

## BOOK NOTICES / BOEKAANKONDIGINGS

## MISCELLANEOUS / ALGEMEEN

Carlisle, Thomas John 1986 **Beginning with Mary. Women of the Gospels in portrait.** Grand Rapids: Eerdmans. Pp 100. Price at Lux Verbi R14,10.

Like its companion volume on the women of the Old Testament, **Eve and after**, this new book of poems from the pen of Thomas John Carlisle sheds fresh light on the often overlooked women of the Bible, and underscores their significance.

Focusing on the women of the Gospels, Carlisle profiles women with various kinds of connections to Jesus - women whose stories are not as obviously dramatic as those of the Old Testament women, but whose special relationship with Christ makes them clearly, if quietly, significant.

Thomas Carlisle, Pastor Emeritus of Stone Street Presbyterian Church in Watertown, New York, has had more than 1 000 poems published in a wide variety of periodicals. He has written eight volumes of poetry.

\* \* \*

White, Ronald C, Jr, Weeks, Louis B, & Rosell, Garth M (eds) 1986. **American Christianity. A case approach.** Grand Rapids: Eerdmans. Pp 188. Available from Lux Verbi at R28,30.

Utilizing the case study format first developed at the Harvard Business School, **American Christianity** is a textbook in American religious history, covering the period from the early 1600s to the present.

The editors have put together twenty 'cases' - briefly described historical situations that include enough background to let the reader/student enter into the principal character's motivations and evaluate the circumstances, usually with an eye toward making a crucial decision about a dilemma the character faced.

Among the people and issues featured in the cases are Anne Hutchinson; Jonathan Edwards; Lyman Beecher; women's rights; civil rights for blacks; Abraham Lincoln; James Cardinal Gibbons; the emergence of Pentacostalism; Walter Rauschenbusch; Reinhold Niebuhr; Billy Graham; Martin Luther King, Jr; and John Courtney Murray.

The book also includes suggestions to teachers and students for making the best use of the case approach.

Ronald White, Jr, is Director of Continuing Education and Lecturer in Church History at Princeton Theological Seminary.

Louis Weeks is Professor of Historical Theology and Dean at Louisville Presbyterian Theological Seminary.

Garth Rosell is Vice President for Academic Affairs, Dean, and Professor of Church History at Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary.

\* \* \*

Kannengiesser, Charles (ed) 1986. **Early Christian spirituality**.  
Translated by Pamela Bright. Philadelphia: Fortress  
Press. Pp 119. Available from Lux Verbi at R22,05.

These freshly translated documents cover the main trends of Christian spirituality from the second to the seventh centuries.

The book deals with selections from the Odes of Solomon; the Martyrs of Lyon; Clement of Alexandria - Exhortation to the Greeks; Athanasius of Alexandria - On the interpretation of the Psalms; Gregory of Nazianzus - Sermon 38; Ambrose of Milan - Concerning Virgins; Augustine of Hippo - On the First Epistle of John, Sermon X; Romanos the Melodist - Through the Coming of Your Holy Spirit; Maximus the Confessor - Introduction to Question 48.

Charles Kannengiesser is Professor of Theology at the University of Notre Dame, Indiana.

This volume is one of the series **Sources of early Christian thought**, of which William G Rusch is the series editor.

\* \* \*

Stretch, Lewis 1986. **Engineering: mechanical or moral science?** Oxford: Becket Publications. Pp 129. Price R22,55.

As yesterday's science fiction becomes today's science fact, mankind is presented with increasingly difficult choices in controlling technological progress. Its ability to direct the forces of nature brings with it responsibility for using them for the welfare and survival of society. To do this, the application of science must be underpinned by a moral code that discriminates between good and evil, and points a way forward.

Lewis Stretch developed his response to this challenge during a career in the chemical and energy industries, which included putting the first nuclear power station on line at Calder Hall, and directing the Coal Board's Central Engineering Establishment and

the Gas Council's Research and Development division. Sandwiched between these was an educational phase, when he became Pro-Vice-Chancellor of the University of Aston in Birmingham.

In this book he draws on his experience in industry and reflections as an academic, to argue the need for a radical reform of attitudes - of both engineers and their patrons - to the evolution of technology and its impact on social organisations, and to point to the folly of building mechanical structures on unsound moral foundations.

