

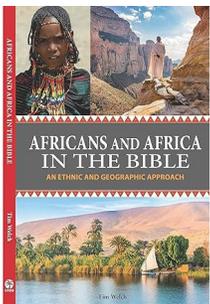


An Annotated Bibliography from CIT

“Of making many books there is not end...”

Ecclesiastes 12:12 NIV

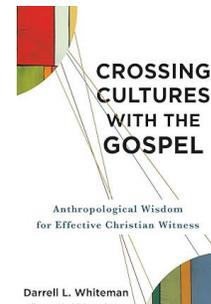
The author of Ecclesiastes said, “Of making of many books there is no end.” At the same time, someone else wrote, “There is no such thing as too many books, just not enough shelves.” In keeping with that thought, CIT again offers a list of book titles for your enlightenment, books to stimulate your thinking about More and Stronger Churches.



Africans and Africa in the Bible: An Ethnic and Geographic Approach—Tim Welch

This is a book that is hard to put down once you begin reading it. The author, Tim Welch, was a missionary for over 30 years in Cote d’Ivoire. Among his many accomplishments, he was a contributor to the *Africa Study Bible* and served as an editor of the *Bible d’etude africaine*. This is a deep book when it comes to history and linguistics as Welch attempts to present a trustworthy portrait of the role Africans and Africa played in the development of Christianity. As he phrases it, “Its purpose is to show the extent to which Africans and the African continent are part of the biblical story.” He steers away from “Afrocentrism,” presenting research that shows the significant contribution of Africans to the development of Christianity, long before it put down roots in Europe. As one endorser writes, “Christianity has deep roots in African soil!”

Welch shows that Christianity is not a “white man’s religion” imported to Africa; rather it is Asian/African religion first, that gave the world some of its most famous Christian theologians and thinkers like Origen (the founder of biblical exegesis), Tertullian (defender of the North Africa church), Cyprian (the church’s organizer), Augustine (its greatest theologian), among others. Key African figures found in the Old and New Testament narratives are very carefully examined, as are major cities found in Africa (including Egypt). One final note: There is extensive research presented regarding the Ethiopian eunuch that might surprise some people, and probably many seminarians.



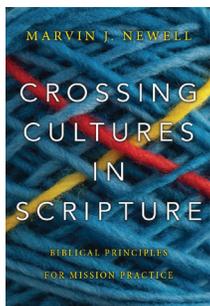
Crossing Cultures—
Darrell Whiteman

Drawing on forty years of teaching and mission experience, leading missiological anthropologist

Darrell Whiteman brings a wealth of insight to bear on cross-cultural ministry.

After explaining the nature and function of culture and the importance of understanding culture for ministry, Whiteman addresses the most common challenges of ministering across cultures. He then provides practical solutions based on lived experience, helping readers develop healthy patterns so they can communicate the gospel effectively. Issues addressed include negotiating differences in worldview, the problem of nonverbal communication, understanding cultural forms and their meanings, and the challenge of overcoming culture shock.

Professors, students, and ministers gain from this accessible cross-cultural guide.



**Crossing
Cultures in
Scripture—**
Marvin Newell
2016 (IVP)

There have been many books written from both a Christian

and non-Christian perspective on crossing cultures. Few are the books that look at crossing cultures in the context of reading Scripture. Newell has done an exceptional job in showing examples in the Bible of biblical characters who have dealt with cultures different from their own.

Newell begins by looking at “Foundational Cultural Considerations” by studying Eden, the Tower of Babel and finally Abraham. He then looks at crossing cultures in the Old Testament in Part Two and crossing cultures in the New Testament in Part Three. Some examples of his thought process follow:

Old Testament

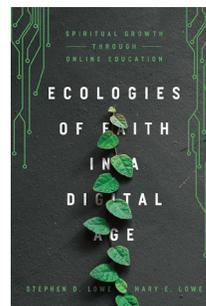
1. Sarah and Hagar (honor and shame)
2. The marriage of Jacob (consequences of crosscultural ignorance)
3. Joseph (a victim of crosscultural human trafficking)
4. Ruth (a crosscultural conversion)
5. David and Uriah (interplay of power-distance)
6. Naaman (the dilemma of conflicting religious obligation)
7. Jonah (ethnocentrism to a fault)

New Testament

1. Jesus and the Samaritan woman (contrasting world-views)
2. Acts 1:8 (crosscultural mission of the church)
3. The Jerusalem Church (cross-cultural conflict management)
4. Paul in Athens (contextualizing the message)
5. Newell also gives us some helpful appendices: Sermon outlines, crosscultural encounters in Judges, crosscultural encounters in the book of Acts.

