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Boekbesprekings

Du Toit, D A - Menseregte?

Potchefstroom: Instituut vir Reformatoriese Studie. 20 Bladsye. Prys onbekend

Resensent: Prof A J Antonites

Hierdie publikasie van die hoogleraar in Dogmatiek en Etiek van die Fakulteit Teologie, Universiteit van Stellenbosch, wil die vraag ondersoek of 'n mens teologies wel van menseregte kan praat en wat dit prakties-staatskundig inhoud. Eers grens hy mense-regte as sodanig van bepaalde modelle daarvan asook van die *Kairos*-dokument en *Freedom Charter* af.

Hy tref 'n baie goed beredeneerde onderskeid, naamlik dat die mens geen aansprake of regte voor God het nie, maar wel teenoor mekaar. Wyserig sou mens hier kon bygevoeg het dat die mens wesenlik *Mitsein* is en dat dit nie noodwendig in teenstelling tot die mens-God relasie is nie. Die mens het dus nie net voorregte nie, maar ook regte: Die outeur sien die regte as die onderlinge beskerming van voorregte wat God verleen. Hieruit sien hy 'n sedelike imperatief voortspruit, naamlik dat die voorregte en dus regte beskerm moet word.

Die teenargument dat die Bybel nêrens oor menseregte praat nie, ver-

antwoord die outeur deur aan te dui dat die Bybel ook nie oor veiligheids-gordels en tandepasta praat nie. 'n Ander teenargument dat menseregte die sondige mens verabsoluteer, sny hy af deur aan te toon dat die mens inderdaad self alle regte en eise voor God gekanselleer het. God het egter die mens bly handhaaf in al sy geskape moontlikhede. Die mens het nie 'n duiwel geword nie, maar God noem hom steeds die beeld van God.

'n Teologiese visie op menseregte gaan verder as sekulêre modelle, deurdat dit gaan oor die mens as God se eiendom en beeld, asook die liefdesgebod. Die teologie kan dien as korrekatief op sekulêre modelle.

Die outeur gee ook aandag aan die situasie in die praktiese internasionale politiek. Dit het voorrang gekry veral omdat die mens 'n herhaling wou vermy van die rampe en ellendes van die Tweede Wêreldoorlog. Hoewel die oortuiging ten gunste van menseregte vandag sterker as ooit vantevore is, is daar ook antipatie vanwee teleurstellings met diktature, staatsgrepe, bloedvergieting in Afrika, hulle wat menseregte eis, maar dit self nie toepas nie, ensovoorts. Die Helsinki-verdrag van 1975, meen die outeur, verlaag menseregte selfs tot politieke ruilmiddel.

'n Werk soos hierdie behoort aandag te gee aan die begroning van menseregte. Dit doen die outeur,

maar kon hier heelwat meer van gemaak het, veral met betrekking tot die natuurreg-denke.

Wanneer menseregte formeel gejuridiseer of gekonstitusioneel word, moet gewaak word teen utopiese verwagtings wat kan uitloop op sinisme of skeptisisme. 'n Formele beslag kan nie slaag sonder die burgers van 'n land se sedelike en subjektiewe aanvaarding van die volle verantwoordelikheid van realisasie van hulle antropologiese struktuurmoontlikhede nie. Dit motiveer hy deur die ervaring van lewenskwaliteit as die doel van menseregte aan te dui.

Die aanhalings in die werk is ter sake en goed ingespan. Die werk is logies-sistematies en die leser lees gemaklik. Enigeen wat erns maak met die menseregte-kwessie, sal hierdie werk met vrug kan lees. Ek beveel dit graag aan.

Helberg, J L 1992. Kerkwees as getuie in Suid-Afrika vandag

Potchefstroom: Potchefstroomse Teologiese Publikasies. 237 bladsye. Prys onbekend.

Resensent: Dr H J Botes

TEGNIËSE VERSORGING EN INKLEDING

Die Potchefstroomse Teologiese Skool het hierdie publikasie 'n jaar of twee gelede aangepak. Ook die professore van die Hammanskraalse Teologiese Skool het hierin bydraes gelewer. As doel is gestel: Om kragtens Bybelse en konfessionele eenheid Bybelse Reformatoriese riglyne te trek vir die brandende vraagstukke binne die staatkundig-politieke situasie, sover dit die roeping van die kerk betref.

Vooraf is aan elke skrywer oorgeleë om self sy tema te formuleer en uit te werk. In die voorwoord word in dié verband duidelik gestel dat die artikels nie tegniese-wetenskaplik van aard is nie omdat dit toeganklik wil wees vir die gewone leser. Elke artikel bevat wel 'n kort bronnelys agterin.

Die bundel bestaan uit sestien opstelle wat almal ten doel het om aan te toon op welke wyse die kerk op die verskillende terreine van die samelewing vanuit die Woord van God rigting kan bied in 'n land waarin alles verander.

Elkeen van die artikels dwing tot nadenke en roep ook meteen talle vrae op wat in die Suid-Afrikaanse situasie nie geïgnoreer kan word nie. By wyse van staving van die voorafgaande stelling word kripties op die volgende gewys:

In die eerste hoofstuk: 'Die eis om geregtigheid by die profete' uit die pen van J L Helberg word afwysend gestaan teenoor die bevrydings-teologie sowel as wat skrywer noem *status quo*-teologie.

In 'n hoofstuk wat handel oor 'Geregtigheid in die lig van die Penta-teug' deur F N Lion Cachet, merk die skrywer op dat dit nie net moontlik is nie, maar trouens baie noodsaaklik om 'n akte van menseregte in die lig van die Skrif te formuleer.

H F van Rooy handel oor 'Die Ou Testament en politieke samewerking met nie-Christene'. Die slotsom waartoe die skrywer kom met die oog op die kontemporêre situasie in Suid-Afrika, is dat die kerk deur alles heen, al regeer die heiden, die koninkryk wat steeds moet kom móét verkondig.

In 'n hoofstuk oor 'Rewolusie en Reformasie' deur J A van Rooy word gekonstateer dat rewolusie en reformasie antiteties teenoor mekaar staan. Probleme in Suid-Afrika, al dus die outeur, kan slegs oorkom word deur 'n godsdienstige herlewing.

Hoofstuk vyf, 'Die kerk as mense van die toekomstige eeu, wat leef binne hierdie eeu' deur G J C Jordaan is 'n besondere verdienstelike bydrae in die bundel onder bespreking. Hy waarsku teen die gevare van sekularisering en spiritualisering. Waardeering word deurgaans gewek vir Jordaan se ewewigtige standpuntstelling.

