



SUMMER READING LIST

Summer is approaching! If you're starting to look ahead to a well-deserved break, be that at home or further afield, summer is a great time to stop with a good book. We have put together a list of reads recommended by CMS staff. Covering mission, pioneering, conversations about racial justice and more, we hope you enjoy it!

MISSION

- 1 Pioneer Practice by Jonny Baker.** Using stories, quotes and collated wisdom, this guide focuses on how pioneering happens on the ground, equipping “dreamers who do”. Available from getsidetracked.co
In three words: “Inspiring, practical, action”
- 2 Give Me a Drink: 21 Sketches for Mission by Ian Adams.** A series of reflections for individuals and groups produced by Proost (proost.co.uk) on mission as the healing of all things.
In three words: “Above all, love”
- 3 Fuzzy Church: Gospel and Culture in the North of England by Nigel Rooms and Elli Wort.** Presents research among northern churches, demonstrating a gospel characterised by fragility and freedom, full of authenticity, community and humour.
In three words: “Excitement, engaged, hopeful”
- 4 Pilgrims and Priests: Christian Mission in a Post-Christian Society by Stefan Paas.** Explores what it means to be missional in a deeply secularised society, combining insights from mission in the West with wider biblical, historical and sociological analysis.
In three words: “Analytical, grounded, thought-provoking”
- 5 Imagining Mission with John V Taylor by Cathy Ross and Jonny Baker.** John Taylor was a former general secretary of CMS and thinker and writer whose words sound as radical now as ever.
In three words: “Resonant, imaginative, challenging”
- 6 Liturgies from Below: Praying with People at the Ends of the World by Claudio Carvalhaes.** Offerings from not-often-heard voices from the global church – a collection of prayers, songs, rituals, rites of healing, Eucharistic and baptismal prayers, meditations, and art from four continents.
In three words: “Powerful, moving, convicting”

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- 7 Reimagining Mission from the Urban Places: Missional Pastoral Care by Anna Ruddick.** Draws from the experience of Eden projects and people who relocated to communities and estates that experience marginalisation.
- In three words: “Mission in dirt”
- 8 Growing and Flourishing: The Ecology of Church Growth by Stephen Spencer with Mwita Akiri.** A meaningful endeavour to learn from what is happening through the growth of the church in the majority world and translate that back to the West. This book arises from a formal partnership between two Anglican dioceses, Wakefield in Yorkshire, UK, and Mara in Tanzania.
- In three words: “Warming, engaging, challenging”
- 9 No Neutral Ground: Finding Jesus in a Cape Town Ghetto by Pete Portal.** Straightforward writing packed with a depth of insight on mission – the messy kind. A reminder that mission is not about the right strategy but about building relationships and trust – which takes time and commitment.
- In three words: “Awe, sorrow, hope”
- 10 First Expressions: Innovation and the Mission of God by Steve Taylor.** Important insights for the future of Pioneer and Fresh Expressions movements, gained from extensive research.
- In three words: “Excited, connected, curious”
- 11 Cultural Integration and the Gospel in Vietnamese Mission Theology by Kimson Nguyen.** Questions of how to relate the gospel to culture are brought into context in Vietnam in a way that feels authentically Vietnamese. A great work on contextualisation and pioneering – dive into a bit of local/global theology.
- In three words: “I loved it.”

GOD’S ACTIVITY THE WORLD

- 1 Amazed by Jesus by Simon Ponsonby.** Dynamic, succinct and faithful exposition of the life of Jesus, weaving together story, quotation and testimony with incisive biblical exegesis. Practical theology at its best.
- In three words: “Deepening, captivating, awe-inspiring”
- 2 God and the Pandemic: A Christian Reflection on the Coronavirus and its Aftermath by NT Wright.** Rejects notions of the pandemic as either “punishment” or “apocalyptic” and proposes lament as the appropriate response.
- In three words: “Enabling, affirming, clarifying”
- 3 How to Pray: A Simple Guide for Normal People by Pete Greig.** Combining learning from rich prayer traditions and different aspects of prayer in a practical, engaging way.
- In three words: “Practical, real, down-to-earth”
- 4 The Compassion Quest by Trystan Owain Hughes.** A book born from experience, addressing the concept of Missio Dei, God present in the world around us. Chapters on interconnectedness, compassion and reverence for life reflect much of what we are living through in the pandemic.
- In two words: “Grounding, encouraging”

RACIAL JUSTICE

- 1 Why I'm No Longer Talking to White People About Race by Reni Eddo-Lodge.** What began as a blog in 2014 has become an unforgettable book that unpacks the experience of living as a black woman in modern Britain, as well as the often-overlooked history of black people in the UK and the systemic racism that white people often fail to see.
In three words: "Eye-opening, self-examining, relevant"
- 2 We Need to Talk About Race: Understanding the Black Experience in White Majority Churches by Ben Lindsay.** A challenging yet hope-filled exploration of the church's role in shaping the UK's structural racism. As a black pastor at a white-majority church, he offers practical ways "in which we can all strive towards racial reconciliation, unity, inclusion and integration in the UK church."
In three words: "Listen up, church"
- 3 Me and White Supremacy: How to Recognise Your Privilege, Combat Racism and Change the World by Layla F Saad.** A 28-day course designed to make you stop and examine your understanding of white supremacy and racism as well as equip you to work towards dismantling it.
In three words: "Listening + inaction = meaningless"
- 4 Brit(ish): On Race, Identity and Belonging by Afua Hirsch.** An engaging, powerful insight into the experience of race and identity faced by migrant communities living in the UK.
In three words: "Heartfelt, honest mirror"
- 5 Christology and Whiteness: What Would Jesus Do? By George Yancy (ed.)** Essays for those daring to explore uncomfortable truths and face up to difficult questions about racial injustice.
In three words: "Confronting, insightful, diverse"
- 6 Let Justice Roll Down by John M Perkins.** A gripping portrayal of what happens when faith thrusts a person into the midst of a struggle against racism, oppression, and injustice.
In three words: "Race with face"

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