Newell has a high view of Scripture, which is what makes his book a must-read. He looks at Scripture and its interaction with culture in three ways:

1. The Bible as a portrayer of cultures. “It unashamedly depicts and describes, many times uncritically, how separate communities and whole societies lived out their beliefs, values, and customs.”
2. The Bible is a sculptor of cultures. “It helped shape and influence numerous cultures for the better.”
3. The bible is an appraiser of cultures. “Its supracultural values are meant to be accepted moral standard for all cultures.... No culture is exempt, no community is excused, The standards and values of Scripture stand in judgment on any cultural practice or expression that ignores or opposes the divine values given therein. The objective norms and standards of Scripture trump the subjective and selective opinions of humans.”



**Ecologies of
Faith in a Digital
Age—**Stephen
Lowe and Mary
Lowe

Stephen and Mary are old friends from my days oversee-

ing online courses at Kuyper and Calvin Seminary. They are two of the pioneers in online seminary training. (Stephen also happens to have his PhD from my alma mater, Michigan State University!) As Christian educators, the Lowes are interested not only in the delivery of information online, but also in the spiritual side of learning. The editor’s sales pitch for the book reads, “Many Christian professors and institutions have embraced new technologies, especially online education. But as followers of Jesus Christ, we face the timeless call to grow in our faith. So how should we think about and approach Christian education in light of new technologies? Is it possible for us to grow spiritually though our digital communities? Steve Lowe and Mary Lowe, longtime proponents of online education, trace the motif of spiritual growth through Scripture and consider how students and professors alike might foster digital ecologies in which spiritual growth—even transformation—can take place.”

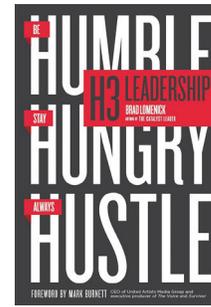
The controversy about whether spiritual growth through digital communities can occur is very much an ongoing issue. If truth be told, the question of whether true community can be formed online was a major concern years ago by college professors let alone whether one could form spiritual communities and promote spiritual growth of learners. Recently, the Christian Reformed annual

synod received a report from a study committee on this very subject. There are a few models of purely “digital churches”, and the question was raised whether such communities could truly be called a church considering the marks of a church as defined by the Belgic Confession (1) Pure preaching of the Word, 2) Pure administration of the sacraments, 3) Correct practice of church discipline.). It boiled down to whether spiritual communities could really exist in the digital world.

The book is divided into three sections: A Biblical Theology of Ecology, Spiritual Formation Through Digital Ecologies, and Ecological Connections to Christ and Community. The term “ecology” is used throughout, so we need to define the word. Ecology means an interrelationship, an ecosystem of relations. Lowe states, “In God’s ecology, individual things and people do not grow alone. They grow when they connect to and interact with the ultimate Source of life and other growing people.” In this book, they look at digital ecologies, or digital relationships between learners and between learners and God.

In the third section they are dealing with the ecologies (or relationships, interconnectedness) to Christ, to Christians, with other Christians, with the doctrine of sanctification, and thinking ecologically about spiritual growth.

For anyone promoting online learning (as we do in CIT), this is an important resource since our goal is not the mere transmission of information, but the spiritual formation and spiritual transformation of the online learners who take our courses. This must be the intended outcome of what we produce.

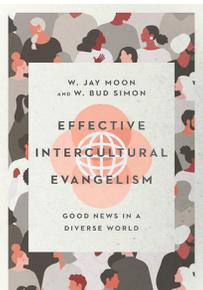


H3 Leadership—
Brad Lomenick

H3 Leadership is an application-driven, practical leadership playbook and road map that provides a

proven process on how not only to run but finish well in the leadership race.