Die artikel deur J J van Rensburg handel oor die uiters aktuele vraag "n Reg tot opstand?" Talle Christene worstel in hierdie dae met die vraag of 'n Christen deel mag hê aan georganiseerde verset. Die artikel stel egter teleur synde dit die brandende vraagstuk nie na behore deurtrap het nie.

In 'n goed oorwoë artikel deur V E d'Assonville oor die ware en valse Kerk volgens artikels 28 en 29 van die *Nederlandse Geloofsbelydenis*, word die leser opnuut gedwing om te besin oor die geweldige betekenis van die kerk van die Here.

Twee behartigenswaardige artikels wat vermelding verdien, is dié van P J de Bruyn en L F Schulze wat onderskeidelik handel oor 'Christelike Sondagviering vir Suid-Afrika' en 'Die invloed van popmusiek op die mens en samelwing'.

Hierdie werkie is aan te bevele - veral vir diegene wat belangstel in politieke en maatskaplike kwessies.

Kultuurverskeidenheid in Afrika/ Cultural diversity in Africa

Potchefstroom: Instituut vir Reformatoriese Studie. 261 bladsye. Prys R25.00

Resensent: Dr H J Botes

Hierdie bundel is 'n versamelwerk wat lesings bevat wat gelewer is by 'n konferensie, aangebied deur die Instituut vir Reformatoriese Studie en die Departement Filosofie van die Potchefstroomse Universiteit vir CHO vanaf 12 tot 14 Mei 1989.

In sy voorwoord tot hierdie werk wys prof B J van der Walt op die vraagstukke wat deur kultuurverskeidenheid opgewerp word. Meteen verklaar hy dat die vraag na hoe die fenomeen van kultuurverskeidenheid positief benut kan word, die groot uitdaging was waarvoor die konferensie te staan gekom het.

In die loop van twintig voordragte word die groot kulturele diversiteit van Afrika onder die soeklig geplaas asook die implikasies wat dit vir die kontinent en sy inwoners inhou. Dit moet aangemerkt word dat die laaste lesing in die bundel nie by genoemde konferensie gelewer is nie.

Eerstens word op Suid-Afrika gefokus. 'n Landstreek wat deur B J van der Walt getipeer word as 'n wêreld in die klein. Die eerste lesing, behartig deur prof J J Snyman van die Randse Afrikaanse Universiteit, is lesenswaardig. Snyman is 'n geleerde van bogemiddelde vermoëns en as sodanig is sy gedagtes altoos behartigenswaardig. In sy inleidende referaat handel hy oor hoe Afrikaners kultuurverskeidenheid sien. Die leemte in hierdie referaat is dat Snyman slegs die siening van 'n bepaalde

faksie (hoewel 'n beduidende faksie, is dit nogtans net 'n segment van die Afrikanerdom) se siening aan die bod laat kom. Hierdie faksie (wat hy aanbied as [al] die Afrikaners?) verteenwoordig diegene wie se denke deur die Neo-Calvinistiese teologie gevorm is. Hy is heeltemal korrek as hy wys hoe hierdie groep die Bybel op fundamentalistiese wyse dienlik maak vir volks- en kulturbeskouings.

Vervolgens het W P Esterhuysen aandag gegee aan die vraag hoe nie-blanke [sic] kultuurgroepe kultuurverskeidenheid sien en beleef. Omdat Esterhuysen se toespraak vóór 1990 (die konferensie het in Mei 1989 plaasgevind) gehou is, word sy diskoers tans as verouderd belewe.

Prof Elaine Botha se bydrae oor die belangrike vraagstuk van kultuurvorming is stimulerend in die sin dat dit baie vrae by die leser laat ontstaan.

By dié konferensie wat sy neerslag vind in die werk onder bespreking, is ook wyer gekyk as net die Suid-Afrikaanse toneel. Die groter Afrika het ook in die gesigveld gekom. Moeilike kwessies, soos byvoorbeeld: Hoe moet die ideaal van godsdiens in en met jou eie kultuur in plaas van buite of langs jou kultuureie verwesenlik word? Hoe kan die Christelike geloof die Afrikakultuur vernuut sonder om dit te vernietig? Kan Christen en Moslem in een land

saamleef? Dit is maar enkele diepsnydende vrae wat bespreek is.

Omdat die PU vir CHO se Instituut vir Reformatoriese Studie ook 'n deelgenoot was van die aanbieding van die tema: 'Kultuurverskeidenheid in Afrika', het die Christelike visie op kultuurverskeidenheid ook ter sprake gekom. Sonder om kultuurverskeidenheid te ontken, word daarop gewys dat die Christelike geloof die moontlikheid open dat Christene van verskillende kulture met mekaar kan gesels tot wedersydse begripsvorming. Dit is dan ook skynbaar by die konferensie as sodanig ervaar.

Hierdie werk is besonder lesenswaardig en word met vrymoedigheid aanbeveel.

Schuurman, I E - Ondernemingsetiek

Potchefstroom: Instituut vir Reformatoriese Studie. 11 bladsye. Prys onbekend

Resensent: Prof P S Dreyer

Die skrywer handel oor die etiese implikasies wat eie aan elke onderneming is. Hoewel daar vroeër haas geen aandag aan hierdie aspek gegee is nie, word dit in die huidige tyd en omstandighede steeds belangriker en dringender.

Die skrywer onderskei tussen 'n doelsetiek, 'n pligsetiek en 'n verantwoordelijkheidsetiek. Die onderkeiding is goed behalwe dat hy 'n ietwat skewe en rigoristiese interpretasie van 'n pligsetiek gee. Hy is 'n voorstander van die derde. 'n Bladsy word aan die verantwoordelijkheidsektore van die onderneming gewy, 'n halwe bladsy aan die rol van die politiek en twee bladsye aan die onderneemer waar hy liefde beklemtoon.

Die geskriffie is uiters kort, maar goed. Dit moet verwelkom en aanbeveel word omdat publikasies van hierdie aard min en van bedenklike gehalte is. In Afrikaans is dit uiters skaars.

Schmidt, W, et al 1987 - *New Age*: Die Macht von Morgen

Neuhausen-Stuttgart: Hänssler. 219 bladsye. Prys onbekend

Resensent: Prof L F Schultze

Die inleiding van die boek is 'n brief van die uitgewer aan die leser waarin die opset van die boek aangekondig word as 'n gewone samestelling van drie afsonderlike aksente:

- * 'n *Analise* van die redes waarom die *New Age*-opvatting so inslag

gevind het (Flöther - 'Die geheime Macht des Psychobooms').

