

CGS Library

New books

April 2018

Bruggemann, Walter. *Interrupting silence.* Westminster John Knox Press, 2018. **248.4 Brug**

Silence is a complex matter. It can refer to awe before unutterable holiness, but it can also refer to the coercion where some voices are silenced in the interest of control by the dominant voices. It is the latter silence that Walter Brueggemann explores, urging us to speak up in situations of injustice.

Interrupting Silence illustrates that the Bible is filled with stories where marginalized people break repressive silence and speak against it. Examining how maintaining silence allows the powerful to keep control, Brueggemann motivates readers to consider situations in their lives where they need to either interrupt silence or be part of the problem, convincing us that God is active and wanting us to act for justice.

Cleveland, Christena. *Disunity in Christ : uncovering the hidden forces that keep us apart.* IVP Books, 2013. **262.72 Cle**

"A well-researched and readable book on the issue of disunity that all of us pastors face but are able to do little about once the wheels are set in motion. It helped to remind me of the importance of dealing with potential problems before they blossom into something more sinister." (Dave McDowell, "The 2014 Leadership Book Awards," *Leadership Journal*, Winter 2014)

"Cleveland wants us to engage in building bridges and dismantling the existing divisions as soon as we put the book down. In the closing chapters she equips the reader with tools for the work of reconciliation. She provides us with a biblical foundation for cross-cultural unity and explains how to overcome our cognitive and emotional biases. . . . *Disunity in Christ* is not only a source of education, but is also a source of hope that the work of reconciliation is possible, necessary and not done in vain." (Ryan Herring, *Sojourners*, July 2014)

"Cleveland tackles a thorny topic by sharing pieces of her own story. She is appropriately vulnerable and honest about the ways she has sought to grow in her view of other Christians with whom she disagrees. This is a great resource for the pastor or lay leader serious about bridge building in a Christian culture that can sometimes be obsessed with fortifying boundaries and walls." (Andrew E. Stoddard, *Leadership Journal*, Winter 2014)

Dant, Jim. *This I know : a simple biblical defense for LGBTQ Christians.* Nuturing Faith, 2018.

261.84 Dant

Jesus loves me, this I know.

For the Bible tells me so.

These words may ring hollow in the ears of a member of the LGBTQ community. They learned the tune as children. They memorized the words. They delighted in the idea of being cherished by God and guarded by scripture. But somewhere along the way, someone in the church turned the Bible into a weapon and Jesus into an inaccessible friend. Many of the LGBTQ people I've come to know have had to learn to trust this song again. They've had to be reintroduced to the Jesus who loves them and to the Bible that guards them. I want my LGBTQ brothers and sisters to know, Jesus loves them and the Bible says no different.

You owe no assailant a thorough explanation of your beliefs. Most of your critics could not provide a cohesive theological explanation of their beliefs beyond, "There's a verse in the Bible that says..." Second, they are not in conversation with you to be convinced of anything themselves. It is not a true dialogue. They are not thinking. They are simply protecting their ideas, dogma, and personal fears from the intrusion of grace. Sadly, people who fail to offer grace have rarely allowed themselves to enjoy the full measure of grace afforded them. In the end they are trying to condemn or convince you. So use these arguments if you wish, or simply hold them close and sing with confidence, "Jesus loves me; this I know. For the Bible tells me so."

Hill, Daniel. *White awake : an honest look at what it means to be White.* IVP Books, 2017.

261.833 Hill

"*White Awake* is a profoundly pastoral book with serious implications for the ecclesial, social, and political life of our nation. At a time when conversations about race seem increasingly cross-pressured by various interests and motivations, readers can trust Daniel Hill to tell them the truth about racism and white supremacy. Hill does not use these fraught issues to manipulate, but rather to help his readers see more clearly. If Christians read and consider this book carefully, it will help them. It helped me. I'm grateful to Daniel for writing *White Awake*." (Michael Wear, author of *Reclaiming Hope*)