H3 Leadership uncovers the twenty key habits that will build your core leadership framework and establish a clear path to long-term, sustainable influence. The secret to effective leadership isn’t manipulation, bigger carrots, or longer sticks. It starts with one word: *habit*.



Effective Intercultural Evangelism: Good News in a Diverse World

Many of you are acquainted with Bill Bright’s “The

Four Spiritual Laws.” In fact, many of you may have used this tool in evangelizing those you visited in their homes, on a bus, or on an airplane. Developed in the 50s and used widely in the 60s and 70s, “The Four Spiritual Laws” was a very useful evangelistic tool in the U.S. and in several other countries. But it has its limitations. It is a tool based on the premise that all people recognize their sinfulness and the need for a savior.

This tool, is based on a particular world view: Guilt/Righteousness, which, in effect, only speaks to the heart of the sinner in about 25% of er preferences

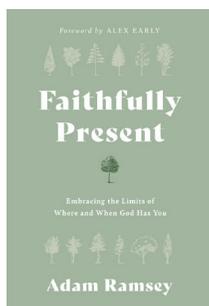
This book, therefore, seeks to help those who wish to evangelize their neighbors, friends, and non-acquaintances, with the Good News of Jesus by taking into account the different world views, and then giving them the message that best speaks to that particular world view. It deals with the three worldviews most of us now understand (guilt/righteousness, shame/honor, and fear/power) but adds a fourth called indifference/belonging with a purpose. Besides explaining each worldview in depth, the authors also

give practical suggestions on how to reach people with what for them in their particular worldview is Good News.

He then goes on to discuss holistic evangelism (word, deeds, life-style), and then devotes a chapter to local learner preferences. In a final chapter he looks at different influences and lists characteristics of effective intercultural evangelists.

This is an easy-to-read book full of helpful information on how to present the Good News in a diverse world.



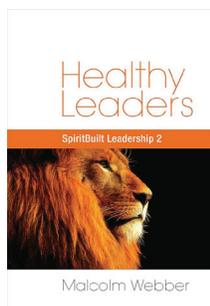


Faithfully Present—

Adam Ramsey

How to accept our limitations and be free to live in the moment, fully and faithfully present

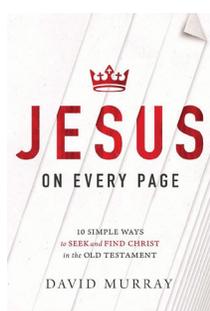
with God and with others. Do you ever wish that life would slow down? Or perhaps you're in a season when you would like to hit the fast-forward button and speed things up a bit. We have a complicated relationship with time, usually wishing we had more of it. Many of us live life at full speed, trying to be in two places at once, our minds too busy and distracted by all the things we feel we ought to be doing to be mindful of God's presence. In this thought-provoking book, Adam Ramsey teaches us to embrace the limitations of time and place that we have as created beings, liberating us from the feeling that we need to be everywhere at once. Read this book to discover how to be intentional with your time, living each day fully and faithfully present with God and with others. Be equipped to find contentment in every season of life as you learn to see God in every moment of your here and now.



Healthy Leaders— Malcolm Webber

Webber is the founder of LeaderSource, a global leader development ministry that has trained over 160,000 participants since inception. He has authored a series of leadership books under the title "SpiritBuilt Leadership." This is Book 2 in the series.

Webber is concerned with the development of healthy leaders. In this book he defines what "healthy" means. Accordingly, he defines a healthy leader according to five categories: Christ, Community, Character, Calling and Competencies (pp. 10-17). He terms this the ConneXions model, a model of leadership development with Christ (X) at the center. He explains how leadership is either unhealthy or non-existent if even one of the five characteristics is missing. He gives a substantial biblical foundation for each of these characteristics.



Jesus On Every Page—David Murray

Greg Stam one day made reference to this book in response to a devotional I led. I was fascinated by what Greg said about the book, so I purchased a copy.

Jesus on Every Page is an easy read. The subtitle is "10 Simple Ways to Seek and Find Christ in the Old Testament." The author writes that there are many excellent books that deal with Jesus in the Old Testament. Some "deal with one or two ways of interpreting the Old Testament with Jesus in view. Some are strong on typology, others emphasize narra-

tive, while still others focus on the prophets or the Old Testament appearances of Christ.