- * *Agtergrondinligting* waarin die opkoms van die 'nuwe denke' teen die agtergrond van die huidige Wes-Europese geesteklimaat geskilder word (Schmidt - 'Zeitenwende - Wendezeit? Der 'Zeitgeist' in Grundzügen und Gegenströmungen').
- * 'n Ervaringsberig van 'n aanhanger van die *New Age* wat tot bekering gekom het en as Christen die opvattinge en gevare van die nuwe denkg rigting teken (Matrisciana - 'Die Götter des New Age').

Formeel gesien, vind ek dit jammer dat ongelyke bydraes hier saam in een bundel verskyn. Die bydraes van Flöther en Schmidt is immers voordrage wat saam slegs 34 bladsye (bl 8-42) beslaan, terwyl die res van die boek (bl 43-203) uit 'n vertaling van Matrisciana se werk bestaan. Aan die een kant is dit verblydend dat Caryl Matrisciana se boeiende en insiggewende outobiografie in Duits verskyn het. Aan die ander kant is dit ongelukkig dat haar *Gods of the New Age* saam met twee voordrage onder 'n ander titel uitgegee is.

Die twee artikels wat die vertaling van Matrisciana se boek voorafgaan, is populêr geskryf. Literatuurverwysings en diepgaande analise

ontbreek. Tog kom kernelemente van die *New Age* duidelik na vore.

Flöther teken die aantrekkingskrag van die *New Age* teen die agtergrond van die leefwêreld van die moderne mens. Die moderne mens leef in angs en spanning onder die dreigende skadu van die atoombom en te midde van toenemende werkloosheid. Bowendien leef hy in 'n 'oop' samelewing, 'n kommunikasiesamelewing, waar die hele wêreld deur die media in die woonkamer ingedra word en grense vervaag. In hierdie omstandighede het die moderne mens twee moontlikhede:

- * Om die harde werklikheid met al sy probleme te aanvaar en, met erkenning van sy eie swakheid en onvolkomenheid, die wêreld soos God dit aan ons toebedeel, te bewerk en te bewaak.
- * Om te droom van 'n nuwe wêreld, 'n nuwe mens, 'n nuwe bewussyn en 'n nuwe utopie.

Van die laaste moontlikheid wil die *gheroes* ons oortuig en baie mense swig voor hierdie aantrekklike alternatief, wat nie werklik nuut is nie maar 'n konglomeraat is van voorstellings 'van die gnostisisme, sjamanisme, animisme, Indiese geheimleer en moderne sielkunde' (bl 12).

Hy wys daarop dat daar in Wes-Duitsland ongeveer drieduisend organisasies en sielkundige sentra is wat vir die moderne mens seminare, werksinkels en terapie aanbied om

in die utopiese wêreld te spring. Vervolgens waarsku Flöther (bl 15-19) teen die gevare wat aan hierdie 'spel met die siel' (bl 15) vir die individu verbonde is, onder andere waaronder persoonlikheidsverlies. Hy skets verder die infiltrasie van die samelewing deur *New Age*-groepe soos dit na vore kom in die inhoud van bestuurseminare, kommunikasie- en leerprogramme, persoonlikheidsontwikkeling en die media (bl 19-20). Hy noem ook by wyse van voorbeeld 'n vyftiental oënskynlik onskuldige organisasies wat hulle in werklikheid met die leer en psigo-tegnieke van die *New Age* besig hou. Vir ons in Suid-Afrika is die interessantste onder die vyftien die 'Gesellschaft zur Förderung der religiösen Toleranz und zwischenmenschlicher Beziehungen'. Die outeur gee geen verdere besonderhede oor die organisasies wat hy noem nie.

Die outeur, wat vroeër self die sin van die lewe in die Verre Ooste gaan soek het (bl 23), getuig dat die ware weg vir die moderne mens alleen in die Christendom te vind is.

Schmidt se artikel is indringender en lê meer die lewensbeskoulike agtergrond van die *New Age* bloot. Hy toon aan dat subkulture van die jeug 'n totaal nuwe weg inslaan, naamlik om toenadering tot ander godsdienste te soek en selfs godsdienstvermenging voor te staan. 'Religionen werden heute erlebt als Reservoir für die

eigene Religiosität' (bl 27). Hierdie kulturele en godsdienstige kruisbestuiving wat tans sigbaar word, kan maklik 'n verlengstuk van die moderne Christelike ekumeniese beweging word en die kerklike landkaart grondig wysig (bl 26). Hoe raak sy opmerking is, word deur die jongste vergadering van die Wêreldraad van Kerke in Canberra bevestig. Hy toon voorts die monisties-panteïstiese en neo-gnostiese aard van die *New Age* aan - allesins 'n lesenswaardige artikel - hoewel nie sonder 'n eksistensialistiese inslag nie ('Sinnantworten sind immer ein Wagnis...' bl 40).

Matrisciana se boek wil ek sterk aanbeveel. Die okkulte kragte van die *New Age* word in haar lewensgeskiedenis duidelik: Die etiese outonomie van die individu, die krag van visualisering, reise buite die liggaam en so meer. Maar ook die almag van God, wat so 'n mens tot Hom terugroep, word in haar boek duidelik. Dan volg haar analise as Christen van die invloed van die *New Age*-denkbeelde soos dit in die onderwys aan die orde kom, 'n konkrete voorbeeld van 'n predikant wat in sy pastorale sorg van visualisering gebruik maak (!) en nog ander aspekte van die moderne 'kosmiese humanisme' wat ons ter harte kan neem.

McDonnell, K & Montague, G T -
Christian initiation and baptism in
the Holy Spirit: Evidence from the
first eight centuries.

Collegetown, Minnesota: The Liturgical Press. 354 bladsye. Prys: \$9-95.

