

Campus Gleanings

Summer 2011

Welcome to Campus Gleanings!

Some summer reading recommendations by Campus Ministers! Identities withheld. Can you figure out who sent what?

Non Fiction:

The Social Animal: The Hidden Sources of Love, Character, and Achievement, by David Brooks, An easy to read narrative that summarizes and interprets a host of social/neurological research of late. There's inspiring tidbits of wisdom in here, too, that might well provoke us to fruitful reflection on how we minister on campus.

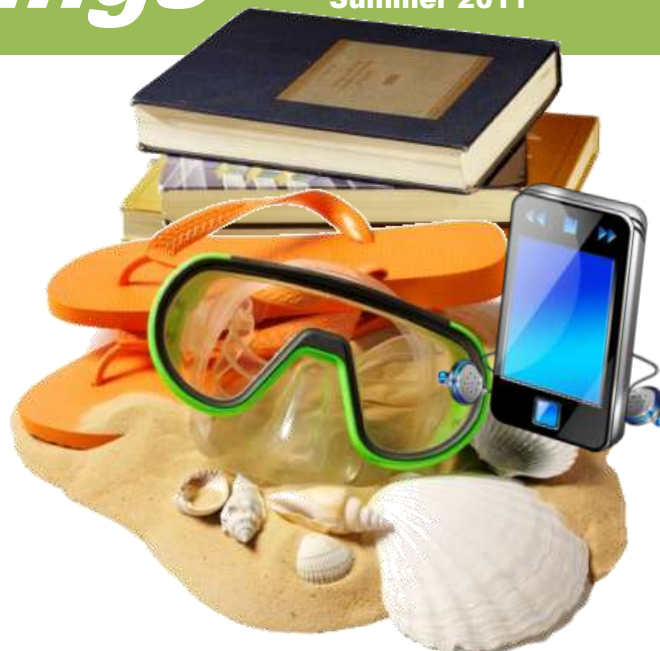
Jesus Through Middle Eastern Eyes: Cultural Studies in the Gospels, by Kenneth E. Bailey. It's an enlightening reflection on much of Jesus' teaching ministry—assuming that Jesus was ensconced in the culture and practices of his day.



The Jesus Storybook Bible by Sally Lloyd-Jones; our favourite young kids' Bible

Colossians Remixed by Sylvia Keesmaat and Brian Walsh; after the CRCMA conference, our student leaders wanted more – so it's our summer book group first pick

What Is a Person?: Rethinking Humanity, Social Life, and the Moral Good from the Person Up by Christian Smith. Just starting..., so no comment yet.



Hipster Christianity by Brett McCracken. A fascinating read, tracing the history of cool around the world in the Church.

Heaven it's not the End of the World: by David Lawrence. It's just a good, short, straight-forward book about what Scripture actually teaches about heaven.

Jesus and the Victory of God by N. T. Wright.

A Light to the Nations: The Missional Church and the Biblical Story by Mike Goheen.

The Presence of the Kingdom by Jacques Ellul.

Divine Conspiracy By Dallas Willard

A History of Sin by Greg A Anderson

Surprised by Hope by NT Wright

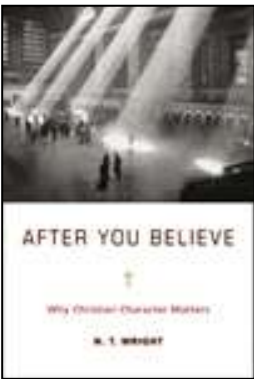
Jesus' plan for a New World (the Sermon on the Mount) by Richard Rohr

Origins- A Reformed look at Creation, Design, & Evolution by Deborah B. Haarsma. Help on the the debate over creationism. Good insight with respect to Science and Faith supporting each other. It contains excellent arguments to help students understand that science does not destroy foundations for faith.

Reason for God by Timothy Keller, Book/DVD/Study Guide- Fabulous Apologetics!

Free of Charge: Giving and Forgiving in a Culture Stripped of Grace. By Miroslav Volf. In the midst of tangles in our local church, this was immensely helpful and we're thinking of rereading it this summer with friends.

A People's History of Christianity. By Diana Butler Bass. This is a great corrective to Christians who feel like one ought always to be apologizing for Crusades and Colonialism. (After all atheists have shown themselves just as adept at mass murder as Christians). Butler Bass is an unabashed progressive Methodist who does a great job of telling the story of Christianity as a tale of faithful believers who are fine examples for modern Christians. Her generalizations are strong and well supported. This work has considerably altered the reviewer's Church History course, and made it stronger.



