

Books

These books come recommended by ECO mission leaders. Descriptions borrowed primarily from other on-line reviews and links for purchasing provided where available.

General Mission

- ***Western Christians in Global Mission***, Paul Borthwick; www.ivpress.com, www.amazon.com; Missions specialist Paul Borthwick brings an urgent report on how the Western church can best continue in global mission. He provides a current analysis of the state of the world and how Majority World leaders perceive North American Christians' place. (and other books by Paul Borthwick)
- ***The Age of Global Giving***, Gilles Gravelle; <https://missionbooks.org>, www.amazon.com; The Age of Global Giving provides accelerated learning for donors, church leaders, agency leaders, and mission workers. As a result, donors can achieve greater outcomes with deeper satisfaction in their giving and their voluntary work.
- ***On Being a Missionary***, Thomas Hale; <https://missionbooks.org>, www.amazon.com; Hale's practical wisdom is here freely offered to the missionary-to-be and others interested in missions—wisdom hard-earned in Nepal on everything from calling to raising a missionary family to cross-cultural communication.
- ***When Helping Hurts, and Helping Without Hurting in Short-Term Missions***, Steve Corbett and Brian Fikkert Mark; Chalmers Center; www.christianbook.com, www.amazon.com; *When Helping Hurts* articulates a biblically based approach to poverty alleviation. Learn how you can walk with people who are poor in ways that lead to lasting change...Learn how to walk with the poor in humble relationships, rather than providing temporary handouts to them."
- ***Christianity Rediscovered***, Vincent J. Donovan, www.orbisbooks.com, www.amazon.com; Superficially just a good missionary story, in what the author says about the method and content of evangelism; the meaning of the eucharist; and the nature of ministry, we are led back to the question our understandings of the mission of the church in all its contexts.
- ***Changing the Mind of Missions***, James Engel and William Dyrness; www.amazon.com; www.christianbook.com; This book is a clarion call for the recovery of a New Testament mindset concerning missions. Additionally, it seeks to help us all understand the New Testament's missionary God as evidenced in the life of Christ... How did the early church achieve its amazing success? In the words of Dyrness and Engel, they recognized that "the appearance of Jesus Christ as God's messiah" inaugurated or began the "last days

of God's reign on earth" and God's calling out "a people to announce and embody that reign."

- ***The New Global Mission: From Everyone to Everywhere***, Samuel Escobar; www.amazon.com; Escobar describes how the growth of Christianity in Latin America, Africa and parts of Asia is eclipsing that of the Western church.
- ***The Next Christendom***, Philip Jenkins; www.barnesandnoble.com, www.amazon.com; How should we interpret the enormous success of prosperity churches across the Global South? Politically, what will be the impact of new Christian movements? Will Christianity contribute to liberating the poor, to give voices to the previously silent, or does it threaten only to bring new kinds of division and conflict? Does Christianity liberate women, or introduce new scriptural bases for subjection?
- ***Operation World***, Patrick Johnstone et al.; www.amazon.com (can purchase used copies inexpensively through third parties); <https://www.ivpress.com/operation-world> (Purchase new copies, \$24+ and lots of supporting materials/resources); Operation World is the definitive prayer handbook and reference guide. Packed with informative and inspiring fuel for prayer about every country of the world, it is essential for anybody who wants to make a difference.
- ***The Open Secret***, Lesslie Newbigin; www.eerdmans.com, www.amazon.com; Newbigin describes the Christian mission as the declaration of an open secret open in that it is preached to all nations, secret in that it is manifest only to the eyes of faith.
- ***The Gospel in a Pluralist Society***, Lesslie Newbigin; www.christianbook.com, www.amazon.com; What is the Christian message in a society marked by religious pluralism, ethnic diversity, and cultural relativism? Should Christians encountering today's pluralist society concentrate on evangelism or on dialogue? How does the prevailing climate of opinion affect perhaps infect, Christians' faith?
- ***Foolishness to the Greeks***, Lesslie Newbigin; www.christianbook.com, www.amazon.com; This book treats the First World as a mission field, offering a unique perspective on the relationship between the gospel and current society by presenting an outsider's view of contemporary Western culture.
- ***The Hole in our Gospel***, Richard Stearns; <http://www.thomasnelson.com>, www.amazon.com; Marking its fifth year, this anniversary edition of *The Hole in Our Gospel* features new content along with full-color graphics on poverty statistics, a guide for churches on short-term missions and international engagement, and an index of Scripture on poverty, justice, faith in action, and more.
- ***Today's All Star Mission Churches***, Tom Telford; www.christianbook.com, www.amazon.com; Telford's book uses case studies from churches representing a

variety of denominations, sizes, and locations. From the detailed descriptions of the churches' missions history, vision, and programming, readers will glean practical ideas for starting or strengthening missions programs in local churches.