Resensent: Prof H F Stander

Die twee outeurs van bogenoemde boek spel baie duidelik uit wat hulle doelstellings met hierdie studie is. In die eerste plek bespreek hulle die merkwaardige groei van die charismatiese beweging en die nuwe uitdagings wat dit aan die meer tradisionele kerke stel. Hulle haal verskillende internasionale opnames aan wat byvoorbeeld aantoon dat daar in die afgelope 3 dekades ongeveer 123 miljoen Protestante en Katolieke die ondervinding van die sogenaamde 'doop met die Heilige Gees' gehad het, en dat hierdie getal met ongeveer 19 miljoen mense per jaar toeneem. Juis dit het die twee outeurs van hierdie boek laat besluit om weer te gaan kyk na dit wat die Bybel en ander vroeg-Christelike geskrifte oor die 'doop met die Heilige Gees' sê. Hulle wil ook ondersoek wat die moontlike verband tussen die doop met die Heilige Gees en die inlywing van die gelowiges in die Christelike gemeenskap (soos dit vergestalt word in die doop en die Nagmaal) is. Aangesien

beide die charismate en die nie-charismate hulle op hierdie antieke dokumente beroep, het McDonnell en Montague besluit om hierdie geskrifte onder die loep te neem.

Die boek bestaan uit 2 dele: In deel 1 ondersoek George Montague die Nuwe Testament ten opsigte van bogenoemde sake; in deel 2 bestuurde Kilian McDonnell die buitelywige tekste tot in die agtste eeu (hy maak heel tereg nie daarop aanspraak dat hulle al die relevante tekste van die na-Bybelse periode aangespreek het nie). Die outeurs het nogtans verskeie primêre bronne geraadpleeg. Verder is dit ook duidelik dat hulle feitlik alle sekondêre werke oor die onderhawige tema onder oë gehad het.

In kort kom die outeurs tot die gevolgtrekking dat die doop met die Heilige Gees nog altyd 'n integrale deel van die gelowige se inlywing in die Christelike gemeenskap uitmaak het. Juis dit bring hulle tot die oortuiging dat hierdie ondervinding met die Heilige Gees nie net tot die private godsdiensbeoefening beperk behoort te wees nie, maar dat dit deel behoort te vorm van die openbare liturgie. Hulle redeneer ook dat die doop met die Heilige Gees 'n essensiële deel uitmaak van die sakramente wat eie aan die kerk is, en daarom moet die doop met die Heilige Gees ook as normatief beskou word.

Soos so baie boeke uit Pinkster-groeperings wat hierdie tema aanspreek, het ook hierdie werk baie gebreke. Uitsprake wat gemaak word, berus op vooronderstellings, swak Skrifhantering, gebrekkige taalkunde en die foutiewe lees van bronnetekste. Reg van die begin af is dit duidelik waar die outeurs se sentimente lê, en hulle 'slaag' daarin om hul stellings te 'bewys' met talle verwysings uit die Skrif en die Patristiek. Min van hulle 'bewyse' is regtig oortuigend. Laat ons vervolgens na 'n paar voorbeelde kyk:

Montague verwys onder andere na Kolossense 3:16 wat soos volg lui: 'Leer en onderrig mekaar met alle wysheid. Met dankbaarheid in julle harte moet julle psalms, lofgesange en ander geestelike liedere tot eer van God sing'. Oor hierdie teks merk hy op: 'Teaching here is not related to office but seems to presume a charismatic gift; 'spiritual songs' is a possible allusion to tongues'. Hoe op aarde is dit moontlik om te weet dat 'leer en onderrig' in hierdie teks na 'n charismatiese gawe verwys, en nie na 'n kerklike amp nie? Hoe weet ons dat 'geestelike liedere' as glossolalie verklaar moet word? Dit is wel so dat kommentatore nie eenstemmig is oor hoe bogenoemde drie soorte liedere van mekaar onderskei moet word nie. Dit is selfs moontlik dat hierdie drie terme juis nie onderskei moet word nie, maar dat dit toutologies vir een

en dieselfde saak staan en dus bloot in die geheel dui op lofprysing van mense tot God, is te betwyfel.

Op verskeie plekke blyk dit dat die outeurs nie vertrou is met die insigte wat die nuwe taalkunde gebring het nie. So byvoorbeeld brei Montague breedvoerig uit oor die woord *καταρτισμὸν* in Efesiërs 4:12. Hy verklaar dit dan soos volg: 'The root word *aro*, 'to join, adjust', intensified by *kata*, gives the idea of a plenitude achieved by harmonious assemblage of parts'. Hoe Montague op grond van die betekenis van daardie twee samestellende dele van die Griekse woord by hierdie verklaring uitkom, slaan 'n mens dronk. Buitendien kom die woord *καταρτισμὸν* nie van *kata* en *aro* nie, maar wel van *κατὰ* en *ἀρτίζω* ('get ready', 'prepare'). Voorts kon ek die woord *aro* met die betekenis van 'to join, adjust' nie eens in die heel grootste uitgawe van Liddell & Scott se *Greek-English Lexicon* opspoor nie. Maar Montague hou nie hier op met sy etimologie van hierdie woord nie. Hy gaan voort deur te sê dat 'it is used in profane Greek for mobilizing an army' en dan voeg hy by 'this sense fits perfectly here'. Op grond van hierdie 'militêre betekenis' van *καταρτισμὸν* in buite-Bybelse Grieks, verstaan hy hierdie vers as 'to organize the saints for active service in building up the body of Christ'. Hy is hier besig met 'illegitimate totality transfer' deurdat hy kontekstuele

gegewens aanbied as deel van die woord se betekenis.

McDonnell gaan op dieselfde onverantwoordelike wyse om met die buite-Bybelse geskifte. Hy skryf onder andere op bladsy 167 soos volg: 'In the last catechesis before the celebration of the easter *Vigil Cyril* lists "the heavenly charisms" of which the candidates should show themselves worthy. Some of the charisms included are miracles, healing, and tongues'. Cyrillus praat wel van 'heavenly charisms', maar hy sê baie beslis nie dat dit 'miracles, healing and tongues' insluit nie. Dit is McDonnell se afleiding en hy stel dit so dat dit lyk of dit deel vorm van Cyrillus se uitspraak, terwyl Cyrillus byvoorbeeld nêrens in enige van sy werke enige uitspraak maak oor die teenwoordigheid van glossolalie in die gemeentes van sy tyd nie. Trouens, McDonnell se afleiding hierbo rym eintlik nie heeltemal met sy eie opmerking 'n paar bladsye verder (bl 225) wanneer hy sê dat Cyrillus nêrens enige spesiale aandag aan glossolalie gee nie.

