

New Testament Hospitality Partnership With Strangers As Promise And Mission Overtures To Biblical Theology

This volume offers a collection of Lukan studies by Adelbert Denaux, whose preferred field of studies has been the Gospel of Luke for many years. The thirteen papers collected in this volume have been delivered in different languages and on different occasions. The papers deal with several aspects of Luke's Gospel: structure, Old Testament influence, theology and christology, Luke and Q, language and style, and individual passages. Adelbert Denaux (1938), Professor emeritus New Testament at the K.U. Leuven, is actually Dean of the Tilburg School of Theology, the Netherlands (2007-).

Have you ever wondered about the Mysteries of God's wisdom or the secret to knowledge? Jesus condemned the religious leaders of his day for taking away the "Key to Knowledge," (Luke 11:52). This remarkable article anthology may have accidentally uncovered some of these ancient mysteries that are now considered TABOO - to help you to read and really understand the Bible. Less Could the 7 Pillars or dimensions of Wisdom (Pro. 9:1) possibly be related to the "Key to Knowledge?" Hidden Bible Taboos began as one short essay that just for fun proposed a "7 Dimension Theory of Everything" but several readers encouraged me to continue researching it, and I soon discovered that it is the nature of the Universe for things to exist in 7's. For example, there are 7 types of Matter and 7 forms of Energy in the universe. When we consider "Time," the 7 Day calendar week continues to be universal and immemorial in its observance among all nations and in all times. Space - our earthly physical space is divided up into 7 Continents, 7 Oceans, and 7 Seas. After studying the multiple patterns of 7s in the universe's numerical DNA, I turned my focus to ancient cultures and was shocked to find that in the ancient wisdom writings including Christianity, the number 7 stands for spiritual perfection and divine completeness. For example, the Bible's book of Isaiah mentions the 7 Spirits of God the Father (Isaiah 11:2). The Apostle John mentions the 7 Stars of God the Son (Rev. 1:20), and the Apostle Paul mentions the 7 Gifts of God the Holy Spirit (Rom. 12:6-8). In addition, Zechariah mentions the 7 Eyes of the Lord, which range throughout the earth (Zech. 4:10). This incredible phenomenon of multiples of 7 cannot be explained by chance or human design. It is in these "7 Pillars of God's Wisdom," that I have experienced a paradigm shift that has opened my eyes to see this divine tapestry to gain a better understanding of the Bible. The 7 Dimension articles were written as independent brief essays over a period of 7 years. After receiving comments from many readers over the years (sometimes secretly) a theme became apparent that seemed to be pointing to the fact that these divine truths of the 7 dimensional (7D) biblical patterns of 7 were not being taught by the professional religious leaders of Catholic and Protestant Churches, because they were forbidden by custom or tradition. They are TABOO. This compilation of independent articles indirectly provides a historical overview of the ancient world that leads up to the time of Jesus and the Early Church, and reveals some Taboos related to sex, drugs, violence and racism. The majority of the Taboos in this book however, are not related to ancient mysterious pagan practices. The most significant Taboos in this book are coming from professional church leaders of organized religions of Christianity today who forbid their church members from knowing and

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practicing what is written in the New Testament, and commanded by Jesus and his Apostles. Hidden Bible Taboos is a collection of these 7D articles that have accidentally uncovered and systematically integrated ancient religious mythologies; archeological mysteries; scientific and historical facts; and End Time prophecies to reveal the "Christian Sun-god" conspiracy. It is not a formal theological treatise on spirituality and/or religion as it is a work in progress that is very, very far from perfect. With the above disclaimer to having and/or knowing the absolute truth, I would like to present what I believe to be the 7 dimension (7D) origins of ancient religious knowledge and ageless wisdom that have been passed down to us by our ancestors - So put on your 7D glasses! Dedication: This book is dedicated to Peter Waldo (Founder of the Waldensians) and the 50 million other Christians who were persecuted and slaughtered by the Organized Religion of Christianity (Papacy) in the middle ages and later. Spiritual/Religious Reading Material Warning: The contents of this article anthology may shock and inspire you into developing your spiritual life. Don't let yourself or your friends go without reading this life-changing book!