Small Group Studies

- ***Mission: God's Heart for the World***, Paul Borthwick; www.ivpress.com/missions-lbs, www.amazon.com; Borthwick describes how God reaches out--through Jesus and through human ambassadors like us. You'll discover that the call to "missions" is not for a select group but is a part of God's call to every Christian Beginning with Genesis, the Bible is the story of God pursuing his people. In this study guide, you'll explore.

Academic Mission

- ***The Missional Church***, Darryl Guder et al; www.amazon.com; (From the back cover) "... The authors examine today's secular culture and the church's loss of dominance in contemporary 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."
- ***Transforming Mission: Paradigm Shifts in Theology of Mission***, David Bosch; www.amazon.com; Review "The most comprehensive and thorough study of the Christian mission done in this generation, if not this century." --Alan Neely

Short-Term Mission Materials

- ***Short-term Mission***, Brian M. Howell, www.amazon.com; Review "Well-researched, engaging, and insightful, *Short-Term Mission* is an essential resource for STM leaders and participants alike. Filled with thought-provoking case studies and narratives, the conclusions of Howell's research have the potential to significantly redirect the conversation surrounding STM. As such, this text is ideal for church leaders and members, scholars and students, and others interested in the development, impact and future of STM." (Sarita D. Gallagher, *Evangelical Missions Quarterly*, October 2013)"
- ***Maximum Impact Short-term Missions***, Roger Peterson, Gordon Aeschliman, R. Wayne Sneed; www.amazon.com; This book can help mission trip leaders reduce unnecessary exposure (risk) and improve mission trip outcomes for everyone involved, by helping to correctly identify all stakeholder and their three time periods of short-term mission trip responsibility.
- ***From Mission Tourists to Global Citizens***, Timothy A Dearborn; www.amazon.com; Review "'Tim Dearborn is extraordinarily wise. This workbook is an outstanding guide to

help all Christians think more thoroughly about our mission in the world--wherever and however we serve. The questions in this manual are useful for each of us personally, for discussion groups, for congregations. They challenge our assumptions, upset our provincialisms, widen our horizons and deepen our visions. Most of all, this guide ushers us into following Jesus more faithfully--globally and locally." (Dr. Marva Dawn, author of *How Shall We Worship?*)"

- ***Before you Pack Your Bag, Prepare your Heart***, Cindy Judge; www.amazon.com (may be available third party vendors at Amazon) This 47-page paperback was the #1 best-seller in the entire short-term mission field, and for a very good reason. Its thoughtful, relevant 12-lesson Bible study challenges short-termers to prepare their hearts before packing their bags: as servants, with cultural sensitivity, and as team players.

Cross-Cultural Preparation

- ***Serving with Eyes Wide Open***, David A. Livermore; www.amazon.com; Short-term mission trips are a great way to impact the kingdom. Yet they can lack effectiveness because of mistakes or naiveté on the part of participants. In this insightful book, David A. Livermore calls us to serve with our eyes open to global and cultural realities so we can become more effective cross-cultural ministers.
- ***Cross-cultural Partnerships: Navigating the Complexities of Money and Mission***, Mary T. Lederleitner; www.amazon.com, One of the biggest challenges in global mission work is money—not merely the need for it, but working through cross-cultural differences surrounding how funds are used and accounted for. Cross-cultural missteps regarding financial issues can derail partnerships between supporting churches and agencies and national leaders on the ground.
- ***Foreign to Familiar***, Sarah Lanier; www.amazon.com, This book creates within us a greater appreciation for our extended families around the world and an increased desire to better understand them.
- ***Ministering Cross-culturally: An Incarnational Model for Personal Relationships***, Sherwood Lingenfelter and Marvin Mayers; www.amazon.com, In *Ministering Cross-Culturally*, the authors demonstrate that Jesus needed to learn and understand the culture in which he lived before he could undertake his public ministry. The authors examine how this can help us better understand what it means to establish relationships of grace with those from different cultural and social backgrounds.
- ***A Beginners Guide to Crossing Cultures: Making Friendships in a Multi-cultural World***, Patty Lane; www.amazon.com, The global village has arrived. Recent census figures show that communities in the United States are more culturally and ethnically diverse than ever before. And you may be just one of many who find it challenging to build relationships with people from backgrounds unlike your own.