## **ETHICS/ETIEK**

Du Plessis, A J, Van Wyk, J H, Botha, J, Venter, J J, & Rabali, T C, Eloff, T 1987. 'n Reformatoriese kommentaar op die Kairos-dokument. Potchefstroom: Die PU vir CHO, Instituut vir Reformatoriese Studie. Pp 61. Prys: R4,00.

Te midde van die openbare raserny oor die Kairos-dokument kan bogenoemde publikasie miskien 'n mate van saaklikheid in die debat terugbring.

Komende uit die kring van teoloë van die Gereformeerde Kerk, is hier 'n paar besonne perspektiewe op die Kairos-dokument.

Inhoudelik handel die studiestuk oor onder meer:

Die Kairos-dokument: 'n geloofwaardige antwoord word vereis (ds A J du Plessis);

Die probleem van verset (prof J H van Wyk);

Versoening in die Kairos-dokument (ds A J du Plessis);

'n Kritiese beskouing van die Kairos-dokument se Skrifgebruik (J Botha);

Kerk en owerheid in die Kairos-dokument (ds T Eloff);

Samelewingsverandering in die Kairos-dokument (dr J J Venter);

Another response to the Kairos document (the Rev T C Rabali).

Die voorwoord is geskryf deur prof B J van der Walt, direkteur van die Instituut.

\* \* \*

Klay, Robin Kendrick 1986. **Counting the cost: the economics of Christian stewardship**. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans. Pp 187. Price at Lux Verbi R22,00.

This book was born out of two economists' frustrations over the absence in sermons and Christian publications of any great appreciation for how economies function, what motivates and rewards economic behaviours, and why meeting the material needs of humankind requires a willingness to face difficult economic choices and their anticipated outcomes.

Out of this frustration a book has grown which deals with Christian faith and economic knowledge, and then goes on to discuss scarcity, poverty (in the USA and among nations), pollution, land use, trade policy and the cost of military spending.

Max Stackhouse, of Andover Newton Theological School, commented on this book as follows:

'A compelling, no-nonsense survey of key contemporary issues of political economy. Klay's realistic analysis, which could stand as a mini-text for a modern economics course, is related to root ideas of Christian stewardship. It thereby enhances the growing recognition that stewardship demands, beyond generosity and charity, responsible engagement with the fundamental questions of production, distribution, state regulation, ecological protection, public policy, and development among the poorer peoples of the world ... This work should be required reading for both conservative and liberal pastors, seminarians, and laity who have tired of recent ideological celebrations of capitalism or of socialism as the clue to human salvation.'

Robin Klay is Associate Professor of Economics at Hope College, Holland, Michigan, and co-author of **Inflation, Poortalk, and the Gospel**.

\* \* \*

Neuhaus, Richard John (ed) 1986. **Confession, conflict & community**. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans. Pp 110. Available from Lux Verbi at R13,15.

'Dialogue' is one of American religion's shopworn terms. Although there is much talk about dialogue, very little of it actually takes place. Religious discourse - especially about politics and public affairs - is increasingly polarized: there is much contestation, but little conversation. If truths are to be tested, however, there is no substitute for dialogue.

Arising out of conferences sponsored by the Center on Religion & Society in New York City, the Encounter Series presents the dialogue of a diverse group of theologians, ethicists, philosophers, and public policy experts from across the political and religious spectrum.

In this volume the following topics are addressed:

The concept of mediating action (Peter L Berger);

Faith and disorder: Religion in the American scene (Edwin S Gaustad);

The Church and dialogue after Hitler: The case of the Evangelical academies (Eberhard Müller);

Putting the argument into context; More than resistance: what we need to learn from the German church struggle (Trutz Rendtorff).

Judging by the names of the contributors, this will be an important book.

\* \* \*

Lammers, Stephen E & Verhey, Allen (eds) 1987. **On moral medicine. Theological perspectives in medical ethics.** Grand Rapids: Eerdmans. Pp 657. Price at Lux Verbi: R55,15.

Although there are many anthologies of essays in medical ethics, very few of them focus on essays written from a theological point of view, and none covers the scope of issues or matches the rich diversity of theological perspectives in this volume.

