

The Prodigal Project Journey Into The Emerging Church

Christian churches and groups within Anglo-American contexts have increasingly used popular music as a way to connect with young people. This book investigates the relationships between evangelical Christianity and popular music, focusing particularly on electronic dance music in the last twenty years. Author Stella Lau illustrates how electronic dance music is legitimized in evangelical activities by Christians' discourses, and how the discourses challenge the divide between the 'secular' and the 'sacred' in the Western culture. Unlike other existing books on the relationships between music cultures and religion, which predominantly discuss the cultural implications of such phenomenon, *Popular Music in Evangelical Youth Culture* examines the notion of 'spirituality' in contemporary popular electronic dance music. Lau's emphasis on the sonic qualities of electronic dance music opens the door for future research about the relationships between aural properties of electronic dance music and religious discourses. With three case studies conducted in the cultural hubs of electronic dance music - Bristol, Ibiza and New York - the monograph can also be used as a guidebook for ethnographic research in popular music.

A design-thinking book for planting or redesigning churches and incubating a new generation of leaders. Written by Linda Bergquist and Allan Karr, two experienced church planters and mentors, the book is full of wisdom, practical advice, and creative counsel. Instead of a business-model-as-usual approach, the authors challenge readers to begin with the raw materials of beliefs, values, individuals, teams, and culture, and to then move outwards to draw from a rich palette of real and potential church paradigms. This book is meant to provoke church leaders to think outside of the box and to imagine how their churches might better reflect the image and the mission of God in the world. Contains a wealth of illustrative examples, charts, and other visual aides Offers a creative practical perspective and a multi-disciplinary approach to establishing a new church or leading an existing one Shows how to honor a church's purpose while embracing its unique culture Includes important lessons for nurturing church leadership skills Filled with humorous and sometimes heart-rending stories that will help readers rethink the meaning of church, this text presents an honest examination of the effects of church on the authors journey in order to encourage Christians to re-examine their own pilgrimage.

At first, Ken Abraham wrote off his mother's changes in behavior as quirks that just come with old age. There was memory loss, physical decline, hygiene issues, paranoia, and uncharacteristic attitudes. He soon realized that dementia had changed her life—and his family's—forever. "How is it possible to lose a loved one while he or she is still living, still sitting right in front of you, talking with you, smiling at you—and yet the person you have known and loved for years is somehow gone?" According to the Alzheimer's Association, an estimated 5.4 million Americans of all ages have Alzheimer's disease. That's one in eight older Americans. More than likely, that figure includes someone you know and love. As he chronicles his own mother's degenerative condition, *New York Times* best-selling writer Ken Abraham educates while offering inspiration to help readers cope with and manage their family circumstances. With humor and spiritual reminders of God's command to honor our parents, Abraham encourages readers through often-difficult responsibilities. And though in most cases patients will not recover this side of heaven, he suggests many practical things that families can do to make the experience safer, kinder, and more endurable for everyone involved. When Your parent Becomes Your Child tells the story of one family's journey through dementia while offering hope to family members and friends, that they might better understand the effects of the disease. Don't let this catch you by surprise—be informed before you face the challenges and difficulties of a loved one with Alzheimer's or dementia. This book can help.

Spiritual wisdom for times of transition

Evangelicalism and the Emerging Church

Church and Mission in a Strange New World

Carpe Mañana

Four Discourses

A Journey to Freedom from Abuse and Addiction

Engaging Today's Prodigal

A "naturalization manual" to help Christians lead in this strange new world of postmodern culture. Leonard Sweet, an "outside the box" thinker, offers strategies for leaders to put their faces, not their backs, to the future.

Servantship is essentially about following our Lord Jesus Christ, the servant Lord, and his mission--it is a life of discipleship to him, patterned after his self-emptying, humility, sacrifice, love, values, and mission. Servantship is humbly valuing others more than yourself, and looking out for the interests and wellbeing of others. Servantship is the cultivation of the same attitude of mind Christ Jesus had: making yourself nothing, being a servant, humbling yourself, and submitting yourself to the will and purposes of the triune God. Since servantship is the imitation of Christ, it involves an unreserved participation in the *missio Dei*--the Trinitarian mission of God. In this pioneering work, sixteen servants describe the four movements of radical servantship. Servantship is the movement 1.from leadership to radical servantship; 2.from shallowness to dynamic theological reflection; 3.from theories to courageous practices; and 4.from forgetfulness to transforming memory. Servantship recognizes, in word, thought, and deed, that "whoever wants to become great among you must be your servant, and whoever wants to be first must be your slave--just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many."