'n Mens kry deurentyd die idee dat McDonnell selfs die vaagste verwysings wil aangryp net om te 'bewys' dat die bonatuurlike gawes nog steeds in die Patristiese periode gefunksioneer het. McDonnell haal byvoorbeeld op bladsye 103-104 vir Tertullianus aan wat skryf oor neofiete wat vir gawes gebid het. Die feit dat Tertullianus vervolgens skryf dat die neo-

fiete 'wel ontvang het wat hulle gevra het', is vir McDonnell bewys dat hierdie neofiete sigbare en manifesterende gawes ontvang het. Hy redeneer dat 'n buitestaander slegs deur sulke sigbare tekens sou kon weet dat die neofiete se gebede verhoor is. Weer getuig dit van McDonnell se teologiese vooronderstellings. Hoekom sonder hy die besondere gawes uit as bewys daarvan dat die neofiete se gebede beantwoord is? Kon daar nie ook ander 'sigbare' tekens gewees het soos byvoorbeeld hulle liefde teenoor ander nie? Natuurlik sou so 'n verklaring nie sy teologiese beskouing ondersteun nie!

Soos hierbo genoem, glo die outeurs dat die *doop met die Heilige Gees* 'n integrale deel uitmaak van die *sakrament van die doop*. Wanneer Jesus dus in Lukas 13:11 sê dat 'God die Heilige Gees sal gee vir dié wat Hom vra', redeneer Montague dat die geïmpliseerde lesers van hierdie woorde *gedoopte* mense was. Hy glo verder dat hierdie hele perikoop Jesus se gebed in herinnering roep wat Hy gebid het net ná sy doop toe Hy die Heilige Gees ontvang het (Luk 3:21-22). Montague gaan dus hier op 'n vergesogte wyse te werk om tekste te kry waar die *doop met die Heilige Gees* in verband gebring kan word met die *sakrament van die doop*. Op grond van hierdie oortuiging van hom, redeneer hy dat die hoofstuk oor die gawes van die Heilige Gees in

1 Korintiërs 12 impliseer dat 'some manifestation of the Spirit appears in each of the *baptized*' (bl 68). Geen wonder dat Montague aan die einde van sy afdeling tot die volgende konklusie kom nie: 'Christian initiation of adults (which includes what we now recognize as baptism and confirmation) should therefore follow the pattern in the New Testament and create the expectation not only of an experience of the Spirit but of some charismatic manifestation as evidence of the reception of the Holy Spirit' (bl 80).

Alhoewel daar interessante bronne in hierdie werk aan die orde gestel word, en hoewel daar ook belangrike opmerkings gemaak word, word die waarde van die boek erg verlaag deurdat die outeurs se hantering van tekste en bronne veel te wense oorlaat. Hierdie boek slaag nie daarin om op 'n akademiesverantwoordelike wyse die teologie van die charismatiese beweging en van die Katolieke Kerk by mekaar uit te bring nie.

Boekaankondigings/Book Announcements

TITLE: The Spirit of life: A universal affirmation
AUTHOR: Jürgen Moltmann
THEME: Dogmatics
PRICE: Available from Lux Verbi at R121,95
DATE: 1992

'The *Spirit of life* provides what Moltmann claims has been lacking, "a new paradigm in pneumatology" appropriate for our time. The focus shifts from an anthropocentric to a holistic theology of the Holy Spirit. Spirit is understood in the most fundamental sense as the "energency of life", but also as central to Christian life and essential to the trinitarian life of God. A rich and comprehensive work, this is a fitting contribution to Moltmann's systematic theology – echoing in some ways its original impetus in the theology of hope.'

(Peter C Hodgson)

'Seeking to overcome the dichotomy between revelation and experience, Moltmann develops a theology of the Holy Spirit that links the Christian community's experience of the Spirit to the sanctification and liberation of life. He brilliantly displays the ecological and political significance of

Christian belief in the Trinity.'
(F Schüssler Fiorenza)

TITLE: John among the Gospels: The relationship in twentieth-century research
AUTHOR: D Moody Smith
THEME: New Testament
PRICE: Available from Lux Verbi at R63,95
DATE: 1992

'Moody Smith engages the reader in the intriguing search for a viable solution to one of the most significant problems in Johannine studies. His work reads much like a fascinating mystery story with an army of detectives, trying to solve a perplexing crime, each offering proposed solutions and each refuting the other. Smith is a master of the literature and not only summarizes it well but shows the interrelationship among the views of individual authors along the way and offers insightful critiques of each. He does so in such a way as to make sense of a complex chronicle of theories and counter theories. His clarification of the methodology used in addressing the problem of the relationship of the Synoptic Gospels and the Gospel of John sheds light into

one of the darkest corners of biblical research.'

(Robert Kysar)

'Among Johannine scholars Moody Smith has gained the highest respect for his knowledge of the literature on John, the fairness and perceptivity of his judgments, and the good sense of his own contributions to what has gone before. The relation of John to the Synoptic Gospels is a most complex issue, and I know of no one I would rather have as a guide in this field. This is a book from which all will learn and which will advance scholarship.'

(R E Brown)

D M Smith is George Washington Ivey Professor of New Testament at The Divinity School, Duke University.

TITLE: The four codes of preaching: Rhetorical strategies
AUTHOR: John S McClure
THEME: Homiletics
PRICE: Available from Lux Verbi at R72,95
DATE: 1991

'My intention has been to provide a fresh perspective on preaching, not to create a new homiletical master

model. I am also concerned in this book to develop an approach to homiletics that takes seriously the congregational culture...and the theological role of preaching in that culture...I have written this book with the working preacher in mind.'

(from the Preface)

John S McClure masterfully develops this fresh perspective through four codes or levels of purposeful interaction:

- * The Scripture code promotes sacred memory.
- * The semantic code vouches for the theological truth.
- * The symbolic code sponsors the congregation's theological worldview.
- * The cultural code articulates the religious experience in the congregation.

John S McClure is Associate Professor of Preaching and Worship on the Frank H Caldwell Chair of Preaching and Worship at Louisville Presbyterian Theological Seminary, Louisville, Kentucky.

TITLE: The skilled pastor: Counseling as the practice of theology
AUTHOR: Charles W Taylor
THEME: Pastoral care

PRICE: Available from Lux Verbi at R53,95
DATE: 1991

'Charles Taylor has written a pioneering book, one that is bound to be controversial but undeniably creative and important. By focusing on the neglected topics of pastoral skill and the effects of belief systems in shaping experience, Taylor opens up significant new possibilities for theologically informed, psychologically effective pastoral care and counseling. Through its carefully constructed set of categories and techniques, *The Skilled Pastor* offers a challenging and important new approach to the religious care of persons.'