"Daniel Hill's personal and deep dive into whiteness, reconciliation, and the dividing lines in our social matrix of race is needed like never before. At a time of ongoing racial weariness and colorblind responses, I'm so grateful for this resource. Allow the transparency and courage of this book to lead you into the needed work of unity, liberation, and justice." (Efre Smith, author of *Killing Us Softly* and *The Post-Black and Post-White Church*)

"*White Awake* is at once personal, practical, and provocative. Well conceived, researched, and written, this timely book provides a detailed consideration of cultural identity and its formation from which everyone can benefit—particularly those of us who are white and willing to engage the topic not only for our own benefit but, more significantly, for the sake of the gospel, as ambassadors of Christ and ministers of reconciliation in an increasingly diverse society. Indeed, it is long past time for us to reflect

deeply and responsibly on race, racialization, and reconciliation. With refreshing honesty and only the best of intentions, Daniel has provided us with a means to do just that." (Mark DeYmaz, founding pastor of Mosaic Church, author of *Building a Healthy Multi-Ethnic Church*)

Huckins, Jon. *Mending the divides : creative love in a conflicted world.* IVP Books, 2017.

261.873 Huck

"Peace is imperative in a world where ethnic, religious, and political divisions between people are intensifying. But it's only us, as Christ-followers, who can demonstrate the radical love of our Savior and facilitate true and lasting peace--a state of shalom. Jon Huckins and Jer Swigart have provided a timely manual for engaging in the gritty, risky work we're called to when we sign on to build God's kingdom 'on earth as it is in heaven.'" (Rich Stearns, president, World Vision)

"Jesus' infectious peacemaking has taken hold of Jer Swigart and Jon Huckins. This book explains how and why—but even more, how and why they passionately want it to happen in the lives of any who are followers of Jesus. In a world of broken trust, hostile prejudice, religious violence, and pervasive fear, our world desperately needs God's people to be humble, courageous, and just peacemakers. The need for this fruit of the Spirit could hardly be more urgent." (Mark Labberton, president, Fuller Theological Seminary)

"Jon and Jer are called not only to be peacemakers individually but to holistically change the church's understanding and practice of this task. They have put their rich wisdom and experience into this practical, relevant, and timely book that weaves theological insights, personal stories, and practical applications into a comprehensive manual for everyday peacemaking. They remind us that everyday peacemaking is not a side activity of our Christian lives, but core to our walk as disciples of Christ. Through this book, they teach us to lean into conflict with humility and grace, and to move toward the difficult task of building relationships with those on the margins of society who are often our best teachers. At a time when conflict is so easy to instigate and arguments are so easily had, they point to the better way of peace that reflects the power of a broken and resurrected Christ. What would it look like for the church to take seriously its call to bring about peace in a broken and hurting world? This book provides the way!" (Jenny Yang, vice president of advocacy and policy, World Relief, coauthor of *Welcoming the Stranger*)

Lee, Justin. *Torn: rescuing the Gospel from the Gays-vs.-Christians debate.* Jericho Book, 2013. **261.84 Lee**

"Radiates a genuine concern and belief in progress through slow, personal evolution...Both LGBT individuals and Christians will benefit from the modeling of a kinder, more accommodating navigation of this culture war."—**Publishers Weekly,**

"Lee's writing is approachable, and he shows compassion for those on all sides of this debate."—**Kirkus Reviews**

"Disarmingly vulnerable...poignant..."—**Christianity Today**

"The beauty of this book is that Lee wants to challenge all kinds of Christians...Perhaps it is because of so many fights hard won that Lee is now able to move into more nuanced territory in this gracious and grace-filled memoir."—**The Christian Century**

"Lee, one of our leading voices on the issues of being gay and Christian, gives us this powerful look at ways that members on both sides of the lines can learn from and grow with each other."—**SHE Magazine**

McNeil, Brenda Salter. *Roadmap to reconciliation : moving communities into unity, wholeness, and justice.* IVP Books, 2017. **261.873 McN**