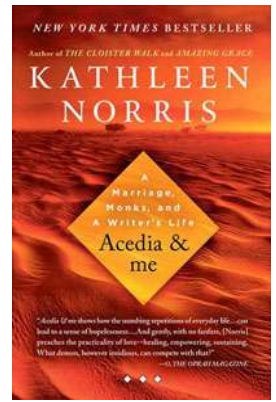
After You Believe. The Formation of a Christian Character by NT Wright. This has weaseled its way into virtually all of one Campus Minister's sermons since he read this. Wright argues that character is shaped by choices which become habits which become "second nature." It

is a wonderful meditation on sanctification and belongs in every Reformed Christian's library as a corrective to our besetting sin of fatalism

Hannah's Child by Stanley Hauerwas is the author's memoir. In a series of essays Hauerwas tells a good story of a theologian who doesn't really come to faith until well after he's earned his PhD. He also faces up to some very difficult issues in his life. Once he finds happiness the reviewer's interest waned a bit. The essays that are the early chapters are well worth the price of the book. The last chapters just didn't make very good essays.

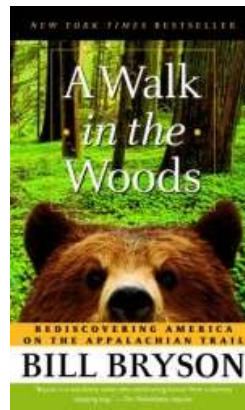
Acedia & Me: a Marriage, Monks and a Writer's life. by Kathleen Norris is a description of struggling with the ancient demon of ennui and doubt feels profound and helpful to the reviewer who is on the last chapters at the moment. The book did not resonate at all with another reviewer!

Also by Kathleen Norris: *Amazing Grace: A Vocabulary of Faith* was described as: "the best book we've found for faculty and grad student discussion with groups of believers and the curious." The book was described by a neo-Buddhist feminist faculty member as some of the best feminist writing she'd ever run across and exactly what feminist theology should look like! Norris is a Presbyterian poet who came to faith by the mysterious workings of providence and the help of the Benedictines of South Dakota.



True Grit the book by Charles Portis on which the movie is based. Also see DVD of the Coen Brothers version. Also read review by Stanley Fish in the NY Times:

<http://opinionator.blogs.nytimes.com/2010/12/27/narrative-and-the-grace-of-god-the-new-true-grit/?scp=1&sq=fish%20true%20grit&st=cse>



At Home: A Short History of Private Life by Bill Bryson. Bill goes through each room of the house and gives its history, its connections to history, a romp through the eccentric characters who are associated with its history. All in his unbelievably funny style. If you haven't read *A Walk in the Woods* by Bryson, it's a must.

The Faith of Leap: Embracing a Theology of Risk, Adventure and Courage by Frost/Hisch alongside of Jonathan Wilson-Hartgrove's *The Wisdom of Stability: Rooting Faith in a Mobile Culture*

One Life: Jesus Calls, We Follow by Scott McKnight

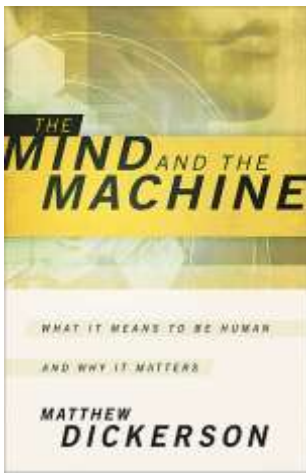
We Need to Talk by Jonathan Jansen. This is a collection of articles drawn from Professor Jansen's columns in *The Times* (South Africa). The articles dealing with universities deal with the purpose of a university education, how education is measured and a number of other

current topics. Good discussion starters for groups on campus.

[Dietrich Bonhoeffer 1906-1945: Martyr, Thinker, Man of Resistance](#) – by Ferdinand

Schlingensiepen. A more balanced and scholarly biography than the one by Metaxas, this book provides an honest look at Bonhoeffer's life and thought in all its complexity. This biography seems closer to me to Bethge's, and I came away with a sense of getting closer to the real Dietrich Bonhoeffer, not the prophet or saint some have made him out to be.

[The Mind and the Machine: What it means to be human and why it matters](#) by Matthew



Dickerson. Definitely more about philosophy than technology, this book tackles the questions and implications that arise from living in a culture enchanted by technology. The fact that it was dedicated to Peter Kreeft, Thomas Howard and Dick Keyes should intrigue you enough to

pick it up.

One reviewer is finding the following books to be quite powerful and prophetic calling them “important reading for any campus minister or student who is looking for a deeper, truer experience of God and what it means to be his people in our world:”

[The Shattered Lantern: Rediscovering a Felt Presence of God](#) by Ronald Rolheiser

[Paul, the Spirit, and the People of God](#) by Gordan Fee

[The Forgotten Ways](#) by Alan Hirsch

Another reviewer notes that his summer time mantra is: “a time for a different pace and for reading something that takes your mind to a different place. This is especially true if you are camping.” So [Wendell Berry and the Cultivation of Life](#) by Michael Bonzo and Michael R. Smith

which might seem to be contrary with the declared mantra but the reviewer found it just seems natural to read or read about Berry around a camp fire.