The readings move from general issues (such as the relation of religion and medicine) through analysis of concepts important to both religion and medicine (such as life and its sanctity, nature and its mastery, respect for persons and their agency) to concrete moral issues in medical care (such as abortion, genetic control, euthanasia, the allocation of resources).

This collection includes a wide range of contemporary theological essays dealing with medical ethics, as well as some material from Scripture and from classical theologians. It contains the work of Catholics and Protestants, 'liberals' and 'evangelicals', as well as some contemporary essays not written by Christian theologians but of great importance for theological reflection. Together the essays provide a rich introduction to theological reflection on medical ethics and a convincing demonstration of the contribution theology can make to the consideration of issues in medical ethics.

Ideally suited to courses in medical ethics within religion departments and divinity schools, **On moral medicine** will also be of value to health care professionals, who struggle daily with questions of human meaning and significance. This anthology will be a helpful and important resource for anyone who wants to consider thoughtfully the problems posed by advances and changes in medicine.

Stephen Lammers is Professor of Religion at Lafayette College, Easton, Pennsylvania. The author of numerous articles and book reviews, he has received a National Endowment for the Humanities Award for his work in bioethics.

Allen Verhey is Professor of Religion at Hope College, Holland, Michigan. An ordained Protestant minister, he is the author of **The great reversal: ethics and the New Testament** (Eerdmans, 1984) and of many articles and book reviews.

## **BLACK THEOLOGY / SWART TEOLOGIE**

Kretzschmar, Louise 1986. **The voice of Black Theology in South Africa**. Johannesburg: Ravan Press. Pp 136, including an extensive bibliography, two tables of abbreviations, a preface and an introduction. Price: R16,50.

Quite apart from its interest to theologians and students of theology, Louise Kretzschmar's study will interest the non-specialist reader wishing to understand the present interrelationship between religion and politics in South Africa. Avoiding jargon without oversimplifying the issues involved, she pays particular attention to the impact of African, Black, and Liberation Theologies on the experience of contemporary black South African Christians, and on the regional version of Black Theology which has emerged in the last decade.

The seven short chapters of this book deal with the following: The rise of South African Black Theology, the broader theological context, the Africanisation of Christianity, the African independent (indigenous) churches, Black Theology and Black identity, Black liberation and Black theology, White theological responses to apartheid ideology and Black Theology.



On the need for and the aims of this book Kretzschmar writes: 'This book is necessary, I believe, because although there are a great many articles on Black Theology, most of these are in theological journals, which are not usually read by the public or even church members. Moreover, although in recent years books have been published by black South African theologians, there is a need for a general introduction to some of their writings. Whilst this book is largely descriptive, I have also introduced, where relevant, the ideas of others and, indeed, my own responses. This is necessary in order to pursue the task of developing a theology that speaks in a meaningful and challenging way. I am not black, and do not claim to have either plumbed the depths of black South African experience and thought, or to have pronounced the last word on South African Black Theology. But I trust that this book will inform and stimulate others to engage in a discussion of the concerns and criticisms it raises.'

## **APARTHEID**

Marais, J C 1986. **Die NG Kerk en die regverdiging van apartheid.** Sovenga: Stofberg Teologiese Skool. Pp 179.

Hierdie boek word gepubliseer met die toestemming van die Universiteit van Suid-Afrika. Dit is 'n verwerkte en verkorte weergawe van die skrywer se proefskrif, 'Die sosio-politieke selfbeeld van die Nederduitse Gereformeerde Kerk - 'n sistematiese teologiese beoordeling', wat in 1985 ingehandig is.

Alhoewel hier nie iets nuuts op historiese gebied voorgelê word nie, is die boekie 'n nuttige bydrae danksy die leesbare en oorsigtelike wyse waarop die stof aangebied word.

Daar word vervolgens gehandel oor die NG Kerk en die regering, die NG Kerk en maatskaplike betrokkenheid, en afgesluit met 'n teologiese beoordeling van die NG Kerk se sosio-politieke beeld.

## PASTORAL THEOLOGY/ PASTORALE TEOLOGIE

McKeating, Henry 1986 (2nd imp). **Living with guilt**. London: SCM Press. Pp 125. Price: R22,55.