What is at the heart of the church's work in the world? It's not church-as-usual, that's for sure. In defiance of the temptations to make the church all about its members, Kim Hammond and Darren Cronshaw call us to embrace our "sentness," to follow Jesus into our world and call it to faith.

A resource book and CD-Rom providing the theological, spiritual and cultural basis for a journey into the emerging church. Zany and interactive, it offers the best in current alternative worship.

A Guide for Designers, Refiners, and Re-Aligners
Sentness

The Prodigal Project, Book 1 Genesis

Sixteen Servants on the Four Movements of Radical Servantship

New Voices, New Cultures, New Expressions

An Architecture of Immanence

To Stand in the Breach

Many families today experience the profound guilt and shame filled pain of seeing a child walk away from their faith and values. Churches and parents feel powerless to change the relationship and engage the prodigal in positive ways. Carol Barnier has the insight to help. She left the faith of her pastor father, became an active atheist, debated Christians, and explored a variety of worldviews before she found the truth in a relationship with Jesus. But far more than her personal story, *Engaging Today's Prodigal* equips readers with a better understanding of a prodigal's motivation, useful responses that won't prevent reconciliation, clear boundaries to protect themselves and other children, actions to take when you know you have contributed to the problem, and the value of realistic expectations. With effective wit and humor, Carol provides material relevant for churches, parents and even the prodigals themselves. Can your family or church interact with a prodigal in ways that build a relationship bridge that can provide a way back home when they are ready? Let *Engaging Today's Prodigal* equip you with clear, specific actions that can overcome the shame, hurt, and loss to bring real hope for the future.

Robert E. Webber has led worship workshops in every major city in the United States and Canada. Through his conversations and contacts with a network of emerging church leaders he calls the "younger evangelicals," Webber sees how this new generation and their style of leadership is bringing change and renewal to the evangelical church. These leaders, who include those young in spirit as well as young in age, have important insights to offer all generations faced with "doing church" in a rapidly changing postmodern culture. *The Younger Evangelicals* explores the characteristics of these emerging leaders and provides an outlet for their stories. Beginning with a brief overview of twentieth-century evangelicalism, Webber examines what is different about the twenty-first century younger evangelicals' way of thinking about faith and practicing church. He allows them-Ph.D.s and laypeople-to speak in their own words on issues such as communication, theology, apologetics, pastoral leadership, evangelism, worship, and spiritual formation. Thought provoking, energizing, and timely, *The Younger Evangelicals* is a landmark book for pastors and church leaders, culture watchers, ministry students, and worship leaders who want to prepare for and respond to the new evangelical awakening brought on by our changing cultural context.

Special Agent John Jameson finds himself caught between faith and his duty to his country when he is assigned to destroy the leader of the militant Islamic mujahideen and uncovers a secret that could lead to global war.

Building on an ethnographic study of St. Michael-le-Belfrey Church in York, a recognized leader in charismatic renewal, mission, and evangelical innovation since the 1960s, this book explores how a persistent tradition of cultural engagement may generate growth, while at the same time bringing about significant changes in the structure and function of the evangelical congregation, and in the social construction of Christian identity itself. This is the first sociological study of St. Michael-le-Belfrey and the first to take seriously the question of how blazing the trail in terms of mission, worship, and fellowship influences the way in which congregations exist as Christian communities within the contemporary British context.

