



## **New Books Added to the Church Library Spring 2022**

### **Who Will Be a Witness? Drew G.I. Hart**

The author offers a vision for communities of faith to organize for deliverance and justice in their neighbourhoods and nation, as part of living out the call of Jesus. At a time when many feel disillusioned, Hart calls the church to action, pointing the church toward meaningful social change and a more faithful witness to the way of Jesus.

### **Reconnect: Spiritual Restoration from Digital Distraction Ed Cyzewski**

Who can't relate to this title? This book is grounded in current research into the impact of technology, and helps Christians rewire their technology addictions. The author encourages us to train ourselves to be present and aware of God, rather than tuned into the constant distraction of the digital age. Cyzewski focuses on the Christian contemplative tradition to support readers finding their way into deeper stillness and presence with an always present God.

\*\*The library also has Cyzewski's book: **Flee Be Silent Pray**

### **Once Removed Andrew Unger**

If you are familiar with Unger's satirical Mennonite website "The Daily Bonnet", you will enjoy this book. Timothy Heppner, the main character struggles to make ends meet in Edenfeld, a small Menno community bulldozing its way toward modernity. He is desperate to keep his job with the mayor's Parks and "Wreck" Department. He finds himself in the awkward position of having to write an updated version of the town's history book. If you want to find out more about the twists and turns of this project and Timothy's life you must read the book. Be prepared for plenty of "laughing out loud."

### **Being Mortal: Medicine and What Matters in the End Atal Gawande**

This book addresses end of life care and hospice care. It includes Dr. Atul Gawande's reflections and personal stories. He suggests that medical care should focus on well-being rather than survival.

**Slow Church—Cultivating Community in the Patient Way of Jesus** Christopher C. Smith and John Pattison

Fast food. Fast cars. Fast forward. Fast...church? A question posed by the authors asks, are we failing to notice as a church how quickly we may also be joining a culture of speed. The writers denounce the “McDonaldization” of church where faith can be packaged, marketed and sold. Instead, it seeks to cultivate a deep discipleship that touches all aspects of your life. How do we embody Christ in our local community? The book encourages us as followers of Jesus to know each other well, and love one another as Christ loved the church.

**Raising Disciples: How to Make Faith Matter for Our Kids** Natalie Frisk

“Children and youth will just “catch” the faith of their parents, right?” Not necessarily says pastor Natalie Frisk. Her thoughts help today’s parents reconnect faith and parenting, equipping parents to model what following Jesus looks like in daily life.

**Encounters on the Way Nourished By Life** Robert Suderman

Author Robert Suderman reflects on the “Encounters” that have shaped his life—encounters that have “nourished” his soul, imagination and ministry. Suderman was the General Secretary of Mennonite Church Canada, and served the church for 52 years: as administrator, writer and leader. He writes of his experiences in Canada and globally.

**Paul Frey A Story Never Predicted** Nancy Silcox

A more unlikely world opera singer could not be found. Paul Frey was born into a conservative order Mennonite farming family in rural Waterloo Region. He was a highschool dropout, and a truck driver hauling livestock to market. But he also had a powerful and true tenor voice, and he wanted to sing opera! He entered opera school unable to read music or count beats. This interesting life story tells how after some years of training and performing he finally found his way. In the end Paul Frey has been compared to many of the world’s greatest tenors.

**Liberating the Politics of Jesus: Renewing Peace Theology Through the Wisdom of Women** Daryl W. Stephens (Author) Elizabeth Soto Albrecht (Editor)

This book uncovers the social and political implications of the gospel message by looking at Anabaptist theology and practice from a female perspective. The authors recognize the authority of women to interpret and reconstruct the peace church tradition on issues such as subordination, the nature of the church, leadership and discipleship. They confront difficult issues within the church head on.

**Peanut Butter and Dragon Wings** Shari Zook

This is the story of the author’s faith and motherhood; addressing her losses, failures and inadequacies along the way. She is frank and honest about her steep climb in learning to be uncomfortable, cracked open and in need of grace. She learns to be real about her own needs. She writes from the perspective of a mother and a pastor’s wife.

**Not Quite Fine Carleen Byron Hill**

There is no time in history and no place in the world where so many people are suffering with mental health concerns. In this book the author tackles the issues that pastors and churches face around mental health. How can the church step up? How can the church become a healing community for members in pain and struggle? Drawing on her own history of mental health problems and her experiences as a counsellor offering hope to those in struggle, she gives practical insights to equip congregations to support those who are suffering in their midst.

**Dear Peter, Dear Ulla Barbara Nickel**

This is a story about two young cousins who have never met. It is set during World War 2. Ulla lives in Danzig, Germany and Peter lives on a Mennonite farm in Saskatchewan. They communicate regularly by letters. The world is telling them they are enemies—they cannot think of themselves that way. The story will keep younger and older readers engaged with the complexities of war, cultural differences and moral questions.

This may be a book that families want to read together. In some ways it parallels the current war in Ukraine, and indeed other areas of the globe also in conflict.

**The Land Is Not Empty Following Jesus in Dismantling the Doctrine of Discovery Sarah Augustine**

The author unpacks the harm of the Doctrine of Discovery—a set of laws rooted in the 15<sup>th</sup> Century that gave Christian governments the moral and legal right to seize lands they “discovered” despite the lands already being populated by Indigenous peoples. Augustine is a Pueblo woman, and she reframes the colonization of North America, as she investigates ways the Doctrine of Discovery continues to devastate Indigenous cultures. One of her premises is that “What was done years ago in the name of Christ, must be undone in the name of Christ. Right relationships with God, others and the earth, requires no less.”

**Dear White Peacemakers Osheta Moore**

Race is one of the hardest topics to discuss in all of America. But everything we know about overturning racism relies on white people becoming aware and engaging in change. The author identifies herself as a trusted leader for peacemakers and racial justice; and also a black pastor in an interracial marriage. She provides a thoughtful guide for white Christian peacemakers on the journey to racial justice.

**Intercultural Church: A Biblical Vision for an Age of Migration Safwat Marzouk**

Marzouk offers a biblical vision for what it means to be an intercultural church. A church that fosters intercultural identity learns how to embrace and celebrate difference, which in turn enriches its worship and ministry. He describes a biblical vision of the church as a diverse community that views cultural, linguistic, racial and ethnic differences as gifts from God. These are differences that can enrich the church’s worship, deepen the sense of fellowship in the church and broaden the church’s witness to God’s reconciling mission in the world.