

Resources to support church ministries & promote personal spiritual growth

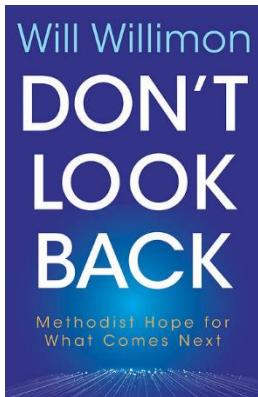


## New Books

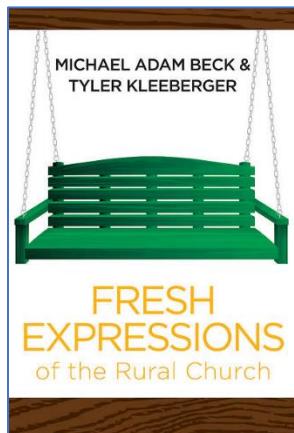
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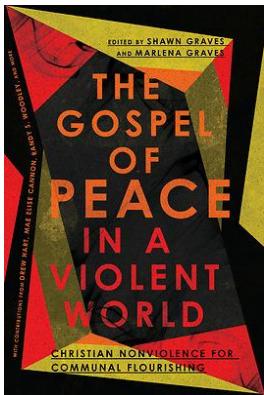
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DON'T LOOK BACK: METHODIST HOPE FOR WHAT COMES NEXT (822012) Author: Willimon, William H. Hope and help for pastors and congregations who are asking 'what now?' and 'what's next?' We might be tempted to 'sit down' wherever we are, looking back at all that's happened, shaking our heads in disbelief. But it's time to stand up and to move forward. Will Willimon shows what that could look like. What do you think God is up to in the present moment? What should we stop doing and begin doing, responding to God's call now? What are the biblical texts, stories from our past, and core Wesleyan convictions that might guide us from this point? As Willimon writes in his Introduction, "Let's have a decent burial for yesterday's good intentions and then partner with the Holy Spirit in creating tomorrow's church." This is a book to read and reflect on with colleagues, congregants, and Methodist friends. Chapters: By God's grace, hope; Good grief; Hope for congregations; Methodists moving out in mission; The Body of Christ in motion; Methodist pastors as mission leaders; Best practices of transformative Methodist leaders; With Jesus in the storm; Hopeful together. Age: Adult. 170 Pages.

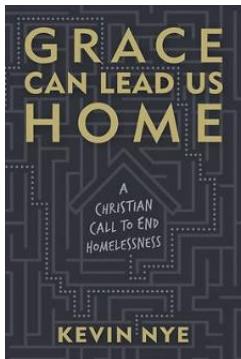


FRESH EXPRESSIONS OF THE RURAL CHURCH (822016) Author: Beck, Michael Adam and Kleeberger, Tyler. Can rural congregations flourish again? Can new Christian communities succeed in rural areas? Could healthy rural churches catalyze a better future for their declining communities? Collecting stories from the diversity of rural contexts across the US, this book lays out a fresh theology for rural life and offers principles for harnessing the potential of what some consider the forgotten spaces. Each chapter includes a Field Exercise with questions for discussion and suggested actions for leadership teams to work through together and a Field Story illustrating how the chapter's main ideas can work in a real church setting. Chapters: Start digging here; The state of rural places – welcome to the wilderness; The hope of the rural church – on being thornbushes; Rethinking the parish – barns and bodies; Learning to die somewhere – the necessity of belonging in rural churches; Circles that heal – recovering the art of neighborliness; Preaching non-downloadable content; Cultivating the kingdom of God – place economy; Field cred – key ingredients to rural church leadership; Somewhereness and somebodiness; Koinonia liturgy. Includes bibliography. Age: Adult. 147 Pages.