One reviewer shared that “when we travel in the summer we also pick a book to read aloud. Often they have had something to do with our destination. For example, when we went to Alberta we read [Men for the Mountains](#) by Syd Marty a former ranger and guide. On a trip in the Appalachians our reading was Bill Bryson's [A Walk in the Woods](#), – hilarious. This year it's [Snow Flower and the Secret Fan](#) by Lisa See. Strangely I am enjoying learning what it was like to grow up as a young Chinese women.”



[Fiction:](#)

[The Lost Highway](#) by David Adams Richards.

[The Double Comfort Safari Club](#). By Alexander McCall Smith. The voices sound so truly African and Smith has a great affection for his characters, even as he presents their flaws. This is the reviewer's favorite in the series. It's about kindness, goodness, loyalty, possessiveness versus love, and virtue. Well worth picking up on a lazy summer afternoon.

Another reviewer enjoys, generally, Canadian lit usually mysteries. Last year in Switzerland he found it hard to find any English paperbacks, so he tried a few his sons had brought along, Stieg Larsson's [The Girl with the Dragon Tattoo](#) and [The Girl who played with Fire](#). This



summer the first book on his summer reading list is the final book in the series, [The Girl who kicked the Hornet's Nest](#). While the material is disturbing the plot is gripping and the

characters, particularly Lisbeth Salanders are memorable.

Same reviewer is also beginning is Giles Blunt's Crime Machine. This is the fifth book in the John Cardinal mystery series. John Cardinal is a First Nations detective in the fictional northern, Ontario city of Algonquin Bay. Having spent considerable time in the Algonquin, Huntsville, North Bay area, I appreciate the authentic sense of place Blunt brings to his mysteries.

Your listening picks.....

After I hearing her interview with Jian Gimeshi – Q, one reviewer recently bought Adele 21. Great bluesy voice – enjoying it.

Bruce Cockburn, Small Source of Comfort (True North). Cockburn's 31st album sees him team up with the soaring violin of Jenny Scheinman to produce an album with no less than five instrumental pieces. As usual, Cockburn is up to something new in this collaboration. So if you like Cockburn's music of the past then this album might take some getting used to.



The Avett Brothers I and Love and You

Eddie Vedder Ukulele Songs

Cut Copy

Bon Iver, Sleeping at Last

Older Country artists

Fred Eaglesmith

Mumford and Sons Sigh No More

Martyn Joseph, Under Lemonade Skies (Pipe Records). You're going to have to get this one online from either Itunes or Joseph's record company. This is MJ's 30th recording and demonstrates the kind of depth of insight and emotion that we have come to expect from this stellar Welsh sing/song-writer. The closing track

"*Brothers in Exile*" pretty much sums up our cultural condition.



Thrice and Arcade Fire are offering up deeply reflective lyrics in a world full of popular trash in the music industry.

Robbie Robertson, How to Become Clairvoyant (Marcobiotic Records). Robbie Robertson releases his first album in 10 years. It's been worth the wait. This is almost an Eric Clapton/Robbie Robertson duet album. Clapton appears on numerous tracks with both vocals and guitar, and just to make sure that there is an intergenerational musical feel to the album, Robertson also brings Robert Randolph (the most amazing peddle steel player, period), Steve Winwood on keys, Tom Morello (Rage Against the Machine) and even Trent Reznor (Nine Inch Nails) into the mix. The result is a solid mixed genre album that brings together rock, soul and jazz. Good listening on long trips (I just did it).

Web links, conferences and other:

Geoff Wichert's insightful comments on the "Vocabulary of Shalom" from the CRCMA conference have now been posted as a blog at Empire Remixed
<http://empireremixed.com/2011/06/08/vocabulary-of-shalom/>

This is an article about Eboo Patel, who is a Muslim quite active in interfaith dialogue and partnerships, especially with young adults.
http://www.nytimes.com/2011/06/14/us/14patel.html?_r=1&emc=eta1

Paul Verhoef (paulwtverhoef@gmail.com) would be delighted to speak to you about this conference!: Every four years, the International Association of Chaplains in Higher Education (IACHE) sponsors a professional conference in collaboration with national chaplain associations. The next conference is June 25 to June 29, 2012 in New Haven, Connecticut. The theme is "Mosaics in Motion: Spiritual Leadership in Multifaith World."
www.globalchaplains2012.com