"This book continues to solidify Dr. Brenda Salter McNeil as a practical theologian and a prophetic voice of biblical reconciliation and justice. Her insights and wisdom within this resource are a powerful classroom of unifying principles and concepts. Everything she writes should be read and applied by people of faith that we might be a force of transformation in a broken and divided world." (Efrem Smith, president and CEO, World Impact, author of *The Post-Black and Post-White Church*)

"I find in . . . Brenda Salter McNeil a rugged commitment to the church and to the centrality of the gospel and the church in the process of reconciliation. . . . Brenda's book is short and nothing less than a handbook—brief, accessible, illustrated, clear. A handbook that articulates stages in the process of reconciliation, and hence it is as useful for those seeking to embody reconciliation in a local church as it is for those who want to be more publicly active." (Scot McKnight, Patheos, December 17, 2015)

"More than ever, our polarized world needs Dr. Brenda's voice. Her love and respect for people creates a healing place to express our hopes, fears, dreams and confusion. We all want reconciliation—our hearts long for it—but most of us do not know where to start. Brenda patiently and humbly guides our journey toward peace." (Roy Goble, CEO, Goble Properties, cofounder and CEO, PathLight International)

"I consider Dr. Brenda Salter-McNeil to be one of the great national communicators in the American church. She is the most qualified person I know to write about the topic of race and reconciliation. Her book is extraordinarily timely." (Mac Pier, CEO and founder, The NYC Leadership Center, Lausanne Senior Associate for Cities)

Pavlovitz, John. *A bigger table.* Westminster John Knox Press. 2017. **261 Pav**

No one likes to eat alone; to approach a table filled with people, only to be told that despite the open chairs there isn't room for you. The rejection stings. It leaves a mark. Yet this is exactly what the church

has been saying to far too many people for far too long: "You're not welcome here. Find someplace else to sit. How can we extend unconditional welcome and acceptance in a world increasingly marked by bigotry, fear, and exclusion? Pastor John Pavlovitz invites readers to join him on the journey to find or build a church that is big enough for everyone. He speaks clearly into the heart of the issues the Christian community has been earnestly wrestling with: LGBT inclusion, gender equality, racial tensions, and global concerns. *A Bigger Table: Building Messy, Authentic, Hopeful Spiritual Community* asks if organized Christianity can find a new way of faithfully continuing the work Jesus began two thousand years ago, where everyone gets a seat. Pavlovitz shares moving personal stories and his careful observations as a pastor to set the table for a new, more loving conversation on these and other important matters of faith. He invites us to build the bigger table Jesus imagined, practicing radical hospitality, total authenticity, messy diversity, and agenda-free community.

When I think of John Pavlovitz, two words come to mind: courage and kindness. Those qualities define every page of his new book, *A Bigger Table*. Buy several copies and get them circulating in your church, because the church, like the world at large, needs courage and kindness. --Brian D. McLaren, author of *The Great Spiritual Migration*

Peppiatt, Lucy. *Unveiling Paul's women: making sense of Corinthians 11:2-16*. Cascade Books, 2018. **227.2 Pepp**

Whether people realize it or not, the ideas in 1 Corinthians 11:2-16 have had a huge impact on the role of Christian women in the church through the centuries. These fifteen verses have shaped worship practices, church structures, church leadership, marriages, and even relationships between men and women in general. They have contributed to practices that have consistently placed women in a subordinate role to men, and have been used to justify the idea that a woman should not occupy a leadership or teaching position without being under the authority or "covering" of a man. It is strange, therefore, that academics and pastors alike continue to note how confusing and difficult it continues to be to make sense of these very verses. In this little book, Lucy Peppiatt not only highlights the problems associated with using this text to justify the subordination of women, but offers a clear and plausible re-reading of the text that paints the apostle Paul as a radical, visionary, church planter who championed women in all forms of leadership.