In *Jesus on Every Page* I've tried to gather in one place ten different ways of discovering and enjoying Jesus in the Old Testament. It can be read as a devotional, focusing on one way of discovering Jesus each day. It is well worth the investment, and brings the Old and New Testament together as they to be. The Old Testament does not present one view of God and the New Testament a different view; rather the Old points to and includes Christ and the New points back to the appearances and promises of the Messiah as found in the Old.



Images of the Church
in the New Testament



Images of the Church in the New Testament

—Paul S. Minear

This book is a classic! I almost hate to tell you when it was published. The first

edition was published in 1960. I read it while in Bible college and from time to time it would come to the surface of my memory bank. This is a book that helped me with my ecclesiology, looking at all of the metaphors for church found in the New Testament. Minear was the Winley Professor of Biblical Theology at Yale Divinity School, and also taught at Andover-Newton Theological School, among other prestigious seminaries. Although these are not necessarily solid schools of theology today, at the time this book was written it was a different story. The solid biblical teaching in this book is assured since, at the time, the book was published by Westminster Press.

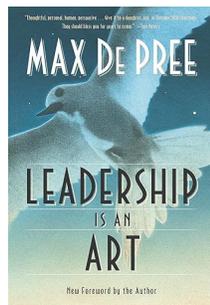
Minear begins with the scope and method of study and then moves on to minor images of the Church—32 distinct metaphors.

After carefully describing each of these metaphors of the church (descriptors like “salt of the earth,” “a letter of Christ,” “the bride of Christ,” “branches of the vine”) he then goes on to look at what he considers major images of the Church:

- “The People of God.”
- “The New Creation”
- “The Fellowship of Faith”
- “The Body of Christ”

Minear then interrelates these images, “the appraisal of why and

how the images as set forth in the New Testament are so intricately woven together and what strategic inferences may be drawn from that interweaving.” The purpose of this book is to point us to Christ, who died and was raised from the dead so that we, as members of the Church, may also be raised to newness of life.



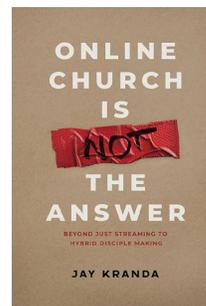
Leadership is an Art—Max De Pree

Ken Nevel says about De Pree, “He served as CEO of Herman Miller, chair of the Fuller Seminary board for over 25

years, and on the Hope College board as well. I learned a lot from him.”

De Pree looks at leadership as a kind of stewardship, stressing the importance of building relationships, initiating ideas, and creating a lasting value system within an organization. Rather than focusing on the “hows” of corporate life, he explains the “whys.” He shows that the first responsibility of a leader is to define reality and the last is to say thank you.

Leadership Is an Art has long been a must-read not only within the business community but also in professions ranging from academia to medical practices, to the political arena. First published in 1989, the book has sold more than 800,000 copies in hardcover and paperback. This revised edition brings Max De Pree’s timeless words and practical philosophy to a new generation of readers.



Online Church is NOT the Answer

—Jay Kranda

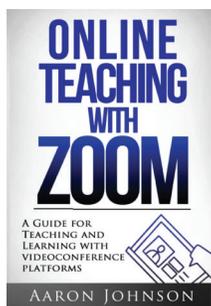
Kranda is the Online Community Pastor at Saddleback Church. He began his vocation

as an online pastor in 2010, one of the earliest adopters of technology for church use.

Digital is a confusing concept, and many churches struggle to understand it, with most churches limiting their digital experience to streaming their church services and nothing more. (Many began doing this during the Covid outbreak.)

In this book, Kranda discusses how to think strategically about digital technology and how to best integrate digital ideas into the church, aligning with in-person objectives. The goal is to disciple more people and not just get an online audience. You will learn to cut through the hype and discern the most critical, high-level concepts and find practical ideas to implement.

The book starts with “30,000 feet Thinking”, then moves on to “Framework Thinking”, then “Tactical Ideas”, and finally “Ideas to Ponder”, all in a little more than 200 pages. The appendix includes Saddleback’s Online Church Model.



