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# The Wisdom Of Stability Rooting Faith In A Mobile Culture

## Jonathan Wilson Hartgrove

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### **The God Who is Here** David C Cook

This book hails from decades of challenging trial-and-error work, abundant reading, and an enduring obligation to ministers, activists, and unsung lay heroes whose legacies matter. As there is little that actually addresses the elusive meanings, if not the dangers inherent in pursuing alleged spoils of “success,” it is kairos time. Seemingly scarce resources and competition to make and maintain ministries in the city challenge those of us in the field, or on the sidelines, to speak, write, and communicate clearly, and convincingly—not only for ourselves and our “people,” past and present, but for those who come along soon to receive the baton or wear the mantle. Concretely narrated, with unique case studies,

a cast of dozens contribute their earthy, earnest testimonies and are, at long last, energetically affirmed. Specifically, this work proffers constructive attention to the critical cautions concerning subtle temptations to “succeed,” including: commodification, cooptation, communalism, clientelism, and cowardice—and, not bailing on fierce charity-justice tensions (with benevolence protectively dominant). Narrative analysis and biography-as-theology, social ethics, biblical theology, and recent church history give apt attention to how a compelling case is possible for success, if justice is practiced, given a hopeful realism and perspective of prophetic eschatology.

### Hopeful Realism in Urban Ministry The Wisdom of Stability

In a rootless world, we long for a place where we find peace, rest, and belonging. The soil of our society is not particularly well-suited for growing deep roots of character and Christian identity. The consistent pattern of uprooting our lives and families for a new job, a new opportunity, a new church has left our roots damaged, our friendships weak, and our souls drained. We long for a place

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where we are known, loved, and even challenged to live more fully. The longing for home, for place, for rootedness is ultimately a longing for Jesus. Wrestling with the biblical themes of land and exile, *Rooted: Growing in Christ in a Rootless Age* is a call to grow more at home in our true home, Jesus Christ. Walking along with Israel from Eden through the Exodus to the Exile, Stephen C. Shaffer shows how God both rooted and uprooted his people so that they would find their identity and center in God.

The Wisdom of Stability Indiana University Press  
Evangelicals are increasingly turning their attention to such issues as the environment, international human rights, economic development, racial reconciliation, and urban renewal. The New Evangelical Social Engagement maps this new religious terrain and spells out its significance.

*God's Economy* Xlibris Corporation  
Present is an invitation to a deeper, richer, quieter life with God. So often we sleepwalk through our days, but there is a tremendous gift in practicing awareness right where we are. In a world marked by transience, envy, and rootlessness, committing to staying put is a radical, unusual act. Hungry for rootedness, Courtney Ellis and her family decided to truly commit to a place and a people God had given them for a season, to grow some deep roots and discover what it would mean to be "all in." Through winsome storytelling, Courtney demonstrates that there is tremendous growth when we stop holding a community at arms' length and open ourselves to the blessing of stability, the grace of limits, and the joy of presence. This book is divided into these three major sections, with chapters devoted to each of the gifts that come with our increased attention to being all in--fully present, right where we are. Join Courtney for a thoughtful, funny, and realistic exploration

of stability, limit, and presence as means of grace. Journey deeper into the heart of God that calls us to cultivate community--being present to what God has placed before us--and discovering the gifts of the present. Delve into reasons readers might experience transience, how to press in when called to that, and how to know when it's time to move on. Explore the ways borders and boundaries in our lives are for our good. When we are able to say, "This is my place, and these are my people," and then, like Ruth, really commit, beautiful things can happen. With humor and honesty, Courtney draws in readers who are longing for that rootedness, trying to figure out how to make this place their own--in other words, those who are figuring out how to be all in, right where they are, for the time God has given them.

**The New Parish** Rowman & Littlefield

Jesus Told Us Where to Find Him. Just Look for an Outcast. His first followers knew that Jesus could be found with the fatherless, the widows, and the hungry and homeless. He said that he himself was a stranger, and commended those who welcomed him. If he really meant these things, what would happen if you opened your door to every person who came with a need? Jonathan and Leah Wilson-Hartgrove decided to find out. The author and his wife moved to the Walltown neighborhood in Durham, North Carolina, where they have been answering the door to anyone who knocks. When they began, they had little idea what might happen, but they counted on God to show up. In *Strangers at My Door*, Wilson-Hartgrove tells of risks and occasional disappointments. But far more

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often there is joy, surprise, and excitement as strangers become friends, mentors, and helpers. Immerse yourself in these inspiring, eye-opening accounts of people who arrive with real needs, but ask only for an invitation to come in. You will never view Jesus and the people he cares about the same way again.

