6-1-2006

Book Marks

Furman University

Follow this and additional works at: https://scholarexchange.furman.edu/furman-magazine

Recommended Citation

Available at: https://scholarexchange.furman.edu/furman-magazine/vol49/iss2/21
American racial order. Some anthropologists, such as Activist Anthropologists you actually were a Marxist - a free pass - than if you, like Margaret Mead, are revealed anthropologists who were Ruth Landes, were in any way Leslie White, for example, got Goodwin focuses is a fascinating study of the abolition. Readers interested War battles will find Goodwin's book disappointing. Those as the most compelling individual, and Goodwin focuses on the 1860 presidential election to illustrate Lincoln's political savvy. She does not, however, neglect to highlight his evolving personal views. For example, while Lincoln held certain racist beliefs his entire life, he eventually concluded that slavery had to be abolished. Readers interested in the minute details of Civil War battles will find Goodwin's book disappointing. Those who enjoy studies of the human psyche will be immensely rewarded.

— A. Scott Henderson, Education

David H. Price, Threatening Anthropology: McCarthyism and the FBI's Surveillance of Activist Anthropologists (Duke University Press, 2004). This is a fascinating study of the anthropologists who were spied or informed upon after the Civil War and features archival records and photos, the author recounts the history of the 10 light-houses still standing along the South Carolina coast — and reminds us of the important role they played in the state's history. Clary, who lives in Charleston, S.C., is the author of five books. To learn more about her work, visit the Web at www.bookstorytell.com.

Robert H. Ayers '39, The Bible and Contemporary Theology: The Quest for Truth and Relevance (Edwin Mellen Press, 2006). As Sandy Dwayne Martin of the University of Georgia says in the book's foreword, Ayers insists that one should study both the Bible and contemporary theology “with a commitment to truth and in confidence that each has relevance for the contemporary world.” Martin adds, “This important work makes a very valuable contribution to helping thoughtful persons deal with the continuing tensions between faith and reason.” Ayers is professor emeritus of philosophy and religion at the University of Georgia, where he was one of the first recipients of the Sandy Beaver Award for Excellence in Teaching.

William Placher, Callings (Lawrence Erlbaum, 2005). The author, a theologian, New Testament scholar and teacher, has collected some of the most profound personal narratives of Christian history into an anthology of wisdom for contemporary questions of vocation. With highly readable and compelling introductions to four epochs of thought within the Christian tradition, Placher raises issues of calling that are vitally important today, such as individual and communal calling, general and special calling, contemplative and active calling. This book is a rich and provocative resource for both laity and clergy and for both individual and group study regarding Christian calling. An extensive study guide containing ideas for discussion, action projects and journaling is available at www.ptev.org.

— Elaine Nocks, Psychology

Gary E. Parker '76, Distant Shores (Howard Publishing, 2006). Parker, pastor at First Baptist Church in Decatur, Ga., has written 13 novels and three novellas. He has been called the “Christian Book-seller Association’s source for sweeping sagas of faith and family.” His latest is set just after the Civil War and features the intertwining stories of a plantation owner, former slaves and a Richmond business-woman. It is the third in the Southern Tides trilogy, following Secret Tides and Fateful Journeys. Parker is a past finalist for the Christy Award, which honors the best in Christian fiction.

Linda Heatwole Jacobs '74, Rain of Fire (Medallion Press, 2006). Jacobs, one of the first women to work as a field geologist for Exxon Corporation, dedicates her novel to those “who have devoted their lives, and risked them, to study the deadly potential of modern volcanoes.” The story centers on the reawakening of the world’s largest volcano, located beneath Yellowstone National Park, and a geologist’s efforts to convince park officials of the seriousness of the threat. Former Yellowstone superintendent Bob Barbee describes the book as “superb storytelling.” Jacobs and her husband, Richard, own a consulting company in New Mexico. Visit her Web site, www.readlindajacobs.com.

Lucinda Secrest McDowell '74, Spa for the Soul (Broadman & Holman, 2006). The publisher says, “You can call ten thousand health spas for a massage and manicure, yet after such a special treatment session, still feel the need for more lasting refreshment. Spa for the Soul is for women who seek an oasis where spiritual and emotional health can be rejuvenated. Here, the spa metaphor blends biblical teaching and modern application for true restoration.” McDowell, who lives in Wethersfield, Conn., is a Christian speaker and author of a number of motivational books. Visit her Web site, www.encouragingwords.net.

Al Cadenhead, Jr. ’68, God’s Call to Be: When Being Precedes Doing (Smyth & Helwys, 2005). Ken Garfield of The Charlotte (N.C.) Observer says, “Cadenhead reminds us that we can feel the power of God’s love in the quiet moments [where] we learn not just to appreciate God’s love but to more deeply appreciate the life He gave us.” Jim Pitts, former chaplain at Furman, adds that Cadenhead “takes us on a journey to the spiritual headwaters of being a child of God . . . If your occupation has become an overwhelming preoccupation and your identity is dependent on your job, then this book is for you.” Cadenhead is pastor of Providence Baptist Church in Charlotte.