The Lost Platoon Book One

Beyond 400

Facing the Challenges of the New World

In Search of the Church

ThirdWay A Moving Word The Gospel after Christendom

Journey Into Dandelion Wine Country And Other Different Stories is a short fiction collection consisting of the title fantasy novella and six science fiction or fantasy short stories. Included in this collection are: Journey Into Dandelion Wine Country An early 21st century homage to Ray Bradbury's mid-20th century fantasy classic. Proverbial Everyman Guy MacKenzie travels from New England to the Mid-Western heartland in this fantasy tale of the consequences of memory and possibilities of human redemption. The Bulgarian Poetess Takes A Green Card A tale of love and literati, ancient movies and futuristic greeting cards, all set in a dynamic, slowly drowning late twenty-first century Boston. We Got The Funk! An off-beat story of the unexpected consequences when separate time periods blend together into one unusual reality of Philadelphia. Empty Houses A story of 21st century families coping with a Grapes Of Wrath-like existence in the decaying subdivisions of Southern California, as seen through the eyes of a young boy. Flagship Of The Gods A short, poetic warning tale of the consequences of pursuing too far ancient archaeologies, myths and forgotten visitors. Thin Ice If you thought that the Tonya Harding-Nancy Kerrigan olympic skating mess was an episode of alien weirdness, then check-out this story! Ritchie Feels All Right A touching chronicle of a very familiar rock star of our time, coping and coming to terms with the memory of what-might-have-been as examined from the quiet corner of an alternate reality.

Arguing that the weakness of the church today is a loss of personal spirituality and congregational vitality, Ott challenges local churches to discover how to adjust the style of their ministries to attract new people while encouraging current members.

In the steamy jungles of West Africa, a Marine Reconnaissance platoon races against time to save the lives of American citizens caught in a bloody civil war. One recon team arrives at a mission only to find they are too late. The missionaries had been burned to death while strung up crucifix style. Realizing that the rebels intend to kill all of the missionaries in the region, the Marines race through the jungle in an attempt to beat the rebels to another nearby mission before they can kill the missionaries there. The Marines arrive just in time to see the guerrillas enter the mission compound and begin killing mission workers. The recon team opens fire and the situation escalates. They successfully push the rebels back into the jungle. Gathering the mission workers, including the mission's doctor, Ellen McKenzie, they flee into the jungle. While on the run, the hospital corpsman, Sean Austin, finds himself struggling with his feelings for the young missionary doctor. Traveling day and night they arrive at the platoon's harbor site. While waiting for helicopters to evacuate the Americans to a waiting ship, the group stumbles onto a large underground crypt left by an ancient civilization. A tropical hurricane forces the Americans to take shelter within the crypt; they discover it is actually a portal to another world. Transported to the middle of a lopsided battle, the group is forced to choose sides and fight against a huge medieval army. Once the great battle is over, the reality of this new world leaves the sojourners from earth conflicted and searching for answers about reality, God, and eternity. Sean is particularly conflicted about his life as a prodigal and his attraction to Dr. McKenzie. Into the Breach is a war of ideals, a war between living a good life and living an obedient life. Lliam Morgan takes the reader through adventure after adventure while unraveling our calling, not to be right, but to be obedient.

Crowly examines how media arts in worship can support the gospel, preaching, music, and all components of the service to enhance the whole experience of worship. Each chapter includes discussion questions that can be used with small groups.

Numbers

A Journey of Faith Through My Mother's Dementia

Church Invisible

Discovering the Incarnate Saviour

The Prodigal Son

Twelve Dynamic Shifts for Transforming Your Church

Innovation and the Mission of God

Torgerson begins by discussing God's transcendence and immanence and showing how church architecture has traditionally interpreted these key concepts. He then traces the theological roots of immanence's priority from liberal theology and liturgical innovation to modern architecture. Next, Torgerson illustrates this new architecture of immanence through particular practitioners, focusing especially on the work of theologically savvy architect Edward Anders S ö vik. Finally, he addresses the future of church architecture as congregations are buffeted by the twin forces of liturgical change and postmodernism.

Monthly current affairs magazine from a Christian perspective with a focus on politics, society, economics and culture.

A geographical, historical, and spiritual odyssey by a master of creative nonfiction.