The idea that we can partner with God strikes some people as audacious. Others consider it pretentious. Some may think it's downright blasphemous! Can creatures actually partner with God? This book answers that question... in the affirmative. The responses vary and the proposals provoke new insights. Along the way, the ideas break new ground. It turns out "partnering with God" has various meanings and dimensions. The seventy-seven contributors explore this rich diversity in accessible language, deep insight, and multiple stories. Their explorations inspire, elucidate, and motivate! What they're saying... This helpful book provides both important concepts and lived experience that invite us to consider how what we think about God affects how we live in the world. - Sarah Heaner Lancaster, Methodist Theological School in Ohio These essays are insightful, practical, thoughtful, and worth our consideration. Each author brings unique insights into the divine. - Christopher Fisher, God is Open Get a copy of Partnering with God!

This volume contains the papers presented at the 47th Colloquium Biblicum Lovaniense (Leuven, 1998). The general theme of the meeting was the unity of the Gospel of Luke and the Acts of the Apostles. Main papers on this topic were read by R.L. Brawley, J. Delobel, A. Denaux, J.A. Fitzmeyer, F.W. Horn, J. Kremer, A. Lindemann, O. Mainville, D. Marguerat, F. Neiryneck, W. Radl, M. Rese, J. Taylor, C.M. Tuckett, and J. Verheyden. While a large majority of scholars agree that Luke intended his work to cover both the past and the continuing history of Jesus (Gospel and Acts), the essays also illustrate the complexities of this view on the unity of Luke-Acts when it comes to interpret the various aspects of Lukan theology, christology, pneumatology, and ecclesiology, the expansion of the Church in light of its Jewish origins, the genre of Luke-Acts, and the literary and stylistic means Luke used to make his work a unity. In total the volume includes some 40 papers, of which 24 are offered papers: L. Alexander, H. Baarlink, M. Bachmann, D. Bechard, T.L. Brodie, G.P. Carras, A. del Agua, C. Focant, G. Geiger, B.J. Koet, V. Koperski, D.P. Moessner, G. Oegema, J. Pichler, E. Plumacher, A. Puig i Tarrech, U. Schmid, B. Schwank, N. Taylor, P.J. Tomson, S. Van den Eynde, S. Walton, G. Wasserberg, F. Wilk. This collection is an invaluable contribution to current discussions in Lukan study and to a nuanced understanding of the relationship between Luke's two volumes.

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Virtues are in, but the work of Bill Bennett and others says little about specifically Christian virtues. Jonathan Wilson now recounts the recent rise of virtue ethics and provides a compelling Christian account and justification of them. Wilson engages such key figures as Alasdair MacIntyre and Stanley Hauerwas. Focusing especially on the theological virtues of faith, hope, and love, he not only sets forth a closely reasoned intellectual argument but suggests how an embrace of virtue ethics might change the nitty-gritty practice of the church's education, worship, and hospitality. Accessible, informed, and faithful, 'Gospel Virtues' is important reading for all who care about issues of character and community.

In our increasingly xenophobic world, countries are turning away refugees and immigrants. Based on the situation in Kenya, this book offers a countercultural ethic of hospitality and welcome to the stranger, an ethic fraught with dangers and yet filled with great opportunities for transforming our world. Drawing on the scriptural pilgrim motif and specifically on the book of Hebrews, this study paints a picture of refugees not only as needy strangers to be herded into camps, but as brothers and sisters who bring with them treasures and talents that can enrich our understanding of our Christian identity and mission as pilgrims in the world. The hospitality practice seen in Hebrews offers hope and promise not only for refugees themselves but also for the pilgrim church. Like the ancient heroes of faith portrayed in Hebrews, we too live as pilgrims and aliens who await with hope the city whose architect and founder is God. Refugees in fact teach us how to live our pilgrim identity: they become teachers not only for the church in Kenya but also for the body of Christ worldwide.

This volume provides an anthology of about 40 primary source documents that describe the work of religious communities that took care of pilgrims and the sick in the late antique and early medieval world. The project identifies letters, diary accounts, instructions, sermons, travelogues, and community records and rules that give us a window into a world of early communities that saw it as their duty and their privilege to care for the sick, to safeguard the pilgrim, and to host the stranger. Each document is placed in historical, geographical, and social context as it contributes to an emerging picture of these communities. The volume addresses the motivations and practices of communities that risked extending hospitality. Why did these communities take great risks for the socially vulnerable? What stake did they have in pilgrims and the sick? What communal experiences supported and sustained both the communities and their audiences? How was hospitality cultivated?