(Rodney J Hunter)

'In this fine book, Charles Taylor exhibits great skill. He is original in his thinking and thorough in his presentation. His book not only offers the strategies and techniques of good counseling but it also provides an interesting arrangement and extension of these. He never loses sight of the need to tie classical counseling efforts into a pastoral focus. The pastoral counselor who wants to improve or clarify counseling skills will do extremely well to study this book.'

(Paul A Hauck)

Charles W Taylor is Professor of Pastoral Theology at the Church Divinity School of the Pacific, Berkeley, California.

TITLE: Luther and liberation: A Latin American perspective
AUTHOR: Walter Altmann
THEME: Dogmatics
PRICE: Available from Lux Verbi at R53,95
DATE: 1992

Walter Altmann's direct engagement of Martin Luther's historical situation with our own offers a much-needed reassessment of Luther's significance today. Altmann's work provides fresh readings of Luther's central theological commitments and his forays into economics, politics, education, violence and war. It poses important challenges to all those who would hail – or decry – Luther and his legacy.

'A book of depth and passion. Martin Luther emerges from Altmann's scholarship neither as the forerunner of all Latin American good causes nor as the measure of all things but as a "father in the faith" – one who was seized by the liberating power of the Gospel and thrown into the political, social, economic, and religious up-

heavals of this century. Altmann situates Luther's words and ideas, his failures and achievements, in those times and circumstances, and thus makes it possible for us to engage Luther in an intelligent, fruitful, and passionate conversation across centuries. Himself a Latin American partner in this conversation, Altmann not only enables North American readers to know Luther better, but also to know better the questions and concerns that Latin American Christians are addressing to our brothers and sisters in other parts of the world.'

(Jose Miguez Bonino)

Walter Altmann is Professor of Systematic Theology at the Escola Superior de Teologia, Sao Leopoldo, Brazil.

TITLE: The legacy of H Richard Niebuhr
AUTHOR: Ronald F Thiemann (ed)
THEME: Theological Studies
PRICE: Available from Lux Verbi at R72,95
DATE: 1991

One of America's most distinguished theologians, H Richard Niebuhr (1894-1962) has often been overlooked. In such landmark volumes as *The meaning of Revelation* (1941), *Christ and culture* (1951), *Radical*

monotheism and Western culture (1960), *The responsible self* (1963), and the recently published *Faith of earth* (1989), Niebuhr forged a distinctive American theological approach that is receiving renewed attention in this post-foundational era.

Niebuhr's wide-ranging contributions – to confessional identity, theological method, American church history, and social ethics – are here assessed by some of the leading religious thinkers of our day, including the late Hans Frei, Gordon Kaufman, Francis Schüssler Fiorenza, James Gustafson, Harry S Stout, William R Hutchison, Linell E Cady, and Robin Lovin.

Ronald F Thiemann is Dean and John Lord O'Brian Professor of Divinity at Harvard Divinity School.

TITLE: Jesus and the spiral of violence: Popular Jewish resistance in Roman Palestine
AUTHOR: Richard A Horsley
THEME: Ethics
PRICE: Available from Lux Verbi at R72,95
DATE: 1993

From this engrossing portrait of first-century Palestine, Jesus emerges as

the catalyst of nonviolent social revolution that anticipates the renewal of Israel. This fascinating analysis opens up a new perspective of the Roman-dominated Jewish Palestine of Jesus' time, viewing it as an 'imperial situation' in which individual acts of violence were responses to institutionalized repression and injustice.

Richard A Horsley reveals the fiercely nationalistic Zealots as largely the fabrication of historians and exposes the erroneous view of Jesus as the sober prophet of nonviolence. In claiming the presence of the kingdom of God, Jesus aimed at catalyzing the renewal of the people of Israel calling them to loving cooperation amid difficult circumstances of debt and despair to organized resistance to the violence of an imperial situation.

'Horsley's work is certainly a stimulating and vigorously argued treatment of the historical Jesus and is a welcome addition to the contemporary debate. It challenges any contemporary questers to take seriously the social dimensions of the imperial situation in first-century Palestine as the context within which Jesus operated.'

(Harold W Attridge)

Richard A Horsley is Professor of Religion at the University of Massachusetts, Boston.

TITLE: Jesus and the reign of God
AUTHOR: C S Song
THEME: Dogmatics
PRICE: Available from Lux Verbi at R82,95
DATE: 1993

Jesus and the reign of God is a powerful and compelling evocation of the vision and reality of God's reign and its possibilities for the 'transfiguration of life' in faith.

Song's search for a 'vision of life in God', inaugurated in his previous volume, *Jesus, the crucified people*, takes him from ancient Egypt and China to modern Singapore, from Gethsemane to Tiananmen Square and – always – pulls him back to the Gospel stories.

In its earnest and intense quest for religious integrity in a world no longer dominated or defined by Christianity, Song's theology is a startling rebuke to Christologies centered either in historical-critical searches or church doctrines. For him theology is the biography of God, and Jesus' message of God's reign is evident in the densely packed histories

of strangers and outcasts: In an Egyptian Muslim who composed a Christmas carol, in a Korean woman in Japan, in an old musician in a ruined church in China. Engaged by these stories, the reader is pulled ineluctably into the reality they evince. As Song says the reign of God in Jesus 'becomes manifest through movements of people to be free from the shackles of the past, to change the status quo of the present, and to have a role to play in the arrival of the future'.

Choan-Seng Song is Professor of Theology and Asian Cultures at the Pacific School of Religion, Berkeley, and Regional Professor of Theology at the South of East Asia Graduate School of Theology in Singapore and Hong Kong.

TITLE: The assurance of faith: Conscience in the theology of Martin Luther and John Calvin
AUTHOR: Randall C Zachman
THEME: Ecclesiastical history, Ethics, Dogmatics
PRICE: Available from Lux Verbi at R121,95
DATE: 1993

Common wisdom concerning Luther and Calvin suggests these two theo-

gians do not relate the testimony of Christ to the conscience in the same way.

Zachman undertakes the long overdue comparison of their theologies, especially the way in which Luther and Calvin define and describe the conscience and relate this to the testimonies of the Word and the Spirit.

He concludes that although Luther and Calvin have different emphases in their theological treatment of the conscience, they fundamentally agree that the foundation of the peace, assurance, and certainty of conscience lies in the grace of God for us, as revealed to the conscience both by the external witness of the Word of God and the internal witness of the Holy Spirit.

