

BGST This Week



BIBLICAL GRADUATE SCHOOL OF THEOLOGY

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Of mynas, doves and magpies

by Mickey Chiang

Some of you may know from some of my previous Thinking Points articles that I have two little friends: a pair of myna birds. They take the next available flight in when I call or whistle for them. When I oversleep they perch outside my bedroom or dining room windows and call loudly to me, and I hasten to return their greetings. That's what friends do.

As a friend I show hospitality by giving them a handful of breadcrumbs, enough to keep them happy but not so much that they depend on bread instead of a healthy diet of worms, insects, berries and fruits provided by God.

But in recent months, whenever I called out, "Hey iddy-birdy friends, where are you?" or whistled the first bar of the Tijuana Brass Band's signature tune, a spotted dove and a trio of perky magpies would also show up, lining up on the same fence, with the magpies furthest away. Newest members get the worst seats.

I know that Mr. & Mrs. Myna did not invite the other birds, because they try to drive the newcomers away from the breadcrumbs, and because they now call me secretively in the softest of whistles and chirps instead of loud and enthusiastic calls, as if to avoid alerting other birds to the scene. I can understand the mynas' concern: too many birds mean few crumbs for each bird. Even a birdbrain understands that.

The dove usually keeps silent, but the magpies sing loudly as if to tell the whole world about their good fortune to receive a good feed from a generous friend. Sometimes I wonder: are we Christians like the mynas, the dove or the magpies?

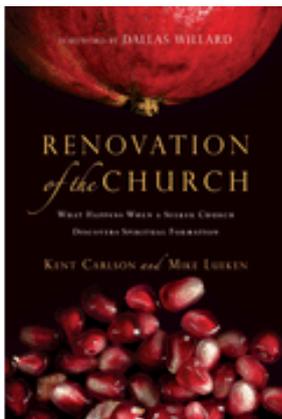
We are happy to have a good relationship with our great Provider on whom we call for provisions. But do we, like the mynas and the dove, selfishly try to keep Him to ourselves by keeping quiet about Him. Or are we like the magpies, calling out loudly to this benevolent Provider, telling other birds about Him, and perhaps giving thanks for the food?

We forget that God is almighty and has the ability to feed billions of people, not with common breadcrumbs but with the priceless Living Bread of Life. In His wisdom He has given us the privilege and the sacred duty to spread the good news of salvation to all who would hear: our family members and relatives, friends, neighbours living beside us, fellow workers in our workplace, and people around us in the gym, the playground or in the same bus.

Are we like the mynas, the dove, or the magpies?

Book Corner

All titles are 2012 Christianity Today Book Award Winners



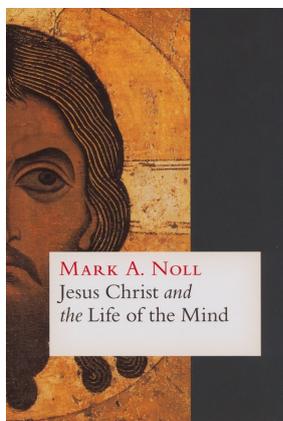
Renovation of the Church: What Happens When a Seeker Church Discovers Spiritual Formation

By Kent Carlson, Mike Lueken, Dallas Willard
IVP 2011

Students Price: \$14.20

Member Price: \$16.00

"Carlson and Lueken describe with authenticity and courage their church's journey from a 'seeker sensitive' emphasis to one of 'faith formation.' What's extraordinary about this is how the church grew smaller, not larger, but in the process became more faithful and more grounded."



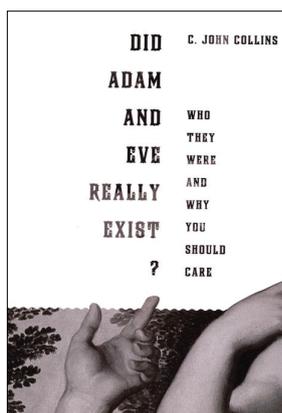
Jesus Christ and the Life of the Mind

By: Mark A. Noll
Eerdmans 2011

Students Price: \$25.20

Member Price: \$28.40

Noll's new work *Jesus Christ and the Life of the Mind* shows how the orthodox Christology confessed in the ancient Christian creeds, far from hindering or discouraging serious scholarship, can supply the motives, guidance, and framework for learning. Christian faith, Noll argues, can richly enhance intellectual engagement in the various academic disciplines--and he demonstrates how by applying his insights to the fields of history (his own area of expertise), science, and biblical studies particularly.