Charity is a central concept of Judaism and a hallmark of Jewish giving is to provide for the poor in collective and anonymous ways. This book examines the origins of these ideas in the foundational works of rabbinic Judaism, texts from the second to third centuries C.E.

In Divine Visitations and Hospitality to Strangers in Luke-Acts, Joshua W. Jipp offers an interpretation of the Malta Episode in Acts 28:1-10, an interpretation that highlights the practice of hospitality to strangers within Luke-Acts and the broader ancient Mediterranean world.

The modern cult of celebrity, commencing with Garibaldi, Byron, and Whitman, is compared to the quest for glory in late republican and early imperial Roman society. Studies based on the documentary and literary sources - including the

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"great man," the elite quest for civic honour, the Mediterranean athletic ideal, the ethical curriculum of the gymnasium, and local association values - provide the basis for James R. Harrison to assess the ancient preoccupation with fame, hierarchy, and status. He shows how Paul's gospel of the crucified Christ stood out in a culture obsessed with mutual comparison, boasting, and self-sufficiency. It departed from the self-exalting mores of classical culture and enshrined humility and other-centeredness in the western intellectual tradition. As such, the soteriological power of the cross became an impetus not only for individual moral transformation but also for social change.

"Episcopal priest Elizabeth Geitz delves, through Scripture, right into the heart of welcoming the stranger. Her handouts and forms are helpful. A must read." --The Living Church Fireweed, always the first flower to spring up and bloom in ruins and burned-over places, is Elizabeth Geitz's metaphor for evangelism that comes from the heart. It is the motivation that makes some Christians eager to welcome the stranger and invite people into their churches, while others hang back. In this prequel to *Entertaining Angels: Hospitality Programs for the Caring Church*, Geitz explores this missing ingredient in Christian hospitality, reminding us that in a multi-faith world where Christians wish to honor the validity of other religious paths, we may hesitate to talk about the uniqueness of Jesus Christ. Her book helps both individuals and communities to understand what holds them back from evangelism and discover the path that is right for them. This book unfolds in three sections. In the first we look at the factors that inhibit our evangelism, including the awareness that we live in a pluralistic world and do not wish to offend those with other faith commitments. Geitz offers both reflection and exercises to help us discover our own motivation for evangelism. Part 2 addresses the question of context. Where does evangelism take place, and for whose benefit? To what sort of communities do we invite those to whom we reach out? Section 3 focuses on the uniqueness of Christian hospitality and describes the nuts and bolts of newcomer ministry and the programs needed to sustain Christian hospitality in a pluralistic society. It includes workshop and group process material.

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What would a theology of the Church look like that took seriously the fact that North America is now itself a mission field? This question lies at the foundation of this volume written by an ecumenical team of six noted missiologists—Lois Barrett, Inagrace T. Dietterich, Darrell L. Guder, George R. Hunsberger, Alan J. Roxburgh, and Craig Van Gelder. The result of a three-year research project undertaken by The Gospel and Our Culture Network, this book issues a firm challenge for the church to recover its missional call right here in North America, while also offering the tools to help it do so. The authors examine North America's secular culture and the church's loss of dominance in today's society. They then present a biblically based theology that takes seriously the church's missional vocation and draw out the consequences of this theology for the structure and institutions of the church.

WHAT HAPPENS WHEN TWO SEMINARY PROFESSORS LEAVE their classrooms and spend time among the homeless people and teach on city streets? In this unique collection of essays and sermons, Stanley P Saunders and Charles L. Campbell reflect on their encounters with the homeless folks in Atlanta and seek to discern the way of Jesus on the streets of the city. These passionate, often moving writings demonstrate the power of Scripture to shape the way we see the world, and they explore the significance of social location for exegesis, ethics, worship, and preaching. From the perspective of the street, central Christian practices such as baptism, Eucharist, and preaching come to life in new ways. Scripture takes on fresh meaning too, while ancient insights into the principalities and powers, the practice of scapegoating, and the organization of households become contemporary and immediate. Even theological themes--grace and discipleship, sin and forgiveness, crucifixion and resurrection--look different when taken to the street. Accented by six powerful artworks from Christina Bray's exhibit *Street Prayers/Spiritual Journeys*, this book also sheds light on the problem of homelessness in America and calls the church to action. Through their reflection on personal experiences and their interpretation of biblical texts, Saunders and Campbell provide meaningful theological categories for addressing pressing social issues in the urban context, making *The Word on the Street* a helpful resource on the realities of poverty, race, and injustice.

