

book of the month | November 2023

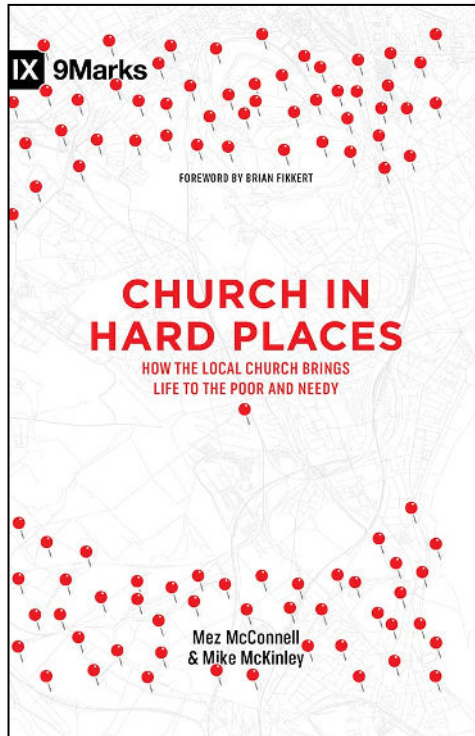
Church in Hard Places - Mez McConnell & Mike McKinley

Omri Miles has highly recommended this book. It will give us an idea of what lies ahead for the Miles, Dudley, Heddens and Robinson families as they plant and establish Grace Bible NOLA in a hard place.

The authors talk of fruitful church ministries among the poor and that indifference to someone in need is unchristian but the emphasis and priority in this ministry must be the gospel message.

Some of the book's topics are; what is poverty, the importance of correct doctrine, and the importance of church membership and discipline. Although this is a book for church planters, leaders and members in existing churches will also profit from this fresh and biblical emphasis on the centrality of the local church in ministry to the poor.

Greg Bender, Booktable Servant



Suggested One-Month Reading Plan

(Average 6 pages per day)

Week 1: Monday October 30 - Sunday November 5

Series Preface, 2 pages
Forward by Brian Fikkert, 3 pages
Introduction, 7 pages
Part 1: The Gospel in Hard Places
1. What is Poverty?, 11 pages
2. What Gospel Do They Need?, 21 pages

Week 2: Monday November 6 - Sunday November 12

3. Does Doctor's Matter?, 11 pages
Part 2: The Church in Hard Places,
4. The Parachurch Problem, 11 pages
5. The Local Church Solution, 12 pages
6. The Work of Evangelism, 12 pages

Week 3: Monday November 13 - Sunday November 19

7. The Role of Preaching, 9 pages
8. The Importance of Membership and Discipline, 17 pages
Part 3: The Work in Hard Places
9. Prepare Yourself, 12 pages

Week 4: Monday November 20 - Sunday November 26

10. Prepare the Work, 11 pages
11. Prepare to Change Your Thinking, 11 pages
12. Prepare for Mercy Ministry?, 10 pages
Conclusion: Count the Cost ... and Reward, 12 pages

QUOTES

"Poverty is more complicated than something that can be superficially captured in digits and dollar signs."

"The view that poor people have of their own poverty often goes much deeper than a list of the things they lack. They tend to speak in terms of experiences like powerlessness, hopelessness, loss of meaning and shame. Merely providing resources will not relieve the deeper dimensions of poverty that these people experience."

"Good works such as caring for the poor are a powerful sign to nonbelievers (1 Peter 2:12), but in the book of Acts it is the Word of God that spreads and causes the explosive growth in the early church."
(Acts 6:7)

"The fact is, the world can watch Christian's ladle soup or paint over graffiti for a thousand years, and they'll never come to the conclusion that Jesus died for their sins and rose again. We must open our mouths and speak the content of the gospel to the world, or no one will be saved."

"But there must be a priority to give a gospel message; it must come first. