

psychological theory, theology, and classical philosophy, and his presentation metabolizes the stuff of knowledge through his pastoral, caregiving heart. This book will be an asset in the clinician's library and also on the night stand of the person who wants to grow and thrive.

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Elizabeth Conde-Frazier, S. Steve Kang, and Gary A. Parrett, *A Many Colored Kingdom: Multicultural Dynamics for Spiritual Formation* (Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Academic, 2004), 224 pp.

I highly recommend this book to Christian religious leaders, theologians, and educators. In the opening chapter, the authors draw upon narratives from their own lives to explore dynamics of systemic power, privilege, and oppression. Personal narrative coupled with theological reflection and integration of the biblical narrative leads the reader to explore one's social location and engage in the painful and life-giving work of embracing privilege and confronting modern racism. The authors' passion inspires hope for the church as a relevant change-agent in our fractured society.

This book highlights the centrality of one's spiritual journey and the call for spiritual formation in Christian community. Jesus calls us to a radical discipleship that *engages* in multicultural community and diversity in its many forms. 'Kingdom' citizen formation provides a pedagogically useful framework for Christian congregations and communities seeking to explore interpersonal and systemic dynamics around race, culture, ethnicity, class, and gender. The authors offer an important power analysis which exposes the hypocrisy inherent within many of our mainline Christian denominations. Many of our mainline churches mistake tokenism and the language of 'inclusivity' when we are far from valuing and living the 'kingdom' principles explored in this book. I commend the authors for overtly identifying prejudice and racism within Christian communities and offering practical resources to create transformational learning communities. Authentic multicultural community and diversity requires much from us on many levels, including intrapersonal, interpersonal, and systemic change.

While this book seems primarily written for Christian seminaries and congregations, it is also a wonderful theoretical resource for Christian leaders in spiritual care, clinical supervision, spiritual direction, and contextual education. The various roles of the teacher and focus on creating an intentional learning community rooted in hospitality and mutuality speak well to many disciplines and ministries.

The authors emphasize *Christian* spiritual formation and the core theological and biblical reflections are rooted in the Christian Scriptures, the life and teachings of Jesus, and the prophetic call to engage diversity in its many forms as a matter of faith. The authors' passion for authentic multicultural community inspires hope. I appreciate their strong convictions and commend this much-needed dialogue and work in Christian communities.

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Jonathan Watts, ed., *This Precious Life: Buddhist Tsunami Relief and Anti-Nuclear Activism in Post 3/11 Japan* (Yokohama, Japan: The International Buddhist Exchange Center, 2012), 208 pp.

For those in Japan, the March 11, 2011 tsunami and nuclear disaster will continue to shape culture and history. Disasters often awaken us to our spirituality and it is human nature to seek outside ourselves for support. *This Precious Life: Buddhist Tsunami Relief and Anti-Nuclear Activism in Post 3/11 Japan* helps those of us who are outside of Japan to enter into this event from the perspective of Buddhist priests who were serving in the hardest hit communities. The book is a collection of essays written by different Buddhist priests as they grappled with how to respond to the needs of the people and how to respond publicly to the nuclear disaster in hopes of shaping the future.

I was interested in reviewing this book because I married into a Japanese family. I am Christian and my Japanese family is also Christian. However, in my desire to better understand Japanese culture, I also want to understand Buddhism as this religion has shaped culture greatly. I share this to help my readers understand how I approached this book.