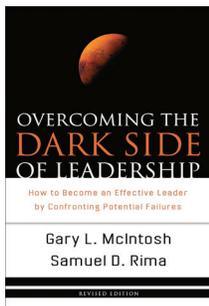
Online Teaching with Zoom— Aaron Johnson

This is a helpful book in the best practices of using Zoom in an instructional setting. In fact,

no matter what platform you use, the tips given in this book will help you to be a better online teacher, facilitator, or presenter.

The first part deals with the “technical stuff” of preparing to teach. Such things as the equipment to use, using breakout rooms, chats, polls, and security are all discussed. The second part looks at the student’s perspective and also classroom protocols as “A Recipe for Success.” The third section evaluates active learning through 30 active learning methods. The fourth section goes deep into the use of breakout rooms—group etiquette, discussion guides, for example.

The author points out the importance of active learning, of facilitation, as we often do in our trainings. He quotes Mortimer Adler who stated, “All genuine learning is active, not passive.” Throughout the book, Johnson demonstrates this concept of active learning. The instructor prepares, but the learner acts.



Overcoming the Dark Side of Leadership— Gary McIntosh and Samuel Rima

The subtitle to this book is “How to Become an

Effective Leader by Confronting Potential Failures.” McIntosh is president of the Church Growth Network and professor at Talbot. Rima is director of the Doctor of Ministry program at Bethel Seminary, and a professor in the Center for Transformational Leadership.

Why this book? In a well-known movie series, “Star Wars,” Darth Vader and others go over to “the Dark Side.” They are portrayed as having lost their way and fallen into the clutches of evil.

As we all know, the Christian world has been rocked by the number of prominent leaders in the church and in parachurch organizations who have been compromised in some way, resulting in moral, ethical, or theological failures. They, to, have given themselves over to “the Dark Side,” the dark side of leadership. This book gives guidance in dealing with the inherent risks pastors and parachurch leaders face in their work.

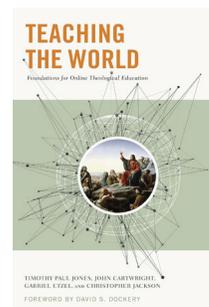
Using biblical and current examples, the writers describe the characteristics of five types of leaders and the problems they are most likely to have if their particular dysfunctions develop unrestrained. They then offer a series of steps to consider so as to take control of their dark side and learn to harness its creative powers. A self-assessment is included in this new edition. This self-assess-

ment looks to be a useful tool for Christian leaders.

The three main divisions of the book are:

- Understanding our dark side
- Discovering our dark side
- Redeeming our dark side

The following leader types are examined which could lead to a dark side: 1) the compulsive leader, 2) the narcissistic leader, 3) the paranoid leader, 4) the codependent leader, 5) the passive-aggressive leader



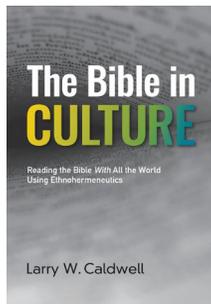
Teaching the Word: Foundations for Online Theological Education—Cartwright, Et Al.

This is a thought-provoking book that

asks the question, “What are your motives for doing online theological education?” It seems that many theological institutions have gone into putting their courses online, but the reason for doing so is less than honest. Many are doing so because it seems to be the newest fad. Others are doing this because it may be a “money maker” or it may be the savior of a dying institution. The authors point out that many schools “lose sight of their calling to shape the souls of God-called men and women in preparation for effective ministry.” They ask a very poignant question that we in CIT need to answer: “How might online ministry training look different if biblical and theological foundations were placed first?” The book attempts to answer this question. Some of the foremost educators from dif-

ferent backgrounds came together to deal with this question. They represent some of the largest providers of online theological education. They propose methods of doing online theological education that is practical “and yet thoroughly shaped by Scripture and theology.”

The book is divided into three sections: 1) Better Foundations for Online Learning, 2) Better Faculty for Online Learning, and 3) Better Practices in the Classroom.