Approaches to Monasticism in the Context of Christian Responses to Modern Culture

Rose Publishing

What can we do when we feel stuck? Sam Van Eman has found that our spiritual lives need disruptive experiences to jolt and reorient us. Filled with concrete examples of how ordinary people are shaped by pursuing these out-of-the-ordinary experiences, this book provides a path to deeper faith on purpose.

**God's Country** LIT Verlag Münster Churches everywhere are suffering from draconian funding cuts, so how do leaders with a heart for alternative ministries fund their passion and build communities that will last? Journalist and commentator Becky Garrison looks deep into the experience of nearly a dozen ministries in the United States and United Kingdom – all of them geared to the growing spiritual-but-not-religious demographic, and all of them highly creative ventures doing a lot with a little money. How did these ministries start from zero with \$0? And how could you? -- Becky Garrison

**Threshold of Discovery** Wipf and Stock Publishers

In today's fast-food world,

Christianity can seem outdated or archaic. The temptation becomes to pick up the pace and play the game. But Chris Smith and John Pattison invites us to leave franchise faith behind and enter the kingdom of God, where people know each other well and love one another as Christ loves the church.

Post-Traumatic God Brazos Press

The first detailed exegetical treatment of Paul's letters from the emerging discipline of missional hermeneutics, Michael Gorman's *Becoming the Gospel* argues that Paul's letters invite Christian communities both then and now to not merely believe the gospel but to become the gospel and, in doing so, to participate in the life and mission of God. Showing that Pauline churches were active public participants in and witnesses to the gospel, Gorman reveals the missional significance of various themes in Paul's letters. He also identifies select contemporary examples of mission in the spirit of Paul, inviting all Christians to practice Paul-inspired imagination in their own contexts.

**The Routledge International Handbook of Education, Religion and Values** Wipf and Stock Publishers

Find a way back to a God that can be trusted, loved, and worshipped

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after a traumatic event.

Seeing Jesus in East Harlem

Routledge

Church leaders need to show up, stay put, and see what God is doing in their midst. Pastor José Humphreys recognizes how deeply our faith is tied to our particular stories in our particular places. Combining spiritual formation with activism, vivid narrative with exhortation, and realism with hopefulness, Humphreys offers pastors and church planters a thoughtful look at discipleship in a complex world.

Radical Hospitality Paraclete Press

American Theological Inquiry (ATI) reaches thousands of Christian scholars, clergy, and other interested parties, primarily in the U.S. and U.K. The journal was formed in 2007 by Gannon Murphy (PhD Theology, Univ. Wales, Lampeter; Presbyterian/Reformed) and Stephen Patrick (PhD Philosophy, Univ. Illinois; Eastern Orthodox) to open up space for Christian scholars who affirm the Ecumenical Creeds to contribute research throughout the broader Christian scholarly community in America and the West. The purpose of ATI is to provide an inter-tradition forum for scholars who affirm the historic Ecumenical Creeds of Christendom to constructively communicate contemporary theologies, developments, ideas, commentaries, and insights pertaining to theology, culture, and history toward reforming and elevating Western Christianity. ATI seeks a critical function as much or more so as a quasi-ecumenical one. The purpose is not to erase or weaken

the distinctives of the various ecclesial traditions, but to widen the dialogue and increase inter-tradition understanding while mutually affirming Christ's power to transform culture and the importance of strengthening Western Christianity with special reference to Her historic, creedal roots.

"Theologians, would-be theologians, and the theologically attentive will want to check out American Theological Inquiry." ~ Richard John Neuhaus (1936-2009), First Things

*Becoming the Gospel* Peniel Press

Voted Best Book of 2010 by Englewood Review of Books "In whatever place you live, do not easily leave it." -Abba Anthony In an age where we might email a friend in Africa, skype a co-worker in Brazil, and teleconference with people in different time zones-all in one day-the sheer speed of life can be dizzying. Like children stumbling off a merry-go-round, says Jonathan Wilson-Hartgrove, we are grasping for something to anchor our lives in a sea of constant change. In *The Wisdom of Stability*, Wilson-Hartgrove illuminates the biblical and monastic understanding of why staying in one place is both a virtue and good for you. "For the Christian tradition," he writes, "the heart's true home is a life rooted in the love of God."

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When we cultivate an inner stability of heart - by rooting ourselves in the places where we live, engaging the people we are with, and by the simple rhythms of tending to body and soul - true growth can happen. The Wisdom of Stability is a must-read for pastors, leaders, and anyone seeking an authentic path of Christian transformation.

