

Resources for Missional Living

A list of resources to expand our hearts and minds in Christ Jesus for the sake of others, and to grow and educate ourselves on God's grieving and restorative heart for His world and children

Missional Living

Can You Drink the Cup, Henri Nouwen (1996)

"It is not easy to distinguish between doing what we are called to do and doing what we want to do. Our many wants can easily distract us from our true action... Drinking our cup involves carefully choosing those actions which lead us closer to complete emptying of it," like Jesus.

Called: The Crisis and Promise of Following Jesus Today, Mark Labberton (2014)

"Today one of the best things the church could do is listen to its critics and, in light of following Jesus, ask again, 'How are we meant to live?' With grace and hope, the church is to inherently and commonly seek and love the forgotten, the unseen, the undesirable, the uncool. We need to do so with unexpected, tangible love, displaying counterintuitive compassion (including enemy-love) and demonstrating a capacity for magnanimous forgiveness, mercy and justice."

Forgiveness and Reconciliation

The Book of Forgiving, Desmond Tutu and Mpho Tutu (2014)

From their personal experiences of forgiveness following the fall of apartheid in South Africa, father-daughter authors and Anglican priests Desmond and Mpho Tutu offer a Fourfold Path of Forgiving to walk us "through the muddy shoals of hatred and anger and make our way through grief and loss to find the acceptance that is the hallmark of forgiveness... Forgiveness is nothing less than the way we heal the world... by healing each and every one of our hearts. The process is simple, but it is not easy."

Prophetic Lament, Soong-Chan Rah (2015)

Dr. Rah, pastor and professor, explains that though the dominant-culture American church avoids lament, it is a critical skill to learn if people of the dominant culture want to share in the sufferings and pain of humanity and cry out to God for relief.

Forgiveness: The Road to Reconciliation, Arthur A Rouner, Jr. (2002).

Rouner, the founder of The Pilgrim Center for Reconciliation in Minneapolis, writes about forgiveness and reconciliation after the heart-wrenching 1994 genocide in Rwanda during which nearly a million people in East Africa were killed.

Human Trafficking

International Justice Mission (IJM) (<https://www.ijm.org/>)

IJM is an organization that seeks to fight human trafficking and modern slavery around the world. From a biblical call to justice, they step out into the horrifying injustices and broken systems to seek to rescue girls from bondage and redeem broken systems that are abusing the most vulnerable people of the world.

Nefarious: Merchant of Souls (2011)

This documentary about human trafficking and sexual slavery draws awareness to and educates us on this rampant issue through personal testimonies from around the world of Christ's redeeming work in women who have been victimized, and the plight of the multitudes who remain in bondage.

Missional Living through Storytelling

Everybody, Always: Becoming Love in a World Full of Setbacks and Difficult People, Bob Goff (2018)

Goff writes engaging stories about how to embody love through unexpected and non-intimidating ways, sharing what it means to love without inhibition, insecurity, or restriction.

Tattoos on the Heart, Father Greg Boyle (2010)

Boyle shares experiences and testimonies of faith from working in the ghetto of Los Angeles for twenty years with his gang-intervention program, Homeboy Industries.

Adam: God's Beloved, Henri J. M. Nouwen (2010)

In final year of life, Nouwen wrote about his friend Adam, a severely handicapped young man whom Nouwen called his "friend, teacher, and guide" as Adam taught him a deeper understanding of the Gospel message.

Walk His Trail, Steve Saint (2007)

Through adventures and inspiring stories, Saint shares of his experiences around the world of how God makes himself known through dramatic and mundane life events.

Strength to Love, Martin Luther King, Jr. (2010)

In these short meditative sermon pieces, some of them composed in jails and all of them crafted during the tumultuous years of the Civil Rights struggle, Dr. King articulates in a deeply personal and inspiring way his commitment to justice and spiritual conversion. Coretta Scott King writes in the foreword of this book, "If there is one book Martin Luther King Jr. has written that people consistently tell me has changed their lives, it is *Strength to Love*." She continues, "I believe it is because this book best explains the central element of Martin Luther King, Jr.'s philosophy of nonviolence: his deeply Christian belief in a divine, loving presence that binds all life."

Peacemaking

The Global Immersion Project (<http://globalimmerse.org/>)

Global Immersion Project is an educational and Christian-activation organization created by Jon Huckins and Jer Swigart, the authors of *Mending the Divides*, designed to engage people in stories and encourage Christians to step into God's mission of peacemaking in the broken world. Sign in to participate in live webinars or to view the catalog of past webinars on everyday peacemaking.

Mending the Divides: Creative Love in a Conflicted World, Jon Huckins and Jer Swigart (2017)

Through inspiring storytelling and a firm biblical foundation, Huckins and Swigart invite us to move towards conflict and brokenness by following Jesus call for us to bring peace into our broken world.

Made for Goodness: And Why This Makes All the Difference, Desmond Tutu and Mpho Tutu (2010)

Nobel Peace Prize recipient Archbishop Desmond Tutu and his daughter, Mpho Tutu, respond to the question, "How can you be so hopeful after witnessing so much evil?" In this broken and dark world, the authors call us to hope and joy, and to claim the goodness that we are made for.