The Bible in Culture is subtitled—
Larry Caldwell

The Bible in Culture is subtitled “Reading the Bible With All the World Using

Ethnohermeneutics.” This title is enough to cause the faint of heart to run in the opposite direction, but the book is worth being read or at least skimmed. The author, Larry Caldwell, has more than 30 years of experience in researching and teaching on the subject.

In Part One Caldwell goes into laying the foundation for this discussion. He writes, “The basic premise underlying the entire discipline of ethno-hermeneutics is this: God is at work in each culture, drawing individuals from within each culture to himself.” This approach to biblical interpretation calls on us to search for hermeneutical approaches that are receptor-oriented. Reading and interpreting the Bible through the eyes of the reader by taking into account his/her culture. In fact, Caldwell insists that receptor-ori-

ented hermeneutical approaches is the very heart of ethnohermeneutics. “Ethnohermeneutics is Bible interpretation done in cross-cultural, multi-cultural and multi-generational contexts that, wherever possible, uses culturally appropriate dynamic hermeneutical approaches already in place in the culture; the primary goal being to interpret the Bible, as well as to communicate the truths of the Bible, in ways that will be best understood from within the worldview of the receptor culture.”

Some similar terms for ethnohermeneutics are :

- Intercultural hermeneutics
- Contextual hermeneutics
- Indigenous hermeneutics
- Missiological hermeneutics

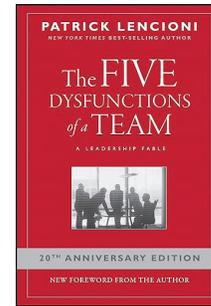
Among other terms

The author looks at the pros and cons of the traditional Western approach called the grammatical-historical approach to biblical interpretation and then goes on to look at other approaches.

In Part Two he discusses using ethnohermeneutics to Read the Bible with all the world. And even pays attention to Bible “reading” (biblical interpretation) with oral cultures and oral-preference learners.

He even puts limits on the use of this approach, and ends with seven steps of biblical interpretation.

This is not a book that you can finish reading in one sitting.



The Five Dysfunctions of a Team—
Patrick Lencioni

Lencioni has a unique way of dealing with leadership issues. In all of his

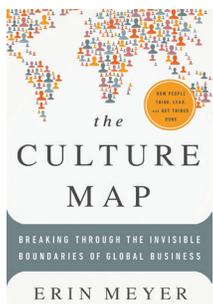
books he writes a story—a fable if you would—so as to look at the particular leadership problem. In this book he is dealing with dysfunctional teams and how to overcome them.

The five dysfunctions of a team that Lencioni points out are: 1) absence of trust, 2) fear of conflict, 3) lack of commitment, 4) avoidance of accountability, and 5) inattention to results.

Each one of these dysfunctions can sabotage a team. The book describes each one in detail and then presents a model for understanding each dysfunction and how to overcome them. Lencioni concludes the model, saying, “Teamwork ultimately comes down to practicing a small set of principles over a long period of time. Success is not a matter of mastering subtle, sophisticated theory, but rather of embracing common sense with uncommon levels of discipline and persistence.”

Anyone involved in a team—church planting, discipling, in an organized church, should take this book to heart.





The Culture Map— Erin Meyer

This book explores how cultural differences impact communication and collaboration in a globalized world. It provides a framework to understand and navigate these differences effectively.

Key Concepts

Dimension	Description
Communicating	Low-context (explicit) vs. high-context (implicit) communication styles.
Evaluating	Direct vs. indirect negative feedback approaches.
Persuading	Principles-first vs. applications-first reasoning.
Leading	Egalitarian vs. hierarchical leadership styles.
Deciding	Consensual vs. top-down decision-making processes.
Trusting	Task-based vs. relationship-based trust.
Disagreeing	Confrontational vs. avoidance of confrontation.
Scheduling	Linear-time vs. flexible-time orientation.

Importance of Cultural Awareness

Meyer emphasizes that understanding cultural differences is crucial for effective communication. Misunderstandings can arise from differing communication styles, feedback methods, and decision-making processes.

Practical Applications

The book offers real-life examples and practical strategies for improving cross-cultural interactions. It encourages readers to listen actively, recognize non-verbal cues, and adapt their communication styles to bridge cultural gaps.

By applying these insights, individuals can enhance their effectiveness in multicultural environments.