Yet, he is also critical of the distinction that both Luther and Calvin sought to maintain between the foundation of assurance and its confirmation in faith and election because it remained virtually a distinction without any difference in their own theologies and because it could – and was – reversed in later theologies, such as in Beza's *sylogismus practicus*.

Randall C Zachman is Assistant Professor of Reformation Studies at the University of Notre Dame, South Bend, Indiana.

TITLE: Belief in the Word: Reading John 1-4
AUTHOR: Francis J Moloney
THEME: New Testament
PRICE: Available from Lux Verbi at R92,95
DATE: 1993

'Moloney provides us with the first thorough literary commentary on John 1-4 that uses a reader response method. He leads us through the Gospel's narrative and enables us to appreciate it from the inside without disregarding the original historical setting of the writing. This book will be widely read and appreciated in future work on the Fourth Gospel.'

(Robert Kysar)

Francis J Moloney, S D B, is Professor of New Testament at Catholic Theological College, Melbourne, Australia.

This book presents the report of the Lutheran-Reformed Committee for Theological Conversations, 1988-1992. It includes a proposal that full communion be established between the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America and three reformed churches: the Prebyterian Church (USA), the Reformed Church in America, and the United Church of Christ.

'We are suggesting that continuing differences, while not an obstacle to the kind of recognition, exchange, and sacramental hospitality that go with "full communion", are in fact the basis for ongoing mutual theological work. Such dialogue would not be seen as a prelude to some future fellowship, but as a necessary and happy part of the mutually complimentary nature of these two traditions. Moreover, we want to capture a sense of mission urgency which we think confronts all four of our churches at this time and in this culture.'

(from the Preface by the editor)

TITLE: A common calling: The witness of our Reformation Churches in North America today
AUTHOR: Keith F Nickle and Timothy F Lull (eds)
THEME: New Testament, Practical Theology
PRICE: Available from Lux Verbi at R24,95
DATE: 1993

Keith F Nickle is dean and professor of New Testament Studies at Pittsburgh Theological Seminary and is the Reformed co-chair of the dialogue. Timothy F Lull is academic dean and professor of Systematic Theology at Pacific Lutheran Theological Seminary, and is the Lutheran co-chair of the dialogue.

TITLE: Social-science commentary on the Synoptic Gospels

AUTHOR: Bruce J Malina and Richard L Rohrbaugh

THEME: Religious Studies, New Testament

PRICE: Available from Lux Verbi at R97,95

DATE: 1992

'At long last a commentary for the general reader (and the scholar) that illumines the cultural scripts, the dominant values, and the behavioral cues of everyday biblical life!'

(John H Elliott)

'Necessary reading for anyone who seeks to understand the New Testament as did those who first heard it in a cultural world vastly different than ours.'

(Carolyn Osiek)

'Each page sparkles with fresh and satisfying insights; readers quickly gain confidence of being informed visitors to the ancient and strange world of Jesus.'

(Jerome H Neyrey)

Bruce J Malina, is Professor of Theology at Creighton University, Omaha, Nebraska. Richard L Rohrbaugh is Pro-

fessor of Religious Studies at Lewis and Clark College, Portland, Oregon.

TITLE: Social reality and the early Christians: Theology, ethics, and the world of the New Testament

AUTHOR: Gerd Theissen

THEME: Ethics, New Testament, Ecclesiastical History

PRICE: Available from Lux Verbi at R145,95

DATE: 1992

Gerd Theissen inquires into the correlation between the theological and ethical convictions of the first Christians as well as the social realities of the world in which they lived. He expands the form-critical inquiry into the *Sitz im Leben* of early Christian texts to ask about the significance of early Christian convictions in society as whole.

Among the critical questions addressed are the sociology of knowledge, the nature of the discipleship of Jesus, the revolutionary ethic of 'wandering radicals', Jesus' temple prophecy, Paul's images of redemption, the application of phenomenology, integration theory, and the theory of conflict to the study of early Christianity – and more.

This book ultimately has a practical concern: to enable contemporary persons of faith to perceive their social responsibility more clearly in the light of biblical texts.

Gerd Theissen is Professor of New Testament at the University of Heidelberg.

TITLE: Beyond charity: Reformation initiatives for the poor
AUTHOR: Carter Lindberg
THEME: Ecclesiastical History
PRICE: Available from Lux Verbi at R72,95
DATE: 1993

The common stereotype is that the Reformers separated public and private morality and were different to the ethical import of social structures and institutions. *Beyond charity* calls this understanding into question by providing an analysis of the historical situation and translations of primary documents.

The medieval point of view, formed by a piety of achievement, idealized poverty – either as voluntary renunciation or as almsgiving. In either case the material effects on actual poverty were slight, and the religious endorsement of poverty precluded

urban efforts to address this growing problem.

The Reformers, impelled by their theology, developed and passed new legislative structures for addressing social welfare needs. The key to their undertakings was the conviction that social ethics is the continuation of community worship.

In its first half, this book sets forth the medieval context, details Luther's critique of the profit economy of his day, and analyzes the actual social welfare programs that issued from his theology. The second half provides translations of selected legislative programs from the church orders of the Reformation.

Carter H Lindberg is Professor of Church History at the School of Theology and Graduate College, Boston University, Boston, Massachusetts.

TITLE: The Beginning of the Gospel: Probing of Mark in context
AUTHOR: Adela Yarbro Collins
THEME: New Testament
PRICE: Available from Lux Verbi at R53,95
DATE: 1992

Much exciting work remains to be done from the perspectives of the his-

tory of religions and tradition-history. Collins's assessment of Mark in its historical context sheds light on important literary and historical issues. Both scholars and students of the Bible will appreciate the informative and clearly written chapters:

- * Is Mark's Gospel a life of Jesus? The question of genre.
- * Suffering and healing in the Gospel of Mark.
- * Mark 13: An apocalyptic discourse.
- * The passion narrative of Mark
- * The empty tomb and resurrection according to Mark.

Adela Yarbro Collins is Professor of New Testament at the University of Chicago.

TITLE: Introduction to the Talmud and Midrash
AUTHOR: H L Strack & G Stem-berger
THEME: Old Testament
PRICE: Available from Lux Ver-bi at R106,95
DATE: 1992

Strack's classic introduction to Rabbinic literature has now been fully revised and updated by Gunter Stemberger, an established expert on Rabbinic history and literature. This work,

the only comprehensive one-volume introduction to the subject, will be invaluable as textbook and reference guide for students and scholars of Jewish history and literature alike.