The concept of bministry teamsb is rapidly taking hold in churches, but just what are they and how do they work? "Transform Your Church with Ministry Teams" outlines what effective ministry teams look like, describes what they can offer local congregations, and gives concrete step-by-step suggestions for making them happen. The power of ministry teams lies in their unique capacity to generate genuine Christian fellowship, nurture disciples, develop leaders, and mobilize people for ministry. While traditional church leadership organizations concentrate almost exclusively on task, policy, and program, ministry teams are designed to enhance faith development and, thus, ministry effectiveness. E. Stanley Ott explores three main areas of ministry-team development. First, he explains the philosophy behind ministry teams and discusses the issues involved in shifting from committee-based to team-based ministry. Second, he tells how to begin ministry teams, including how to identify team leaders and members and how to determine their roles. Third, he looks at the details of ministry-team life, including ways to build team fellowship, foster discipleship and communication within teams, and accomplish specific ministry tasks. Filled with wise, time-tested advice, including four how-to appendixes, this book will help pastors and lay leaders transform the life of their church or Christian organization.

A Journey to Byzantium

When Your Parent Becomes Your Child

Is Your Church Ready to Seize Tomorrow?

The Younger Evangelicals

Insights for Today 's Church from the Sixteenth Century Radicals

Sacred Journey

First Expressions

None of us has precisely the same path to follow, and yet all of us are summoned to follow a path . . . For many of us, the understanding emerges clearly in mid-life, at the very time when we suspect it is too late for us to do anything about it. Our soul knows better; it is simply time to wake up.' This inspiring and challenging book is for anyone who has ever asked, 'What now?' or 'What will be left of my life when I'm gone?' Storyteller and writer Mike Riddell brilliantly identifies the malaise that is particularly common in midlife and shows us how to make it a time for refocusing on what really matters. In an engrossing blend of reflection and story, he encourages us to regain our capacity for wonder and to discover the unique gift that only we can bring to the world.

On just another Sunday, a man joins a group of friends for a golf game. A working mother, trying to balance career and home, skips weekly services. An Internet junkie scours the Web looking for some comforting news but finds only unrest. Ordinary people who live their lives in an unsettled time, like most too overwhelmed by their own concerns to register the groundswell of changes taking place everywhere - until the instance when millions around the world disappear. Immediately, life after the Rapture becomes a chaotic battle for survival. Into the void steps Azul Dante, the charismatic leader of the Prodigal Project. He shines a light in the darkness of the End Times, his new world order representing a return to the promised land of the past. And in the beginning, seven hopeful men and women set out separately to find salvation in the Prodigal Project. Instead, they initiate a series of personal trials that will ultimately prove to be the sternest test of their souls.

Exiles: Living Missionally in a Post-Christian Culture presents a biblical, Christian worldview for the emergent church--people who are not at home in the traditional church or in the secular world. As exiles of both, they must create their own worldview that integrates their Christian beliefs with the contemporary world. Exiles seeks to integrate all aspects of life and decision-making and to develop the characteristics of a Christian life lived intentionally within emerging (postmodern) culture. It presents a plea for a dynamic, life-affirming, robust Christian faith that can be lived successfully in the post-Christian world of twenty-first century Western society. This book will present a Christian lifestyle that can be lived in non-religious categories and be attractive to not-yet Christians. Such a worldview takes ecology and politics seriously. It offers a positive response to the workplace, the arts, feminism, mystery and worship. Exiles seeks to develop a framework that will allow Christians to live boldly and courageously in a world that no longer values the culture of the church, but does greatly value many of the things the Bible speaks positively about. This book suggests that there us more to being a Christian than meets the eye. It explores the secret, unseen nooks and crannies in the life of a Christian and suggests that faith is about more than church attendance and belief in God. Written in a conversational, easy-to-read style, Exiles is aimed at church leaders, pastors and laypersons and seeks to address complex issues in a simple manner. It includes helpful photographs and diagrams.

While the transition from modernity to postmodernity has received a huge amount of attention the shift from Christendom to post-Christendom has not yet been fully explored. This book is an introduction: a journey into the past, an interpretation of the present, and an invitation to ask what following Jesus might mean in the strange new world of post-Christendom. Drawing on insights from the early Christians, dissident movements and the world church, this book challenges conventional ways of thinking. For those who dare to imagine new ways of following Jesus on the margins it invites a realistic and hopeful response to challenges and opportunities awaiting us in the 21st century.