Poverty

The Hole in Our Gospel, Richard Stearns (2009)

"The idea behind *The Hole in Our Gospel* is quite simple. It's basically the belief that being a follower of Jesus requires much more than just having a personal and transforming relationship with God. It also entails a public and transforming relationship with the world... Jesus asked a great deal of those who followed him. He expected much more from them than just believing he was God's Son. He challenged them to embrace radically different standards, to love their neighbors *and* their enemies, to forgive those who wronged them, to lift up the poor and downtrodden, to share what they had with those who had little, and to live lives of sacrifice."

When Helping Hurts, Steve Corbett and Brian Fikkert (2009)

Corbett and Fikkert encourage a redefinition of poverty as not just a lack of material wealth, but as broken relationships with God, self, others, and creation. They promote poverty alleviation from a Christian perspective of humbly walking in relationships with people who are poor, a methodology that, compared to simply giving handouts, can actually lead to lasting change.

Poverty, Inc. (2014)

This documentary uncovers and challenges false perceptions of global poverty and unpacks ways of understanding and responding to the huge issue of poverty in the world. It seeks to promote entrepreneurs, sustainability efforts, and an asset-based view of poverty alleviation.

When Helping Hurts (video series; <https://www.chalmers.org/the-small-group-experience>)

The six-session video series, based on the book by Steve Corbett and Brian Fikkert, includes guidelines for small-group interaction. The videos offer a Christian perspective on poverty alleviation that, instead of delivering handouts, builds on deepening relationships with people in poverty and utilizing the skills and dreams they bring to the table.

Race

The New Jim Crow: Mass Incarceration in the Age of Colorblindness, Michelle Alexander (2010)

Alexander argues that “we have not ended racial cast in America; we have merely redesigned it.” She suggests that, through the War on Drugs, broken systems, and separating communities of color, the U.S. criminal justice system has functioned as a contemporary system of racial control.

White Fragility, Robin DiAngelo (2018)

A sociologist explains why it’s so hard to talk to white people about race – what the triggers are, why they’re there, and how to move forward. DiAngelo’s advice, as a white woman speaking to white people, is to let go of one’s racial certitude and reach for humility.

Tears We Cannot Stop: A Sermon to White America, Michael Eric Dyson (2017)

Dyson, an African American professor, author, and preacher, shares his deeply emotional and strong conviction for Americans to care about the current and long-standing crisis in race relations here in our country.

Freedom Riders (2010)

This PBS documentary, based on the book *Freedom Riders: 1961 and the struggle for Racial Justice* by Raymond Arsenault, depicts the story of the hundreds of American civil rights activists who challenged racial segregation in buses and terminals.

Hidden Figures (2016)

This American film, based on the nonfiction book by Margot Lee Shetterly, tells the story of the black female mathematicians who worked for NASA during the space race and challenged gender and racial prejudices by being faithful to their gifts.

White Awake, Daniel Hill (2017)

Hill, white pastor of a multiethnic church in Chicago, shares his personal journey and offers insight into the journey from blindness regarding racism.

Waking Up White, Debby Irving (2014)

Irving, a white woman, writes about her own long-held beliefs about colorblindness, being a good person, and wanting to help people of color. She shares what led her to a revelation about how these well-intentioned mindsets perpetuated her false ideas about race, and how this is transforming the ways she talks, interacts in mixed groups, and understands the racial justice movement.

13th (2016)

This documentary is titled after the Thirteenth Amendment which freed slaves, except for continuing to allow slavery as punishment for a crime. It sets the framework for the argument that mass incarceration of people of color is a modern form of slavery and segregation in America.

Social Justice

Social Justice Handbook: Small Steps for a Better World, Mae Elise Cannon (2009)

Offering a pathway “from apathy to advocacy,” Cannon conveys the heart of God regarding the multiple and challenging causes and effects of oppression and outlines concrete ways to engage with those who are afflicted.

Deepening the Soul for Justice, Bethany Hanke Hoang (2012)

Hoang shares simple, firsthand spiritual formation practices that can fuel our response to God’s call to justice.

The Justice Calling: Where Passion Meets Perseverance, Bethany Hanke Hoang (2017)

Hoang, director of International Justice Mission’s IJM Institute, shares about God’s heart for justice from Genesis to Revelation, and the perseverance and empowerment by the Holy Spirit to respond to the passion within each person for God’s kingdom to come.

Following Christ in a Consumer Society, John F. Kavanaugh (2006)

Kavanaugh gives a counter-cultural message of the Gospel that points to wholeness and freedom by addressing the soul-destroying consumeristic culture we live in that emphasizes having more is a measure of value.

Women

Half the Sky: Turning Oppression into Opportunity for Women Worldwide, Nicholas D. Kristof and Sheryl WuDunn (2010)

Through both research and personal narrative, this #1 national best-selling book gives a voice to the women and girls in the developing world who have been abused, neglected, and horrifically taken advantage of.

Scars Across Humanity: Understanding and Overcoming Violence Against Women, Elaine Storkey (2015)

Storkey offers testimonies and rigorous research regarding the forms of violence experienced by women across the globe, through stages of life, culture, and societies.