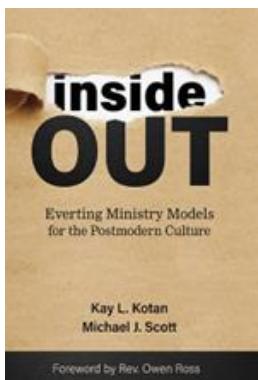


**GOSPEL OF PEACE IN A VIOLENT WORLD: CHRISTIAN NONVIOLENCE FOR COMMUNAL FLOURISHING (822019)** Author: Graves, Shawn and Graves, Marlena, editors. The gospel of Jesus Christ is the good news of peace: peace between God and humanity, peace among humans. And yet it can be difficult to see that peace in our broken, violent world. In this book, Shawn Graves and Marlena Graves have gathered contributions from theologians, pastors, and practitioners on the importance and implementation of Christian nonviolence in today's world. The vision they cast not only responds to the realities of war and conflict but also offers a broader, deeper understanding of peace that addresses topics such as race, gender, disability, immigration, the environment, food scarcity, and more--a holistic shalom that is evidence of God's presence. Chapters: The Old Testament as a problem for pacifists (and what to do about it); Shalom for all – toward an Old Testament theology of peace; Pride fighter or sacrificial lamb? Discerning the real

Jesus in the Book of Revelation; 'The God of peace will soon crush Satan under your feet' (Rom. 16:20) – violence in the gospel of peace?; A Pentagon for peace – what America could learn from its oldest enemy; Preachers, prophets, and philosophers – Martin Luther King Jr's moral reasoning on nonviolence; Listening for peace – nonviolence in William Stafford's writing and teaching; Living next door to the Bronze Lady; A universal love ethic – nonviolence and human rights advocacy; War, terror, and peace; Christian pacifism and the 'good war'; Problematic pacifism – pursuing biblical justice toward effective change; Lights in the darkness – Christian peace practice in the violence of Central America; Shalom and white supremacy; Healing from racial trauma; Faith-rooted reconciliation – organizing for shalom justice; Longing forward – peacemaking and violence toward women and girls; Disability, identity, and the resurrection of the dead – cultural competence as nonviolence; Our food system – the tie to immigration, migrant workers, exploitation, and human trafficking; Immigration and the church – who is my neighbor?; Everything, nothing, something – trading in worldviewing for everyday faithfulness in peacemaking and sustainability; Environmental violence; Practical steps toward communal flourishing. Includes general and Scripture indexes. Age: Adult. 416 Pages.

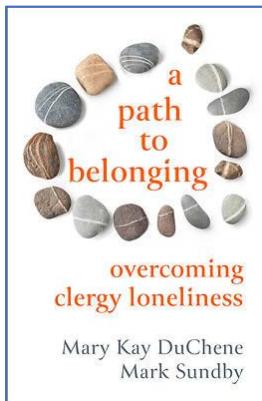


**GRACE CAN LEAD US HOME: A CHRISTIAN CALL TO END HOMELESSNESS (822018)** Author: Nye, Kevin. On any given night, more than half a million Americans and Canadians find themselves sleeping on the streets, in shelters, cars, and other places not meant for human habitation. Yet as this crisis continues to grow, it remains one of the least talked about--especially in churches. Even where compassion and empathy exist, the complexities around homelessness can make us feel stuck, overwhelmed, or numb to the existence of unhoused people in our cities and neighborhoods. Reporting back from his work in homeless services, minister and advocate Kevin Nye introduces readers to the Christ he's met in tents, shelters, and drop-in centers. He demystifies homelessness by journeying into complex issues like affordable housing, mental illness, addiction, and more, while reimagining our theological approach to these matters and educating us on how they intersect with homelessness. This thorough and intimate book shows us that from the margins, Jesus has something to teach us all about grace--something that could change the landscape of homelessness entirely if we're ready to hear it. Chapters: Seeing and being seen; Housing; Isolation and connection; Community and solidarity; Mental health; Substance use and overdose; Addiction and recovery; Abundance, beauty, and celebration. Age: Adult. 206 Pages.

