

THE CHURCH OF TOMORROW: BEING A CHRIST CENTRED PEOPLE IN A CHANGING WORLD

John McGinley (SPCK)

This book is aimed at ordained and lay leaders. Against a backdrop of decline in the Church in the West, the book issues a challenge to leaders to rediscover the boldness and missional hunger of the early church. McGinley explores the missional leadership models and approaches we need to let go of and those that we need to re-energise and lean into (watch out for our longer review next month).

HOW TO LEAD WHEN YOU DON'T KNOW WHERE YOU'RE GOING: LEADING IN A LIMINAL SEASON

Susan Beaumont (Rowman)

This is one of several recent books – and one we have reviewed previously - which speak into the often disorientating missional landscape in which Christian leaders exercise their ministry today. Its premise is that leading in times of transition requires the resisting of 'quick fixes' and adopting a very different leadership style. It feels particularly relevant at the moment and offers hope for weary leaders who are finding traditional leadership models ineffective.

EVANGELISM IN A SKEPTICAL WORLD

Sam Chan (Zondervan)

This book helpfully provokes thinking about how to communicate the gospel in a post Christendom, multicultural world, embracing a breadth of worldviews, which have shifted markedly from those which existed in the 20th century. A practical guide in effective evangelism with strong biblical foundations.

THE JOURNAL OF JOHN WESLEY, VARIOUS ABRIDGED VERSIONS

Obviously this will appeal primarily to those who value a historical perspective. However, in a context – albeit one of nearly 300 years ago – where evangelism was tough (and often violently resisted), there are powerful lessons to be learned in leadership. Everything from Wesley's clarity of missional focus to, frankly, an off-the-scale level of courage and practical faith, rooted in Christ.

BIBLICAL CRITICAL THEORY: HOW THE BIBLE'S UNFOLDING STORY MAKES SENSE OF MODERN LIFE AND CULTURE

Christopher Watkin (Zondervan)

This is a weighty tome for those seeking to make sense of modern life and culture through the lens of a biblical narrative. Particularly helpful for those wanting to engage in an incisive and thoughtful way with many of the ideas and worldviews we encounter today, highlighting their often fragile and suspect underlying assumptions.

Reviews by Charles Burgess