This short book, first published in 1970 at the same time as the Bishop of Durham's **What is man?**, and long out of print, has been reissued because it is regularly used in study work on forgiveness and reconciliation and has proved so difficult to find.

When it first appeared, the then Dean of York, Alan Richardson, wrote of it:

'I welcome this book as a new start in theology, though its author does not claim to be a theologian at all - merely an Old Testament scholar. What he is offering is what we most need, a theology of common sense, or a theology of everyday experience. Amongst the curious varieties of slogans we have recently been offered is the one which declares that theology is anthropology, that is, merely a way of talking about man in religious language. The truth is that talking sensibly about the human condition is the most convincing way of showing that the doctrine of God is relevant to us today. This book does just that.'

Henry McKeating is Senior Lecturer in Theology in the University of Nottingham.

\* \* \*

Lake, Frank 1986. **Clinical theology**. A theological and psychological basis to clinical pastoral care. (Abridged by Martin H Yeomans.) London: Darton, Longman & Todd. Pp 245, including figures, a glossary and a biblical as well as a general index. Price: R65,75.

**Clinical theology**, when first published in 1966, set out extensively the psychological and theological work of Dr Frank Lake who, since 1958, had been engaged in the training of clergy, doctors and lay people in a pioneer course of seminars in human relations, pastoral care and counselling. It rapidly became a classic in its field. The Clinical Theology Association, founded and directed until his death in 1982 by Dr Lake, continues to conduct training seminars based on this work. More than 20 000 people have experienced the seminars since they began.

This abridgement of the original work retains the particular aspects which have been of most value for pastoral counsellors. Dr Lake's study of personality types and the linking of mental pain with the experience of Christ and his Passion, powerfully illuminate the human condition and point to resources within the Christian tradition for the healing of distressed people.

Frank Lake qualified in medicine from Edinburgh in 1937, and also received some theological training there and at Selly Oak, Birmingham. After holding various medical and missionary posts, he entered psychiatry and began to specialize in the training of the clergy, doctors and lay people in the psychiatric aspects of pastoral care. He has written two other books.

Martin Yeomans has been a Clinical Theological Seminar Tutor for more than 20 years. He is a Methodist minister, and continues to be engaged in full-time pastoral training and counselling.

**COMPARATIVE RELIGIOUS STUDY /  
VERGELYKENDE  
GODSDIENSWETENSKAP**

Hexham, Irving & Poewe, Karla 1986. **Understanding cults and new religions.** Grand Rapids: Eerdmans. Pp 170.  
Available from Lux Verbi at R27,25.

A fresh approach to the study of cults, this book presents a convincing account of what it is about our society and values in the past few decades that has helped create these communities.

Irving Hexham and Karla Poewe argue that new religious movements are in fact neither very new nor very religious, rather, they are primarily magical and therapeutic in nature. The authors describe a post-Christian popular mythology that is encouraging the rise of new religions in our culture, and they outline the key features of Eastern and Western religions that are evident in new religions.

They also analyse social and psychological aspects of cult membership, investigate the recent importation of aspects of Third World shamanistic religions into North America, and discuss some of the things that distinguish new religions from Christianity.

The book is rich in cross-cultural and historical examples, which are vividly reinforced with findings from both authors' fieldwork. By providing the structural base of cults and new religions and by describing and analyzing the surprising experiential similarities of seekers, this book makes a lively contribution to the study of this expanding field

Irving Hexham is Assistant Professor of Religious Studies at the University of Calgary.

Karla Poewe is Professor of Anthropology at the University of Lethbridge in Alberta, Canada.

## **NEW TESTAMENT / NUWE TESTAMENT**

Kingsbury, Jack Dean 1986. *Matthew*. Philadelphia: Fortress Press. Pp 133. Available from Lux Verbi at R22,05.

This is the newly revised, expanded edition of a book which has become, for some people in North America, the standard introduction to the Gospel of Matthew.

Two new sections, Biography as a genre of Ancient Literature, and a Comparison of Redaction Criticism to Literary Criticism, have been added.