Living Missionally in a Post-Christian Culture

Church and Academy in Harmony

Journey Into the Emerging Church

And Other Different Stories

Prodigal

Post-Christendom

Exploring Baptist Futures

A first full-length work by the MacArthur Award-winning author of the story collections The Question of Bruno and Nowhere Man finds the murder of Jewish immigrant Lazarus Averbuch triggering ethnic and political tensions in early twentieth-century Chicago, an event that is investigated a century later by a young writer from Eastern Europe.

Religion today is in competition with the leisure and entertainment industries. Gen Y, the postmodern generation, is open to spirituality; but most of today's young adults have not been born into faith communities where they feel any lasting allegiance. Studies suggest that for the young, belief in God is an optional matter, a virtual consumer choice. As a result, different trends in worship and worship styles are offered by different churches to suit lifestyles, attitudes, and personal taste.

Worship at the Next Level explores why and how we worship as individuals and communities. Its diverse voices offer an interdisciplinary approach for worship leaders, pastors, musicians, and those involved in contemporary worship planning in churches, colleges, and youth groups. A key emphasis on understanding theology, culture, and leadership helps provide a well-rounded approach for anyone with a passion for worship.

With the Christian church in the west in decline, some churches are undergoing difficult transitions as they seek to become relevant, to both themselves and their surrounding cultures. Evangelicalism and the Emerging Church details an ethnographic study of a Vineyard congregation making sense of their Vineyard roots and their growing relationship with the self-proclaimed "emerging church" network. Through a rich account of congregational life and tensions, universal issues are raised such as relating to religious parentage, creating safe places for spirituality, Christian growth and maturity, communication with contemporary culture, and the challenges of identity reconstruction. This book is the first to conduct an academic study of a Vineyard congregation in the United Kingdom.

Exiles

The Lazarus Project

Beyond the Emerging Church

Transform Your Church with Ministry Teams

An Introduction to Torrance Theology
The Prodigal Project
Church Turned Inside Out

Emerging and missional church movements are an increasingly global phenomenon; they exist as holistic communities that defy dualistic Western forms of church. Until now, many of the voices from these movements have gone unheard. In this volume, Ryan Bolger assembles some of the most innovative church leaders from around the world to share their candid insider stories about how God is transforming their communities in an entirely new era for the church. Bolger's new book continues the themes that he and Eddie Gibbs established formally in their critically acclaimed *Emerging Churches* and situates new church movements within this rubric. It explores what's happening now in innovative church movements in continental Europe, Asia, and Latin American and in African American hip-hop cultures. Featuring an international cast of contributors, the book explores the changes occurring both in emerging cultures and in emerging and missional churches across the globe today.

Why do church leaders and the leaders of their institutions of higher learning seem to speak different languages? Why are relationships between church and academy so filled with tension and misunderstanding? This insightful and provocative volume, written by one with leadership experience in both camps, explains those dynamics. Tony Blair parses the cultural and theological trends that have created this gap in recent decades and notes how those same patterns yet offer hope for the future. Blair delineates five models of more collaborative relationships between church and academy, three of which are drawn from the creative positioning of existing institutions that serve as case studies, and two of which describe the academy of the future. For church and university leaders alike, as well as all those who care about the relationship of these two essential institutions in the fulfillment of God's kingdom, *Church and Academy in Harmony* offers a readable and intelligent analysis.

For more than six decades, the brothers Torrance--Thomas, James and David--have had a tremendous influence on the theological world. They and particularly TF Torrance, have a devoted following world-wide and particularly in the US. Their high view of the fully human, fully divine Jesus is built upon the foundation of the Patristic writers, and the great Reformers from Calvin to Barth. Working in both pastoral and academic settings, the Torrances have stressed the profound implications of Christology for the mission of their Church and the daily life of Christians. Today, a generation of their students around the world find themselves in positions of pastoral and theological leadership. The focus of this book is the person of Christ (christology), a subject central to the Torrance theological vision and one which has had great influence on the presbyterian church. The contributors explore the contemporary relevance of Torrance Christology in such areas as the nature of Christ, the atonement, the ministry of the Church, epistemology and inclusion in Christ. The result is a book that offers both a fresh introduction to the Torrance tradition even as it advances the Torrance thought along fresh avenues of theological exploration.