### Emergence Christianity

InterVarsity Press

Headlines rage with big stories about big churches. But tucked away in neighborhoods throughout North America is a profound work of hope quietly unfolding as the gospel takes root in the context of a place. The future of the church is local, connected to the struggles of the people and even to the land itself.

*Present* Thomas Nelson

Small Batch explores the emerging denominational movement into planting missional communities. As the church finds its way into the new millennium, it is faced with the need to think of its mission as an ancient future Christian community. Theology to practical guide, stories from the front and communities to discover, books to read, and small group study questions make Small Batch a handbook for

individuals interested in the growing movement of planting new Christian communities.

Through the movement of the spirit and shared common life and staying deeply rooted in the ancient practices of Christian community, the denominational church is being reborn in a new mission context. Small batch communities are popping up across the country with a new mission fervor. They are locally focused. They are organic and deeply rooted in the community and derive their strength from the care they give to local concerns. They are sustainable because they begin to find new economies that support the work. Bishop Doyle explores the sending churches that are planting greenfield ministries and multiplying churches who are spinning off new contextually oriented mission communities. What we discover in Small Batch is that the gospel will not be deterred by size or economic realities, and we are even now able to see the future shape of very diverse Christian mission.

*Theology as Retrieval* Wipf and Stock Publishers

- Thoughtful exploration of midlife spirituality through the prism of nature walks
- Study questions for each section

Roger Owens, facing a "dark night of the soul" as he turned forty and

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entered midlife, was encouraged by his spiritual director to think of it instead as a "threshold of discovery." Rather than go on a grand adventure like walking the Appalachian Trail or the Camino de Santiago, he decided to mark his fortieth year by taking forty walks in a nearby nature preserve. With patience and attention, he explored the concerns rising within him: the inevitability of death, his boredom with life, and the reality of his changing faith, changing images of God, and changing sense of self. The result is forty short chapters that weave together insightful stories of his walks with accessible history and practices of Christian spirituality and the lives of saints. This field guide to the spirituality of midlife facilitates readers' personal journeys through questions of faith, purpose, and relationships. It is not solely a memoir, but a work of wisdom literature that uses engaging first-person narratives to explore universal themes and spiritual inquiry. Wise and imaginative, and with study questions for each section, *Threshold of Discovery* is the companion guide for a thoughtful Christian journey.

*Slow Church* Zondervan

The institution of monasticism in the Christian Church is in general decline, at least in so-called "first world" nations. Though there are many reasons for this, monastic leaders are confronted by the reality of fewer communities, monks, and nuns nonetheless. At the same time, many younger Christians

are rediscovering the rich heritage of the monastic tradition. Though they themselves might not be called to join a traditional monastery, they are eager to appropriate monastic practices in their own lives. This had led to a movement known as the "new monasticism" or "secular monasticism." Despite lacking a unified vision and any central organization, these new/secular monastics are attempting, in their own ways, to carry on the tradition and practices of Christian monasticism. As well, there is a movement within historical Christian monasteries to pour new wine into old wineskins. Traditional forms of monasticism are also generally flourishing in developing nations, breathing new life into monasticism. This volume looks at the current monastic landscape to assess where monasticism stands and to imagine ways in which it will grow in the future, leading not only to a renewed Christian monasticism but to new monasticisms.

Paraclete Press

The culture in North America is shifting out from under the Christian church. This book demonstrates how this shift is calling for change in the church and the art of Jesus proclamation. On the one hand, the church is losing its place

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of influence within greater society, but on the other hand, this post-Christian citizenry are more open (less anxious) when faced with many Christian expressions. One particular hope for the church, as it discovers a new life within post-Christendom, will be found in historically grounded, liturgical worship. Welcome to the Table was written by a churchman who is also a citizen of post-Christian culture. It provides a thoughtful discussion of the place of liturgical worship within the culture shift, addressing it thematically and providing specific and practical suggestions for the administration of ancient forms. *Strangers at My Door* Wipf and Stock Publishers

Drawing from Scripture, church history, and the author's own ministry experiences among those who live on the margins, *Vulnerable Faith* bridges the often enormous gap between the conceptual ideal of faithfulness we talk about in church and a genuine, practical, radical obedience to Jesus. "This book is an invitation to radical faithfulness found in willing vulnerability. Jamie Arpin-Ricci guides readers through a process of transformation, which exposes our pretense and promises new life through and beyond the cross of