Engaging Muslims

- ***A Wind in the House of Islam***, David Garrison; <https://worldchristian.com>, www.amazon.com; Dr. David Garrison's long-awaited global survey of Muslim movements to Christ reveals that we are in the midst of the greatest turning of Muslims

to Christ in history. Riveting!

- ***Christian. Muslim. Friend: Twelve Paths to Real Relationship***, David Shenk; www.amazon.com; **Winner of the 2016 Christianity Today Book Award for Mission/The Global Church**. Review “Recognizing the friction that can exist between Muslims and Christians, Shenk (A Muslim and a Christian in Dialogue) provides ways for Christians to reach across the religious divide. Shenk spent years as a Mennonite missionary in countries with Muslim populations, including Somalia and Kenya, and this direct experience of interfaith dialogue animates his book. Integrity, honesty, respect, hospitality, trust, and peacemaking become his cornerstones for building relationships with Muslims. (Nov.) --Publishers Weekly, Nov 2014 issue”
- ***The Crescent through the Eyes of the Cross***, Jaboor; www.amazon.com; Review “A war is raging for the minds and souls of Muslims today,” writes Nabeel Jabbour. “The eternal welfare of 1.4 billion people is at stake. They are being pulled in two directions— fanaticism on the one hand and moderation and open-mindedness on the other. How we deal with this window of opportunity will determine our relations with Muslims for generations to come.”

Evangelism and Outreach Materials

- ***Becoming a Contagious Christian***, Bill Hybels; www.amazon.com; Review “...Based on the words of Jesus and flowing from the firsthand experiences of the authors, *Becoming a Contagious Christian* is a groundbreaking, personalized approach to relational evangelism. You will discover your own natural evangelism style, how to develop a contagious Christian character, to build spiritually strategic relationships, to direct conversations toward matters of faith, and to share biblical truths in everyday language. “
- ***Just Walk Across the Room***, Bill Hybels; www.amazon.com (only through third party sellers) “...The highest value in personal evangelism is cooperating with the Spirit, says Hybels. This means playing only the role you’re meant to play---walking when the Spirit says to walk, talking when he says to talk, and falling silent when he suggests that you’ve said enough...With fresh perspectives from his own reflections and experiences collected during his most recent decade of ministry, Bill Hybels shows with convincing and inspiring clarity the power of this personal, richly relational approach to evangelism. (Review excerpt from Zondervan)”
- ***Evangelism Made Slightly Less Difficult***, Nick Pollard; www.amazon.com; “...Along the way, Pollard examines why people think the way they do and provides help for better understanding and challenging non-Christian worldviews. He also answers sketpics' tough questions, offers practical methods for explaining the gospel, and gives suggestions for leading others in their first steps to faith in Christ. “

- ***Finding Common Ground***, Tim Cousins; www.amazon.com; "In more than twenty-five years of ministry and communicating, I have never heard a more concise, graphic, and articulate communicator. Tim is a man of integrity and a man committed to making an impact for Christ in his world." — Stu Weber, pastor and author.
- ***The Celtic Way of Evangelism***, George Hunter; www.amazon.com; North America is today in the same situation as the environment in which the early Celtic preachers found their mission fields: unfamiliar with the Christian message, yet spiritually seeking and open to a vibrant new faith. If we are to spread the gospel in this culture of secular seekers, we would do well to learn from the Celts.
- ***Reaching Secular People***, George Hunter; www.amazon.com (maybe only available through third party sellers); Offering proven strategies for communicating the gospel to people who are atheistic, agnostic, or "ignostic," the author presents a model of a congregation that can successfully convert and assimilate secular or unchurched people.
- ***I Once Was Lost*** by Don Everts and Doug Schaupp; www.amazon.com; Postmodern evangelism is a mysterious and organic process that nevertheless goes through discernible phases, as people cross thresholds from distrust to trust, from complacency to curiosity and from meandering to seeking. Everts and Schaupp describe the factors that influence how people shift in their perspectives and become open to the Gospel.
- ***Out of the Saltshaker and into the World*** by Becky Manley Pippert; www.amazon.com; Postmodern evangelism is a mysterious and organic process that nevertheless goes through discernible phases, as people cross thresholds from distrust to trust, from complacency to curiosity and from meandering to seeking. Everts and Schaupp describe the factors that influence how people shift in their perspectives and become open to the Gospel.
- ***Beyond Awkward*** by Beau Crosetto; www.ivpress.com, www.amazon.com; After spending years working with college students and churchgoers, Beau Crosetto hasn't solved the problem of awkwardness in evangelism. But he's learned how to push through it and how we can set ourselves and those we love at ease as we enter into conversations of eternal consequence.