"Lucy Peppiatt offers in this volume a reading of Paul's advice on head coverings, women, and authority in the church. Her persuasive account of 1 Cor 11:2-16 rescues Paul from those who appeal to him in support of misogynistic theologies and confirms Paul's radical critique, rather than endorsement, of patriarchal culture. I commend it highly." -- Murray Rae, University of Otago, Dunedin, New Zealand

Whytsma, Ken. *The myth of equality : uncovering the roots of injustice and privilege*. IVP Books, 2017. **261.833 Wyt**

Wytsma, lead pastor of Antioch Church in Bend, Ore., and president of Kilns College, has a gift for persuasive argument, well displayed in his deployment of history, biblical theology, and current affairs to demonstrate the subtle and unsubtle ways that white dominance shapes American culture and conversations about race. He does so from the perspective of a passionately committed evangelical Christian calling prophetically for justice for those who have been consistently disadvantaged by a system and culture built on what “a white normative standard” that shapes perceptions and judgments. Wytsma makes his points without accusation, the better to address an audience of white readers who may be unaccustomed to looking beneath the surface of attitudes about race or unaware of the history of Jim Crow laws and other forces that drove racial segregation. He is especially good at giving a quick tour of the post-Reconstruction history of race. Slavery was formally ended, but disenfranchisement, “Black Codes” in the South, redlining in housing, and other forms of social control perpetuated inequality. This book should be a wake-up call to Christian communities nationwide -- Publishers Weekly (Starred Review)

"White progressives, evangelical and not, seem to enjoy feeling bad about racial injustice and wagging self-righteous fingers at others, but they often exacerbate the injustices of racism by hardening the lines of defense. Far too often the only solutions proposed are more laws, tightening existing laws, and social engineering through public education. What we need are not resolutions but solutions—solutions emerging from real people in real settings, with leaders who have discovered the long, painful path that leads from white privilege and white invisibility to social integration, racial reconciliation, and churches abounding in fellowship across racial lines and celebrating the glories of ethnicities. Ken Wytsma is the kind of leader who offers real solutions toward social integration and racial reconciliation, and he comes from that kind of community and church. *The Myth of Equality* is a genuine contribution for those of us looking for ways forward." -- Scot McKnight, Julius R. Mantey Professor of New Testament, Northern Seminary.

DVD

It's about being church [DVD]. Lutheran's Concerned/North America, 2007. **DVD 261.84 Its**

Contents: RIC : It's about being Church [stories and process] 30 min. – RIC : It's about being church [stories only] 14 min. – Welcoming ministry training [promotion] 6 min. – Transgender voices and the church II [stories] 20 min. – What do you say when someone you love says “I’m gay”? 23 min.

Childrens' books

Adir, Levy. *What should Danny do?* Elon Books, 2017. **J [Fic] Adir**

9 Stories in 1! *What Should Danny Do?* is an innovative, interactive book that empowers kids with the understanding that their choices will shape their days, and ultimately their lives into what they will be.

Written in a "Choose Your Own Story" style, the book follows Danny, a Superhero-in-Training, through his day as he faces choices that kids face on a daily basis. As your children navigate through the different story lines, they will begin to realize that their choices for Danny shaped his day into what it became. And in turn, their choices for themselves can shape their days, and ultimately their lives, into what they will be.

"I have been teaching for 7 years and I have never seen such an amazing response to a book. Students are begging to read it over and over again. I loved the ability to make choices and talk about the outcomes. I loved how sometimes Danny's brother egged him on and we could talk about not having control over someone else and only having control over how you respond. I loved that when Danny asked for a snack he didn't get chocolate and we could talk about "getting what we want" versus "making a good choice." I also love the forgiveness from Danny's parents when he has a bad day and the encouragement to make the next day better. I love this book!" -- Kirsten Leigh, Elementary Teacher

"This book empowers kids to make positive choices while showing them the natural consequences of negative choices. It's a great book for teaching the pillars of character and also a wonderful resource for teaching growth mindset. It's a book that you will use over and over... I highly encourage you to add it to your bookshelves." -- Marida Salinas, Elementary School Counselor

"This book is a perfect fit for anyone trying to teach kids about responsibility and about the power of their choices. The kids are able to clearly see how their choices influence the type of day that they have. I highly recommend this book to every parent, teacher, and principal!" -- Karyl Strader, Elementary School Principal