Christ." –Sister Helen Prejean, CSJ, author of *Dead Man Walking* "The urgency of the invitation to each of us in *Vulnerable Faith* cannot be ignored. In a world of terror and hatred, of protection and retaliation, it is a bold and important reminder to Christians of the radical nature of our witness as followers of Jesus. He is the Word made flesh, the vulnerable incarnation of God's love for each and every one of us." –Jean Vanier, from the foreword "In *Vulnerable Faith* the life of St. Patrick meets the spirituality of the Twelve Steps. It is a surprising, potent and challenging combination, one that Jamie Arpin-Ricci uses to profound effect in setting before us a vision of Christian community characterized by loving vulnerability, sacrificial generosity and a radical welcome of the stranger into the Shalom of God's Kingdom. An inspiring and life-changing book." –Richard Beck, author *Unclean and Slavery of Death* "If you are intrigued by the life of early Celtic leader St. Patrick, and if you see a need for transformation in your own life, *Vulnerable Faith* is your invitation to take some time to explore what greater faithfulness in the

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people of God might look like. paves a way for all of us – on Jamie juxtaposes the life of our own and in community – to St. Patrick with lessons approach a vulnerability learned from AA's Twelve Steps worthy of our redemption. in a way that is refreshing Vulnerable Faith is a primer and challenging. This is not on authentic community, a for the faint-hearted but for personal devotional book, and those who want to take steps an insightful look into the deeper into the love of God. I human heart, all in one" –Amy loved it, was inspired by it Hollingsworth, author of The and recommend it to all who Simple Faith of Mister Rogers take their faith seriously." and Runaway Radical "Jamie –Christine Sine, author of Arpin-Ricci knows only too Return to Our Senses "Using an well that spiritual growth and array of examples that is both transformation are the result wide and deep, Jamie Arpin- of God's grace. In 'Vulnerable Ricci draws us into a very Faith', he masterfully shows deep place. This place of how the 12 Steps help questions, trembling, fear, facilitate an openness to God hope, faith, is at the heart with the life of St. Patrick of our vulnerability. It is in as our guiding example. I this very place that we most heartily recommend this book intimately find God and one to anyone interested in another"–Fran Rossi Szpylczyn, teaching that has stood the Catholic blogger, contributed test of time."–Albert Haase, to Homilists for the Homeless O.F.M., author of Catching "Jamie is an expert Fire, Becoming Flame: A Guide storyteller who with for Spiritual Transformation compassion and imagination "In Vulnerable Faith, Jamie seamlessly weaves together the Arpin-Ricci has found a unique old and the new, the saint and way to blend the life the sinner, the practical struggles of St Patrick to wisdom of the 12 Steps with help us restore our own the timeless wisdom of the dilemma of neglected Scriptures. But his greatest discipleship. Referencing the feat in Vulnerable Faith is 12 Steps model, the reality of showing how transformative Patrick's life and the need spirituality can be woven into for Christ in our own lives the context of restorative slowly unfolds into an community, where it belongs. understanding of how Christ Using the life of Saint fulfills shalom in all the Patrick as his guide, Jamie areas of our lives. We all



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need this book".—Randy Woodley, author of *Shalom and the Community of Creation: An Indigenous Vision* "Vulnerable Faith is a wonderfully creative exploration of missional life that draws from the story of St. Patrick as well as contemporary culture. The artful retelling of the story of St. Patrick is done with imagination and care. Each chapter's installment of the story of the beloved saint is followed by theological reflection that probes and prods the reader toward holiness. This book is a fine resource for clergy, congregations, and missional communities."—Elaine Heath, author *We Were the Least of These* "In this age of self-reliance and faux invincibility, the spiritual discipline of vulnerability is a rare thing indeed. Gently and yet provocatively, Jamie Arpin-Ricci uses the life and teaching of St Patrick to show us that it is only through accepting our common weakness, our brokenness and our unequivocal need for grace that we can find the opportunity for fullness of life and true freedom." —Michael Frost, author of *Incarnate* "With creativity, skill, vulnerability, and insight Jamie Arpin-Ricci reintroduces readers to the risk of Christian faith, the hope of prophetic witness, and the true reward of costly grace for our time. St. Patrick and the tenets of the twelve-step program of Alcoholics Anonymous serve as new and inspiring companions as Arpin-Ricci guides us along the path toward renewing our commitment to be missionary disciples of Christ." —Daniel P. Horan OFM, author, *The Franciscan Heart of Thomas Merton*

*The Power of Place* InterVarsity Press

*Approaches to Monasticism in the Context of Christian Responses to Modern Culture* is a study of how the values and practices of monasticism are being shaped by the shift to a cultural understanding of Christianity in modern times. The values and practices of traditional monasticism are contrasted with those of various expressions of new monasticism against the background of a multicultural and fluid social environment in an effort to find some reciprocal illumination. The study aims to describe monasticism in terms of authenticity and lived religion.