By examining the Biblical customs connected with food, Juengst discovers new meaning in familiar passages and presents six theological themes related to food and feasting. Palmer says that Juengst shows "how food is woven as intricately as faith into the entire fabric of our lives".

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God is a missionary God. God is also hospitable in his nature. He makes his enemies friends and invites them to intimate communion. The mission of God in Scripture often occurs through hospitality when God's people encounter the not-yet people of God at table or in hospitable environments and invite them to believe. This motif of mission as hospitality plays out through the Old and New Testament Scriptures, and through the Eucharist. It can also be observed through the witness of monks and contemporary missionaries who embraced a hospitable approach to mission. For the church to participate in God's mission today, a vision to win, conquer, or change the world should be exchanged for a conviction to welcome the stranger and make room for others while proclaiming the gospel—that is, to imitate the hospitable God in mission.

Hospitality: a social lens follows on from the unique contribution made by *In Search of Hospitality: theoretical perspectives and debates*. It progresses debate, challenges the boundaries of ways of knowing hospitality, and offers intellectual insights stimulated by the study of hospitality. The contributing authors provide tangible evidence of continuing advancement and development of knowledge pertaining to the phenomenon of hospitality. They draw on the richness of the social sciences, taking host and guest relations as a means of studying in-group and out-group relations with and between societies. The chapter contributors represent a multi-disciplinary, international grouping of leading academics with expertise in hospitality management and education, human resource management, linguistics, modern languages, gastronomy, history, human geography, art, architecture, anthropology, and sociology. Each lends their expertise to apply as a social lens through which to view, analyse, and explore hospitality within a range of contexts. Through this process novel ways of interpreting, knowing and sense-making emerge that are captured in the final chapter of the book, and have informed future research themes which are explored.

Ubuntu is a dynamic and celebrated concept in Africa. In the great Sutu-nguni family of Southern Africa, being humane is regarded as the supreme virtue. The essence of this philosophy of life, called ubuntu or botho, is human relatedness and dignity. The Shona from Zimbabwe articulate it as: I am because we are; I exist because the community exists. This volume offers twenty-two such reflections on practicing ubuntu as it relates to justice, personhood, and human dignity, both in Southern Africa, as well as in a wider international context. It highlights the potential of ubuntu for enriching our understanding of justice, personhood, and human dignity in a globalizing world. (Series: International Practical Theology, Vol. 20) [Subject: African Studies, Religious Studies]

Here Jerome Murphy-O'Connor presents a completely new, and much more vivid and dramatic account of the life of Paul than has ever previously been attempted. From his childhood in Tarsus and his years as a student in Jerusalem to the successes and failures of his ministry, this biography has no peer in terms of its detailed reconstructions of Paul's movements and motives. Traditionally, the Acts of the Apostles has provided the framework for the lives of Paul. In recent years, however, the historical value of the Acts has been called into question. Despite the accuracy of many details, they have been linked in ways which reflect the interests of Luke rather than objective reality. Critical assessment is called for if they are to be incorporated into a

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life of Paul. The prime source for a reconstruction of the Apostle's life must be his own writings. Recent advances in the study of the letters have brought to light new depths which enables them to be used for biographical purposes. The originality of this book lies in the combination of these two approaches, which are reinforced by close attention to the social and cultural aspects of Paul's ministry as revealed by archaeology and contemporary texts--and it transforms a fountain of theological ideas into a human being. Essential guide for the church act as the agent of reconciliation between God and humanity and men and women to one another
New Testament Hospitality Partnership with Strangers as Promise and Mission Wipf and Stock Publishers Old Testament Ethics A Paradigmatic Approach Westminster John Knox Press

In this book the author contends that communal holiness is the central theme of the vine metaphor in John 15:1-17. Illumination of the Johannine vine metaphor is illustrated by drawing on background information on the vine and its metaphorical usage in the Ancient Near East, Old Testament, and Second Temple Period and to suggest understanding in light of the communal holiness of the covenant people of God. Comparing the themes of holiness and corporateness pertinent to the covenant the book also reflects the covenant with Israel in relation to John's understanding of the people of God. The notion of covenant, which embraces reference to the people of God as vine/vineyard in the Old Testament and Second Temple Period, underlies John's vine metaphor. The book focuses research on ANE viticulture to determine the context(s) of when the vine was used to refer to Israel in a covenant relationship with God. In this historical context the Johannine vine metaphor receive fresh meaning and relevance for the people of God.