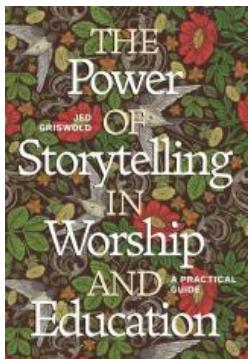


**INSIDE OUT: EVERTING MINISTRY MODELS FOR THE POSTMODERN CULTURE (822015)** Author: Kotan, Kay and Scott, Michael. As we evert the church model for the postmodern, post-Christian world, we need to evert, turn inside out, many of our thoughts and beliefs about how we go about "doing" church. This is NOT about changing our beliefs but about changing how we engage in ministry. There is urgent kingdom work that needs to be done. The postmodern, post-Christian world is suffering. People are more connected digitally than any prior generation but find themselves lonelier than ever before. Our neighbors seek hope, meaning, and a sense of community and belonging. Mental health is in crisis with staggering levels of depression and anxiety. While our neighbors struggle and need help, so many churches are ill-equipped for

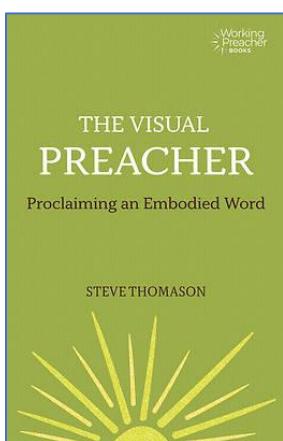
this work, the kind of work the church should be the very best at providing. After all, we have the Good News. Sadly, though, our methods of sharing this Good News and reaching others outside our congregations are no longer relevant, so it is as though the church is mute and the community culture is deaf or vice versa. In this book, authors Kay Kotan and Michael Scott unpack resources for the ever-emerging church in the American culture. If the church is to be relevant, compelling, and faithful in its commission to reach new people, we must embrace these trends and plot a new course to navigate them in our local contexts. The need for this navigation and course correction is critical, and the timing is urgent. We have no time to waste. The church has remained hesitant for too long as culture has charged forward by leaps and bounds. There is no more waiting; the time is now. The mission is too important to delay any longer. Chapters: Moving away from Sunday-centric; Moving away from building-centric; Moving away from offering-plate dependency; Becoming emotionally and culturally competent; Moving towards Christian social entrepreneurship. Age: Adult. 150 Pages.



**PATH TO BELONGING: OVERCOMING CLERGY LONELINESS** (822014) Author: DuChene, Mary Kay and Sundby, Mark. Chapters: What is loneliness?; The impact of loneliness; The clergy life; Learning to think differently; The essentials of belonging; The spirituality connection; Being wise about loneliness; Resilience matters; What congregations can do; A word to denominations and judicatories. Includes bibliography. Age: Adult. 190 Pages.



**POWER OF STORYTELLING IN WORSHIP AND EDUCATION: A PRACTICAL GUIDE** (822017) Author: Griswold, Jed. A resource for pastors, religious educators, teachers, and parents. Think about how Jesus taught. It is difficult to overstate the importance of storytelling when it comes to our desire to pass along our values, our spirituality, our faith to the next generation. Or to teach and inspire our own generation. In this small book you will find perhaps the most concise and well-articulated guide to storytelling anywhere. Jed Griswold's 12 tips for storytelling and his 20 original stories are more than enough to clarify and inspire readers to engage in the art of storytelling. Larger than average print. Age: Adult. 108 Pages.



**VISUAL PREACHER: PROCLAIMING AN EMBODIED WORD** (822013) Author: Thomason, Steve. Preachers are storytellers, says author and pastor Steve Thomason. This book will help preachers create and use images that make them even better storytellers than they already are. Chapters: We wish to see Jesus – why use visuals in preaching?; You don't have to be an artist – studying the Bible visually; Maps and boxes – visually constructing a sermon; Everything communicates – three-dimensional space; Without speaking a word – two-dimensional images; Learning a new language – videos. Includes bibliography. Age: Adult. 114 Pages.