Prodigal Daughter: A Journey to Byzantium is the narrative of a woman's journey through the Balkans as she embarks on her quest to find the real Demetrius. A deep-seated questioning of her inherited religion resurfaces when Myrna Kostash chances upon the icon of St. Demetrius of Thessalonica, the Great Saint of the East. The discovery leads Kostash on an historical, cultural, and spiritual odyssey that begins in Edmonton, ranges around the Balkans, and plunges into a renewed vision of Byzantium. As we travel with Kostash through the history of the Balkans, we are led to an unexpected place ù the threshold of her childhood church.

Six Postures of Missional Christians

An Exploration of the Emerging-missional Conversation with a Special Focus on 'missional Leadership' and Its Challenges for Theological Education

Worship at the Next Level

Contemporary Responses to Contemporary Culture

Journey into Dandelion Wine Country

Clear Thinking, New Approaches, and Reasons for Hope

Architecture for Worship and Ministry Today

Wynn Thompson, a happy, outgoing six-year-old, has his life shattered by four teenage boys when they lure him into a cellar and take turns raping him. Confused and frightened, Wynn stuffs the pain deep within and tells no one. His pain and confusion intensify when he is molested by a woman who claims to be his mother's friend. Filled with shame and guilt, his thoughts are consumed with sex. At twelve, he is seduced by a man in a public restroom, and he becomes obsessed with same-sex attraction. Once stalked, Wynn becomes the stalker and spends years looking for fulfillment in sex, drugs, alcohol, and a rock 'n' roll lifestyle. His life spirals into addiction, landing him in jail and on a path to certain death -- until he finds a way out! *Prodigal: A Journey to Freedom from Abuse and Addiction* tells the amazing story of a modern-day prodigal son. Read how God uses moments from Wynn's life to lead him to freedom in Christ and a ministry helping others overcome the same temptations that once enslaved him.

We are living in a time in which we are seeing a rapid unravelling of institutional structures in Western society and a re-alignment of values. The church is not faring well in this process. This book takes the form of an earthed and practical theology and asks the question ' what is the church? ' Rather than a purely theoretical, or a purely pragmatic approach, it looks to the radical Reformers of the sixteenth century and finds there an emphasis on the church ' s invisible realities and on community both of which have a relevance to the twenty-first century.

Baptists worldwide recently celebrated 400 years of history and witness. This volume is a collection of papers presented at the "Beyond 400" conference held in Perth, Western Australia, as part of these celebrations. Contributors have written from a broad range of perspectives reflecting biblically and theologically on the thinking and practice of Baptists in the past and present. These reflections form a basis for exploring how Baptists can function more effectively in our contemporary world situation and imagine themselves in the future. Chapters range from providing historical perspectives to biblical and theological reflections on issues that have been critical to Baptist belief and ministry. They examine the core values that, historically, have distinguished Baptists within the broader context of the church and explore how these values might both underpin and play out in Baptist churches today. Contributions reflect a firm belief among both the presenters and attendees at the "Beyond 400" conference that Baptists not only have a future but also offer a necessary voice to our world. This voice is firmly based on the issues that first precipitated the Baptist

movement some 400 years ago, and the continuing relevance of these issues as they are reimagined for our contemporary situation.

Seeking insight from the real-life development of the earliest expressions of emerging church from their birth, through times of adolescent angst and into the reality of adulthood, this book offers a unique insight into the long-term sustainability of fresh expressions. Presenting the lived practice of the church in mission through a longitudinal lens, and eschewing the rose-tinted approach, it considers the reality of emerging churches - their birth and death, their creativity and conflict, their dreams and despair. A picture of a church that is neither gathered and parish nor independent and networked emerges as the biographies of mission are brought into dialogue with a very ancient expression of mission, the birth of Philipians as a first expression of church in Europe..

Insight from Contemporary Voices

Servantship

Models of Collaboration for the Twenty-First Century

The Worship Mall

Media Art in Worship

Prodigal Daughter

A Congregational Study in Innovation