Drawing on the experience of migrant women domestic workers, theological ethics, and liberationist theologies, this book offers an intercultural theology of migration that arises from the (dis)continuities, (im)mobilities, and (dis)empowerment embedded in the encounter between gender, class, race, culture and religion in the context of migration.

1 Timothy is one of the more controversial documents in the New Testament. For years, critical scholars have rejected Pauline authorship, highlighted the apparent misogynistic quality of the text, and argued against any coherence in the letter. Jeon takes a fresh look at the letter, incorporating many recent advancements in NT scholarship. In detail he demonstrates the macro- and micro- chiasmic arrangement of the entire letter and explains how the presumed first-century audience would have heard and responded to an oral performance of the letter. In doing so, Jeon offers a fresh challenge to more popular ways of (mis)understanding the letter and points a way forward for appropriating the letter both in academia and in the church.

Built on the writings of the early church fathers, these essays--created in honor of Thomas C. Oden--span theological perspectives that emphasize what various Christian traditions hold in common. Edited by Kenneth Tanner and Christopher A. Hall.

Thompson's study uncovers descriptions of the church that emphasize certain characteristics presented in the opening scenes of the narrative: the blessing and presence of God, the unanimity of the believers, the communal caring for one another, and the proclamation of the gospel.

Building on the themes established in the first two volumes of Paul and the Uprising of the Dead, Pauline Solidarity explores: (a)

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how the Pauline faction transforms relationships within the household unit in the new transnational family of God; (b) how dominant cultural conceptions of honor are rejected in the embrace of shame in the company of the crucified; (c) how vertical practices of patronage are replaced with a horizontal sibling-based political economy of grace; and (d) how the gospel of the Caesars is overcome by the lawlessness of the good news that is being assembled in an uprising of life among the left for dead. Along the way, many of the traditional themes associated with Paulinism (grace, justice, love, loyalty, sin, flesh, death, Jesus, spirit, life) are reexamined and understood as core components of a movement that was spreading among vanquished, colonized, oppressed, dispossessed, and enslaved peoples who were finding new (and treasonous) ways of organizing themselves in order to be life-giving and life-affirming, and in order to counter all the death-dealing structures of Roman imperialism.

Why have so many churches started community gardens over the past decade? Are they simply a fad? Or do community gardens somehow connect more deeply with the mission of the churches that launch them? What can churches and faith-based institutions interested in starting community gardens learn from those that have started their own gardens over the past decade? And what would it mean for a church to put Christ in the center of its community gardening efforts? In order to discern best practices for launching Christ-centered community gardens moving forward, *Cultivating Neighborhood* begins with a brief survey of the history of community gardens in the United States and builds a constructive theological framework for community gardening grounded in the practice of Christian hospitality. It continues with two case studies of church-sponsored community gardens and one case study of a community garden sponsored by a Christian college, all three of which were created between 2003 and 2011. The results of this research conclude with a new definition of Christ-centered community gardening and an outline of fifteen best practices for launching a Christ-centered community garden.

John Koenig presents a rich variety of prayer practices that reflect the real prayer experience of Christ and his followers.

Recapturing the earliest believers' extraordinary encounters with the Holy, Koenig offers prayer as instruction for the mind, renewal of the spirit, and help in effecting positive change in one's life.

A look at the way meals of various sorts can be more effectively integrated into parish activities, promoting the emergence of new gifts for ministry as well as increasing our gratitude for God's abundance and the works of justice and mercy that follow from our expressions of thanksgiving.