Kingsbury has also shared freshly gained insights into The Mission of the Son of God, Jesus as the Son of Man, Jesus-Messiah, the Son of God, Jesus as the Son of David, and Jesus as Lord. In addition to general revisions, the annotated bibliography has been significantly enlarged.

Jack Dean Kingsbury is Aubrey Lee Brooks Professor of Biblical Theology at Union Theological Seminary in Virginia, and has written four other books.

## **OLD TESTAMENT / OU TESTAMENT**

Neusner, Jacob 1986. **Judaism in the matrix of Christianity.** Philadelphia: For tress Press. Pp 148. Available from Lux Verbi at R35,35.

With his customary insight, Jacob Neusner examines the canonical writings of the ancient rabbis and the way in which these writings treat five subjects: the outsider, the city, the Messiah, the Torah, and the meaning of Scripture. These interdependent studies consistently suggest the writings of the fourth-century rabbis as the turning point for a Judaism in contention with Christianity. From that time, we see a Judaism constant from the Talmud of Babylonia to the present day.

Neusner's conclusion is provocative: Judaism evolved in direct response to the crisis resulting from the triumphant rise of Christianity to power.

Jacob Neusner is University Professor and Ungerleider Distinguished Scholar of Judaic Studies, Brown University, Rhode Island. He is the author of numerous books.

\* \* \*

McCarter, P Kyle Jr 1986 **Textual criticism. Recovering the text of the Hebrew Bible.** Philadelphia: Fortress Press. Pp 94. Available at Lux Verbi: R14,15.

Professor McCarter here offers an introduction to the art and science of textual criticism for students of the Hebrew Bible. His emphasis is on the work involved in the critical evaluation of a given portion of text. His explanations of critical principles are illustrated with carefully selected examples of the textual phenomena discussed - in Hebrew, with English translations. The book concludes with unique appendices on several kinds of essential but hard-to-find information.

P Kyle McCarter Jr is William Foxwell Albright Professor of Biblical and Ancient Near Eastern Studies at the Johns Hopkins University.

## **CHURCH / KERK**

Hinson, E Glenn (Tr/ed) 1986. **Understandings of the church.** Philadelphia: Fortress Press. Pp 116. Price at Lux Verbi: R22,05.

This is a valuable source book. A diverse selection of newly translated texts illuminate the various understandings of the church in early Christianity.

Selections are taken from

**1 Clement, Didache, Ignatius, Letter of Pliny, 2 Clement, Justin, Trypho in Justin, Martyrdom of Polycarp, Epistle to Diognetus, Irenaeus, Clement of Alexandria, Tertullian, Origen, Cyprian, Eusebius, Augustine**

E Glenn Hinson is David T Porter Professor of Church History at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville, Kentucky.

## **SYSTEMATIC THEOLOGY / SISTEMATIESE TEOLOGIE**

Branson, Mark Lau & Padilla, C René (eds) 1986. **Conflict and context. Hermeneutics in the Americas.** Grand Rapids: Eerdmans. Pp 323. Price at Lux Verbi R41,95.

Organized to investigate the implications of the growing trend towards contextualization of the Gospel, the **Context and hermeneutics in the Americas conference** was held in November 1983.

This book is a collection of papers, study group reports, and transcriptions of plenary discussions from that conference. It records the lively, candid, and occasionally fiery discussions that took place when a culturally and denominationally diverse group of Christians grappled with vital issues facing the church.

Among the questions addressed at the conference were: how does a church's cultural context affect its interpretation of the Bible? What impact does this have on such basic theological concepts as Christology, soteriology, and ecclesiology? What dangers exist in contextual hermeneutics? What checks can be helpful?

Some of the themes addressed at the conference:

Our hermeneutical task today

Our audience: atheist or alienated?

Latin America  
Salt to the world: an ecclesiology of  
liberation.

Mark Lau Branson is Dean of the Fellowship Bible Institute in San Francisco.

René Padilla is General Secretary of the Latin American Theological Fraternity and Pastor of La Lucila Baptist Church in Buenos Aires

\* \* \*

McKim, Donald (ed) 1986. **How Karl Barth changed my mind.** Grand Rapids: Eerdmans. Pp 186. Available from Lux Verbi at R22,00.