'Stemberger's monumental updating of Strack will rank as the first and foremost introduction to the literary study of formative Judaism. Every canonical document is represented here, and all scholarship on each text will commence with Stemberger's account of what we know. It follows that before us in these pages we have the single most valuable introduction to ancient Judaism, its literature and its hermeneutics, that is now in print. For this work of industry, hard work, but also wit, intelligence, judgment, and insight, Stemberger takes a place in the front ranks of scholars in his field.

(Jacob Neusner)

Gunter Stemberger is Professor of Jewish Studies at the University of Vienna. H L Strack (1848-1922) was Professor of Old Testament at the University of Berlin.

TITLE: Karl Rahner: Theologian of the graced search for meaning
AUTHOR: Geoffrey B Kelley (ed)
THEME: Dogmatics

PRICE: Available from Lux Verbi at R63,95
DATE: 1992

Geffrey B Kelly is Professor of Systematic Theology at LaSalle University, Philadelphia.

Karl Rahner's (1904-1984) vast erudition, deeply creative proposals in all the key theological areas, and pervasive influence made him one of the giants of twentieth-century theology. Yet the very depth and extent of his contributions have made reading Rahner a formidable test of one's interest.

Geffrey Kelly's anthology of Rahner's writings overcomes the obstacles beautifully. Like prior volumes in this highly praised series, *Karl Rahner* features a lengthy Introduction, which situates Rahner's thought firmly in his biography and spirituality. The Select Bibliography neatly organizes the vast work by and on Rahner. And the Selected Texts are creatively chosen, strategically beginning not with Rahner's philosophical anthropology but with the spiritual life. Together they comprise something of a mini-*summa* of Rahner's contributions to the chief areas of theology: prayer and the spiritual life; grace and freedom; revelation and the development of dogma, the doctrine of God, Jesus Christ; the Holy Spirit; the church; sacrament and symbol; Christian Faith, praxis, and martyrdom; methodology in theology.

TITLE: Galatians: A Continental commentary
AUTHOR: Dieter Lührmann
THEME: New Testament
PRICE: Available from Lux Verbi at R121,95
DATE: 1992

The long-awaited commentary by Dieter Lührmann is now available to English-speaking audiences for the first time. It is a profound, succinctly written dialogue with the text that carefully follows the main points of Paul's arguments in his most controversial letter. The author presents a theological interpretation which takes seriously Paul's claims about the gospel and also provides a distinctive outline based on this close reading of the text. Also included are helpful discussions of the competing theologies of Paul and his opponents, a chart on Paul's career, and a map of the Roman world. Lührmann is a highly acclaimed interpreter of the New Testament. This volume will be a valuable addition to a well-received commentary series.

Dieter Lührmann is Professor of New Testament at Marburg University, Germany.

TITLE: The text and the times:
New Testament essays
for today
AUTHOR: Robin Scroggs
THEME: Bible Study, New Testament,
Homiletics
PRICE: Available from Lux Verbi
at R90,00
DATE: 1993

This masterful collection of provocative and pioneering studies relates the New Testament to social theory, gender issues, sexuality, and personal integrity. It chronicles the work of a New Testament scholar who is not only conversant with the academic guild but actively engaged in the issues of our day and the concerns of the church. The reader will find a rich variety of innovative approaches and stimulating topics.

Robin Scroggs is Edward Robinson Professor of Biblical Theology at Union Theological Seminary, New York.

TITLE: The religion of Jesus the Jew

AUTHOR: Geza Vermes
THEME: Ethics, Old Testament,
New Testament
PRICE: Available from Lux Verbi
at R65,00
DATE: 1993

More than any other scholar, Geza Vermes has fostered insight into Jesus' Jewish origins, identity, and milieu. Now, twenty years after his pioneering work on *Jesus the Jew*, the leading Jewish scholar of the New Testament and the Dead Sea Scrolls turns his attention on Jesus' own religious life – his teaching, preaching, and practise – as it can be gleaned from the accounts in the Gospels of Mark, Matthew and Luke.

With his sharp historical sense and unrivalled knowledge of mainstream and Essene Judaism, Vermes sketches Jesus' personal presence and power, his regard for the Law, his practice of healing, his creative understanding of the kingdom, his images of God, his eschatological zeal – the very well-springs of Jesus' own ardour and religious vision.

Lucidly and plainly written, Vermes's newest work is addressed to all readers interested in ancient religions, history, and culture.

Geza Vermes is a Fellow of the British Academy and Professor Emeritus of

Jewish Studies in the University of Oxford.

Anne Marie Nuechterlein is an associate professor at Wartburg Seminary, Dubuque, Iowa, and a psychotherapist in private practice.

TITLE: Families of alcoholics: A guide to healing and recovery
AUTHOR: Anne Marie Nuechterlein
THEME: Pastoral Care
PRICE: Available from Lux Verbi at R60,00
DATE: 1993

TITLE: The body of God: An ecological theology
AUTHOR: Sallie McFague
THEME: Ethics
PRICE: Available from Lux Verbi at R65,00
DATE: 1993

How can families affected by alcoholism understand what is happening to them and find help for their healing and recovery? This book offers practical assistance for counselors and pastors working with families of alcoholics and for the families themselves.

Anne Marie Nuechterlein explores the concerns, the pain, and the confusion families often experience, and then describes strategies for working on the problems so that healing can take place. She shows the usefulness of family systems theory for discovering the way different members of the family are affected and their roles in the family's recovery. Discussion questions for each chapter are provided for families to use on their own or with their counselor or pastor.

'Sallie McFague has created something important and necessary – a model of God specifically for the sake of the earth. If traditional concepts of God have alienated us from the bodies of the material world, then what alternative do we have? Is there any sense of transcendence, of spirit, of Christ, of trinity that will help rather than harm the earth today? McFague takes up these great and heavy questions with firmness and authority, with modesty and ambiguity, with wisdom and patience. No one else has yet unfolded with comparable constructive clarity the relation between the earth crisis and our notion of God.'

(Catherine Keller)

'A very distinctive and important new option for Christian theology. McFa-

gue proposes in a clear and challenging way a theological program based on what she calls "the organic model" for conceiving God. Her model is in keeping with contemporary scientific understandings of the widely accepted "common creation story" and provides a good basis for reconceiving the Christian understanding of human existence in an ecologically ordered natural world. Very illuminating, with some brilliant insights.'

(Gordon D Kaufman)

Sallie McFague is the Carpenter Professor of Theology and former Dean of Vanderbilt Divinity School.
