF THE FRANKS AND THE ENGLISH

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### THE EPWORTH HERALD

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### WHITE FRAGILITY

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### WHY IT'S SO HARD FOR WHITE PEOPLE TO TALK ABOUT RACISM

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**Beacon Press** *The New York Times best-selling book exploring the counterproductive reactions white people have when their assumptions about race are challenged, and how these reactions maintain racial inequality. In this “vital, necessary, and beautiful book” (Michael Eric Dyson), antiracist educator Robin DiAngelo deftly illuminates the phenomenon of white fragility and “allows us to understand racism as a practice not restricted to ‘bad people’ (Claudia Rankine). Referring to the defensive moves that white people make when challenged racially, white fragility is characterized by*

*emotions such as anger, fear, and guilt, and by behaviors including argumentation and silence. These behaviors, in turn, function to reinstate white racial equilibrium and prevent any meaningful cross-racial dialogue. In this in-depth exploration, DiAngelo examines how white fragility develops, how it protects racial inequality, and what we can do to engage more constructively.*