

Recommended Books on Missions

By Pastor Brian

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Lyall, Leslie T. **A Passion for the Impossible**: The China Inland Mission 1865-1965. Moody Press, 1965.

《不可能的信心：中國內地會百年宣教傳奇 1865-1965》，台灣，宇宙光，2020。

This is an old book, but it tells a story which never fades. The book is recently published in Chinese. An amazing testimony of men and women who follow God whole-heartedly. A must read.

Boyd, David. **You Don't Have To Cross The Ocean To Reach The World**: the Power of Local Cross-Cultural Ministry. Baker. 2008.

During the pandemic, the invisible becomes visible. Our mission fields may be just across the street. I and my staff read this book together. We have started local missions to the refugees and to the Spanish-speaking communities in our city.

Lane, Patty. **A Beginner's Guide to Crossing Cultures**: Making Friends in a Multicultural World. IVP. 2002.

Yancey, George. **One Body One Spirit**: Principles of Successful Multiracial Churches. IVP. 2003.

These two books are part of my recent readings on multi-cultural ministry. FBCC has the vision for the multi-ethnic ministry. We spent 10 years when the church first started in reaching our community, one of the most ethnic diverse counties in the US. Even though we failed, FBCC is still 99% Chinese, the vision still remains true to our heart. Within the Chinese congregations, we are actually very much multi-cultural among different congregations.

Platt, David. **Follow Me**: A Call to Die. A Call to Live. Tyndale House Publishers. 2013.

Platt, David. **Radical**. **Taking Back Your Faith from the American Dream**. Multnomah. 2010.

The author of the bestselling book **Radical** is convinced that many people in our churches today are misled as to what it truly means to be a follower of Christ. Western culture has drained the lifeblood out of Christianity and replaced it with a watered-down version of the gospel that is so palatable it isn't even real anymore. Both books are translated into Chinese. I have been to Platt's Church in Birmingham for the **Radical Training**. His church is really centered on missions. Every worship service ends in the congregation reciting the Great Commission. They sent out hundreds of Short-term missionaries, mid-term missionaries, and long-term missionaries. Platt was the speaker for CMC in the last couple of years.

Alcorn, Randy. **Giving is the Good Life. The Unexpected Path to Purpose and Joy**. Tyndale House Publishers. 2019.

This is a book on giving. Giving is so important in mission work. The Chinese Christians must learn to give if we want to take the next step of obedience to the Great Commission. Randy is a very good and biblical writer. One of the writers I follow.

Haugen, Gary. **The Locust Effect**: Why the End of Poverty Requires the End of Violence. Oxford University Press. 2015.

Gary, the founder and CEO of the International Justice Mission (IJM), is a top lawyer and one of the leading influence in social justice. This is a Gripping and perspective-altering book that poverty results from violence as much as violence results from poverty. My daughter had done a 4 month-internship with IJM and her life was changed just by seeing the godly whole-heart devotion of those who serve at IJM. Gary spent time with the interns and led the staff at IJM for daily devotion and prayer time. The **Locust Effect** received many honors and recognition around the world.

Stearns, Richard. **The Hole in Our Gospel**. World Vision. 2009.

Stearns is the CEO at World Vision. I heard him spoke at the Leadership Summit a few times. Read this compelling story and urgent call for change—Richard Stearns is a contemporary Amos crying, "Let justice roll down like waters." Justice is a serious gospel-prophetic mandate. Community development and helping the poor are understood more and more as part of Missions. I read this book with all my

staff when we launched our M68 (Micah 6:8), serving the poor in our community. It is now developed into a non-profit organization, called the Care Center. This book is a trumpet call to action as thoughtful as it is urgent.

Corbett, Steve & Fikkert, Brian. **When Helping Hurt**. How to Alleviate Poverty without Hurting the Poor and Yourself. Moody Press. 2009.

Poverty is much more than simply a lack of material resources, and it takes much more than donations and handouts to solve it. When Helping Hurts shows how some alleviation efforts, failing to consider the complexities of poverty, have actually (and unintentionally) done more harm than good.

Keller, Tim. **Every Good Endeavor**. Connecting Your Work to God's Work. Riverhead Books. 2012.

《工作魅力：連結你的工作與上帝的工作》，台北：希望之聲，2019。

This is Tim Keller at his best, cultural changes that based on theology. Connect our work to God's work. Not all of us are called to be a missionary to the mission field. The workplace has become a new frontier in reaching the world for Christ.

Um, Stephen, & Buzzard, Justin. **Why Cities Matter to God**, the Culture, and the Church. Crossway. 2013.

Right now, more people live in urban centers than ever before. This means that we have an unprecedented opportunity to influence the majority of the world through the church in the city. This book is about church planting in the cities, another new frontier in Missions. Um is a American Born Korean, who pastors an Asian church in Boston. My son and daughter-in-law used to go to his church. I heard him preached this message on the cities in 2017. The church has a few sites that are neighborhood churches.