Karl Barth (1886-1968) was one of the theological giants of all time. One hundred years after his birth, Barth's theology continues to make an impact on the theological landscape.

In this volume, distinguished contemporary theologians write about the varying ways Karl Barth has influenced their thought and their lives. Many of them knew him first-hand and studied with him. Others have been readers of Barth and learners from him. At many points they have appropriated his insights; at others they have expressed their reservations. All have taken stock of how they have wrestled with, or been shaped by Barth's theology.

Written out of a variety of theological disciplines and traditions, the essays - most of which have been written expressly for this volume - are a fitting tribute to Karl Barth in the 100th anniversary of his birth.



Contributors include: Markus Barth, Eberhard Busch, Hendrikus Berkhof, Paul Lehmann, Thomas F Torrance, Martin E Marty, Harvey Cox, and John H Yoder.

Donald McKim is Associate Professor at the University of Dubuque Theological Seminary, Epiphany.

\* \* \*

McKim, Donald K (ed) 1986. **A guide to contemporary hermeneutics. Major trends in biblical interpretation.** Grand Rapids: Eerdmans. Pp 385. Available from Lux Verbi at R35,85.

While the Christian church has always been concerned with how to interpret the Bible, in recent years hermeneutics has increasingly become a major focus of theological study. Traditional methods of interpreting Scripture are being re-examined, and new approaches and hermeneutical theories have appeared on the scene.

This book offers a guide both to contemporary trends in hermeneutics and to the directions major movements are taking. Drawn from a variety of sources and written by a diverse group of contributors, these essays describe methods of biblical hermeneutics, assess current hermeneutical approaches, and offer representational viewpoints from contemporary biblical interpreters.

Contributors include J Miguez Bonino, Schüssler Florenza, Gerhard von Rad, René Padilla, and Anthony Thiselton.

Donald McKim is Associate Professor of Theology at the University of Dubuque Theological Seminary, and editor of **The authoritative word** (Eerdmans, 1983).

\* \* \*

Berkhof, Hendrikus 1986. **Christian faith. An introduction to the study of the faith.** Translated by Sierd Woudstra. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans. Pp 572, including three indexes. Available from Lux Verbi at R66,15.

In 1973 Hendrikus Berkhof published a systematic theology in Dutch with the title **Christelijk geloof**. Four editions later the book was translated into English in 1979. In 1985 a fifth and revised edition appeared once again in Dutch. This time it was promptly translated.

In today's secular world, the Christian faith is viewed as only one aspect of what could be called 'religious life'. Acknowledging this, Hendrikus Berkhof begins this study with a sketch of religion and faith in general. From this he focuses on the specific place of **Christian faith**.

Beginning with the whole of reality makes it possible to use 'religion' as the basis from which to acquire an understanding of the relevance of the Christian faith for that total reality. Thus, a study of Christian faith can answer questions which deal with man's place in the cosmos, the meaning of life and existence, and the meaning of freedom and death.

Berkhof defines 'religion' as the relation to the absolute. 'Faith' is one step beyond religion, as it is the establishment of God's relationship to his people. Christian faith builds on Old Testament faith because the promises made to humanity in the Old Testament are accepted as being fulfilled in the ministry, suffering, death, and resurrection of Jesus.

For Berkhof, the study of the Christian faith is a systematic examination of the content of the relationship which God in Christ has entered into with us. Because the study of the faith is systematic, there must be an order to it. This order varies from

theologian to theologian, and depends on whether the starting point is God, man, or their relationship. Berkhof introduces his study with the revelation - the sources and norms for our knowledge of God. This leads to a discussion of God, man, Israel, the person and work of Christ, the church, and finally the renewal of the world and of humanity. Throughout the book Berkhof comments on (and takes issue with) systematic theologians of the past.

Berkhof's aim is to present his understanding of the truth of God, and he writes for both the layperson and the scholar. In addition to the basic text, Berkhof has included excursuses which cover specific subjects more thoroughly, citing sources, controversies, and the like, which will be of interest to theologians and students.

Hendrikus Berkhof is a Dutch theologian whose books have received a wide attention throughout the world. He is the author of **Christ the meaning of history**, **Christ and the powers**, and **The doctrine of the Holy Spirit**.