Practicing hospitality is central to building a civil society, not to mention living a Christian life. It can be enriching and joy-filled, but it can also be profoundly demanding and sometimes even dangerous. In *The Limits of Hospitality*, Jessica Wroblewski explores the ethical questions surrounding the practice of hospitality, particularly hospitality that is informed by Christian theological commitments. While there is no algorithm that distinguishes between ethically 'legitimate' and 'illegitimate' boundaries, the variety of circumstances in which hospitality is relevant and the nature of hospitality itself make advocating firm and fixed boundaries difficult. How much more so for Christians, for whom the practice of hospitality should be a manifestation of agape, a participation in God's eschatological welcome extended to all people through Jesus Christ! Are limits to hospitality, then, merely a regrettable

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concession to our finite and fallen condition? Wroblewski offers a rich theological reflection that will interest anyone who has a role in the practice of hospitality in community? Whether such communities are families, households, churches, educational institutions, or nation-states.

Using five different Old Testament stories as paradigms for correct ethical behavior, Waldemar Janzen provides a comprehensive way of understanding the ethical message in the Old Testament. The five models of the good life he uses are the holy life (the priestly paradigm), the wise life (the sapiential or wisdom paradigm), the just life (the royal paradigm), the serving and suffering life (the prophetic paradigm), and the familial paradigm. Janzen demonstrates that all five paradigms are linked because the familial paradigm represents the comprehensive end of all Old Testament ethics.

Former colleagues and students honour Prof. Dr. A. van de Beek with contributions in this Festschrift on themes that have become central in his theology: christology, theology of Israel, eschatology, theology of the church, creation theology, and freedom of religion.

Drawing on her own experience of befriending a person suffering from a long-term mental health challenge, Priscilla Oh reflects on the meaning of care and friendship theologically. Using autoethnography, she goes beyond the personal experience and examines various issues surrounding mental health. Hospitable Witnessing candidly takes readers into the everyday life of being with a mentally ill person. There are emotional challenges and contingencies in sustaining friendship and caring for a person with a long-term mental health problem. Oh points out that those who care for a loved one during a long-term illness inevitably experience "burnout" resulting from the constant care requirements. Under such an enormous disruption, we need to be compassionate toward another's suffering and be willing to be present and available for them. This book suggests our need of one another and identifies three important Christian practices: caring as we are being made in the image of God, compassion as being present with the sufferer, and lament as to revitalize our faith and hope.

Conversion is a main theological theme in the Lukan corpus. Since much attention has been paid to the issue in Acts, the present work shows how the evangelist also conveys his theological emphasis on conversion in his gospel through material either unique to it or that Luke has edited to this purpose. Attention is paid to the different issues involved in Luke's emphasis on conversion and an attempt is made to place them within the larger spectrum of his theology. The grouping of all these elements provides the basis for constructing Luke's paradigm of conversion.

Festschrift in honour of Gabriele Dietrich of Tamil Nadu Theological Seminary, social activist and feminist; contributed articles on diverse aspects predominantly on social status of women and feminism in India.

Examines how the experience of taking part in the work of the parish by collaborating on various committee and advisory boards or in ministry programs, both within and outside its boundaries, can be a context through which people's faith is enhanced and strengthened.

Though "community" has become a common byword in the contemporary Western church, the practice of communal sharing has effectively fallen by the wayside. Unfortunately, it is often the poor who are left wanting because we no longer come together. Reta Halteman Finger finds a solution to this modern problem by learning from the ancient Mediterranean Christian culture of community. In the earliest Jerusalem church, in holding the responsibility for preparing and serving communal meals, women were given a place of honor. With the table fellowship and goods sharing of the early church, Luke says, ???there were no needy persons among them??? (Acts 4: 34). Finger thoroughly examines this agape-meal tradition, challenging traditional interpretations of the ???community of goods??? in the Jerusalem church and

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proving that the communal sharing lasted for hundreds of years longer than previously assumed. "Of Widows and Meals" begins a discussion of need in community that can revolutionize the contemporary church's interaction with the world at large.

The painful reality faced by refugees and migrants is one of the greatest moral challenges of our time, in turn, becoming a focus of significant scholarship. This volume examines the global phenomenon of migration in its theological, historical, and socio-political dimensions and of how churches and faith communities have responded to the challenges of such mass human movement. The contributions reflect global perspectives with contributions from African, Asian, European, North American, and South American scholars and contexts. The essays are interdisciplinary, at the intersection of religion, anthropology, history, political science, gender and post-colonial studies. The volume brings together a variety of perspectives, inter-related by ecclesiological and theological concerns.

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