

In a field reputed to be the one of the slowest to accept institutional change, many have laboured but given up disillusioned. Both the influential Edward Farley (1983) and more recently Robert Banks (1999) ended their quest to see a re-envisioning of this field depressed at the lack of change. As a teacher and PhD student wholeheartedly committed to seeing the BMB church equipped and trained in-context and for the context of the Muslim world, I am grateful to God for lifting Perry from his own disillusionment and subsequent breakdown in 2006 and enabling him to complete this journey of curricular and institutional change with ABTS.

Works Cited

Farley, Edward. 1983. *Theologia: The Fragmentation and Unity and of Theological Education*. Philadelphia: Fortress Press.

Banks, Robert. 1999. *Reenvisioning Theological Education: Exploring a Missional Alternative to Current Models*. Grand Rapids: Wm. B. Eerdmans Publishing Company.

Reviewed by Pat Brittenden

Pat Brittenden grew up as a 'third culture kid' in Algeria. With a background in education in the primary, secondary and tertiary sectors, he then worked in cross-cultural church planting and development work in North Africa. After further theological study, he now researches, writes, trains and advises on the design of Christian discipling and theological education in Muslim-majority contexts.

Peace Catalysts: Resolving Conflict in Our Families, Organizations and Communities

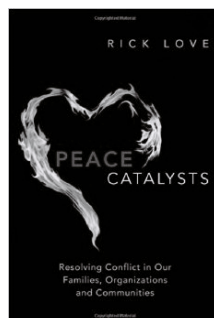
by Rick Love

Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 2014, 207 pages.

ISBN: 978-0-8308-3668-0

Synopsis from the Back Cover of the book

Rick Love, founder and president of Peace Catalyst International, shares the principles that have guided his peacemaking efforts around the world. He provides a biblical framework for how the God of peace seeks the common good of any who have been at odds with others. As ambassadors of reconciliation, we can practice peacemaking at every level - in our homes and workplaces, from domestic disagreements to international disputes.



Rick begins his book with a foundational framework for what is involved in being a peace catalyst – at the levels of belief, core values and behaviour. His biblical apologetic is vital to the rest of the book as he calls the reader to a ‘lifestyle of peacemaking.’ The remaining chapters focus on integrating the peacemaking lifestyle to personal life, family, team, organisations and wider social issues.

Personal Assessment

The author advocates being a peacemaker in a world of conflict and divide. While Rick provides numerous tools and models to help us navigate our way through experiences of conflict, he offers much more than a toolbox of ‘how to’ tips (though the toolbox is valuable). Rick goes to great lengths to provide an apologetic and biblical call to being a peace catalyst as an integrated way of life. I was personally challenged and inspired by the holistic focus on peacemaking in mind-set and practice.

The six spheres of influence in peacemaking range from the personal to the international. While many readers may feel their own sphere of influence at the level of personal, family or organisation, others within the body will operate within the wider spheres of peacemaking (social, urban, national and international).

The chapter addressing Muslim-Christian relations is likely the least relevant to the worker community. The chapter is important for a wider evangelical audience with limited encounter with Muslims. However, the worker community in our context is undoubtedly beyond needing the exhortation to love and relate positively to the Muslim community.

Rick ably supports the big picture apologetic with readily-usable tools, including analysing one’s preferred style of responding to conflict. He provides practical guidelines for analysing conflict and guiding mediation while exploring a number of biblical examples of conflict (Jerusalem Council - Acts 15; the relational tension between Paul & Barnabas; the ambition of Peter & James, etc.). In addition, the personal examples woven throughout the book attest to the fact that the material is far from theoretical. Rick has journeyed the path of peacemaking in a variety of contexts over the years. I was particularly moved by his vulnerable sharing of conflict within his own family.

A number of audiences can benefit from Love’s input. Firstly, the book is highly relevant to cross-cultural workers. Some elements will be familiar from other sources, but Rick weaves the material together with a fresh approach. I found myself resonating time and time again with examples of how to approach a conflict situation and mediate peace.

The wider evangelical audience will also benefit. The chapter on social peacemaking goes beyond the worker context and addresses the challenges of how the evangelical community relates to Muslim and LGBT communities.

The chapter on peacemaking vs gospelling may ruffle a few feathers, but is worth a careful read. Rick challenges the evangelical reader to avoid pursuing peacemaking exclusively as a means of evangelising. As such, he no longer considers himself a ‘traditional’ evangelical. I found myself desiring to know more of what it means for Rick to no longer be ‘traditional,’ but the book does not develop that theme to any great degree.

Overall, *Peace Catalysts* is an inspiring and very helpful book on how to be ministers of peace on behalf of a God of peace and his gospel of peace. Peace is the persistent theme throughout. I have been moved by the basic call and the content of the book. I suspect other readers will be as well.

Reviewed by Abu Banat

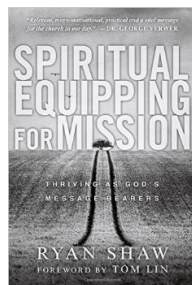
Abu Banat is a regional leader for Pioneers. He serves with a regional team of leaders to provide oversight, direction and personal support for more than 350 workers throughout North Africa & the Middle East.

Spiritual Equipping for Mission

by Ryan Shaw

Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 2014. 208 pages
ISBN 978-0-8308-3672-7 (print); ISBN 978-0-8308-9658-5 (digital)

This is a book about the spirituality of a disciple with a specific view toward those focused on the Great Commission. Shaw is attempting to answer the question, ‘What are the essential spiritual keys necessary for fruitful life as a disciple?’ The book begins with a chapter that establishes Shaw’s priority of cross-cultural ministry aimed at unreached people groups. This lofty aspiration requires a spirituality that is infused with the Spirit. The next ten chapters are organized around each spiritual principle necessary to make this happen.



Throughout the book Shaw uses the phrase ‘message bearer’ instead of missionary. This not only contemporizes the book but also infuses meaning into the task of a Great Commission worker.

The first principle is to be ‘Saturated with the Powerful Presence of God.’ The author contrasts serving through competence (or ‘in the flesh’) against serving in and through the Spirit. Shaw uses a number of passages to highlight the need for ministry to flow from a Spirit-filled lifestyle. These include highlights from Moses’ life, Jacob’s life and Jesus’ example. He also reinforces his points with examples from the mission field. A short section on calling points out not so much the need