McBratney, Sam. *Guess how much I love you, Sweetheart.* Candlewick, 2008. **J [Fic] McBr**

"Effused with tenderness, McBratney's wise, endearing, and droll story is enriched by the near-monochromatic backdrop of Jeram's pen-and-wash artwork, rendered earthy tones of moss, soft brown, and gray for a visually quieting effect just right for that last soothing tale before sleep." — Publishers Weekly (starred review)

"An endearing nursery game is beautifully revitalized in this comforting, sleepy-time picture book. . . . There's not a wrong note in this tender tale, which should become an endearing bedtime favorite — right up there with *Goodnight Moon*." — Booklist (starred review)

"Every parent will relate." — USA Today

An extraordinary children's book that captures the unique dialogue between a parent and child.
—Child Magazine

Sachar, Louis. *Holes* (10th anniversary edition) Farrar, Straus and Giroux, 2008. **J 813.54 Sach**

**A New York Public Library's 100 Great Children's Books 100 Years Selection,
Newbery Medal, and National Book Award**

“Vladimir Radunsky created the artwork for the 1998 hardcover, and another of his striking paintings adorns Farrar, Straus and Giroux's 10th-anniversary edition . . . Wrapped in an acetate jacket, the whole package has a crisp, sparkling appeal. Kid-friendly bonus materials include lighthearted personal perspectives written by Sachar's older brother, daughter, and wife; his Newbery acceptance speech; and several black-and-white photos, mostly taken on the movie set.” —*SLJ's Extra Helping*

“Stanley Yelnats IV has been wrongly accused of stealing a famous baseball player's valued sneakers and is sent to Camp Green Lake, a juvenile detention home where the boys dig holes, five feet deep by five feet across, in the miserable Texas heat. It's just one more piece of bad luck that's befallen Stanley's family for generations...There is no question, kids will love Holes.”
—*Starred, School Library Journal*

"A dazzling blend of social commentary, tall tale and magic realism."-*Publishers Weekly*, Starred Review

"[A] rugged, engrossing adventure."-- *Kirkus Reviews*

Wright, Laurie. *I can handle it.* (Mindful mantras ; v.1) 2017. **J 155.412 Wri**

“ I really like this book. It gives me a jumping off point to talk about processing different emotions with my 3 year old twins. The only thing I change is at the end when all the different emotions are listed, I add that we can always talk to mommy, daddy, or God in prayer about those feelings when they feel too big!”—Amazon reviewer

“This book is such a good tool to help kids see there is always a way. Plus they loved it and laughed and felt empathy all while reading it. This is particularly good for my L who struggles with anger and frustration and can't always wade through those emotions as easily as most children. After he said "mom, I kinda really love it-- can we read it again?" it has become a favorite. Between my 4yr old and 7 yr. old they can both relate to Sebastian and I've seen my 4yr old have little light bulb moments making connections relatable to his life. It also helps label feelings and emotions and reinforces that there will always be a solution regardless. Every house and classroom and day home should have this book!” -- Amazon reviewer

Zietlow Miller, Pat. *Be kind.* Roaring Brook Press, 2018. **J 242.66 Ziet**

“[A] lovely exploration of empathy and thoughtfulness.” —*Publishers Weekly*, **starred review**

“The precisely worded, hopeful text offers ideas to ponder, while the artwork places them within kidfriendly contexts, such as a multiracial classroom and a neighborhood park. Nicely designed for drawing out children’s ideas and opening a discussion on kindness, this picture book works well one-on-one or read aloud in a classroom, for the expressive pictures are still effective from a distance. A

thoughtful picture book.” —*Booklist*

“This picture book champions interpersonal kindness both globally and in a young child's town . . . The story gives children many concrete ideas of actionable kind deeds.” —*Kirkus Reviews*

“The book presents the powerful message that small acts of kindness matter, and that they can build with other acts of kindness to make a difference . . . A valuable addition on this topic [that] will promote conversation about what it means to be kind.” —*School Library Journal*