Did Adam and Eve Really Exist? Who They Were and Why You Should Care

By: C. John Collins
Crossway 2011

Students Price: \$16.20

Member Price: \$18.20

Did Adam and Eve Really Exist? addresses both biblical and Jewish texts and contains extensive appendices to examine how the material in Genesis relates to similar material from Mesopotamian myths. Collins's detailed analysis of the relevant texts will instill confidence in readers that the traditional Christian interpretation equips them better than any alternatives to engage the life that they actually encounter in the modern world.

Chapel News

Dr Edwin Tay will lead a time of prayer on 25 January 2012. Dr Andrew Lee will be a chapel speaker on Feb 1. Chapel begins at 12 pm. You are welcome to join us.

Upcoming Intensive Courses



Rev Dr Bruce Winter was Principal of Queensland Theological College, until his recent retirement. He is Director of the Institute for Early Christianity in the Greco-Roman World at the University of Queensland, Senior Research Fellow at Macquarie University, and Visiting Scholar at the University of Cambridge.

He will be conducting two intensive courses in the months of January and February 2012.

1. God Goes to the Office: Walking Around God's World God's Way

Day / Time : Monday-Friday, 7.15-10.15pm
Date : Jan 30, 31, Feb 1, 2, 3
Venue : Community for Christ Church, 37 Jalan Pemimpin, #03-03A Blk A, Clarus Centre Singapore 577177

Traditionally some theological discussion has been undertaken on the basis of the two kingdoms: God's kingdom works according to His Word and the kingdoms of this world work according to their own value systems. This course begins by examining the Word of God to see how the commercial world of Israel operated and then how the first Christians operated in that world. The course will then proceed to explore the implications of the film Wall Street and recent Christian discussion on this critical issue.

For more information on the courses and registration, please visit our website:
<http://www.bgst.edu.sg/courses-and-events/258-god-goes-to-the-office>

2. Secular Culture Versus Culture of the Cross: 1st and 21st Century Challenges

Day / Time : Monday-Friday, 7.15-10.15pm
Date : Feb 6, 7, 8, 9, 10
Venue : Community for Christ Church, 37 Jalan Pemimpin, #03-03A Blk A, Clarus Centre Singapore 577177

This course looks at the clash in five major spheres of first-century life for Christians. It examines what it would have been like for first-century Christians to be conformed to the world of their day and then confronted by the demands in Romans 12:2, that they were to be transformed by ethical reprogramming according to the will of God.

For more information on the courses and registration, please visit our website:
<http://www.bgst.edu.sg/courses-and-events/259-secular-culture-vs-culture-of-the-cross>

Faculty News

Mr Quek Tze-Ming will preaching at the 8.30 and 10.30 services of Zion Bishan BP Church on 29 January. The topic is "Abraham and Lot Separate (Genesis 13)."

Biblical Graduate School of Theology 2012
Public Lecture & Course
by Dr Daniel Block



We welcome Dr Daniel Block who will be in Singapore from March 10-16. He has taught a course on the book of Ezekiel in 2009 so it is a privilege to have him back at BGST. Dr Block is the Gunther H. Knoedler Professor of Old Testament at the Graduate School of Wheaton College in Wheaton, Illinois. U.S.A.

Public Lecture

Date: March 12, 2012

Time: 7.15 – 8.15 pm

Topic: “Will the Real Moses Please Rise? An Exploration into the Role and Ministry of Moses in the Book of Deuteronomy”

Venue: 37 Jalan Pemimpin #06-05
Blk B, Clarus Centre. Singapore 577177

Admission is free

To register: registration@bgst.edu.sg

Course

Date : 12-16 March 2012 (Monday-Friday)

Time : 7.15 – 10.15 pm

Title : The Gospel According to Moses: A study of Deuteronomy (OT 351, 1.5cr)

Venue: 37 Jalan Pemimpin #06-05
Blk B, Clarus Centre. Singapore 577177

for details, registration & group discount, please visit our website:

<http://bgst.edu.sg/courses-and-events/263-the-gospel-according-to-moses>

Note:

***Those who register for the course should attend the public lecture which is the first part of the class session on March 12.**

Announcements

We are pleased to announce that Ms Soo Poh Leng has BGST Library with effect from 22 Dec 2011. Please join us in welcoming Poh Leng to the BGST family!

Dr Tan Soo Inn?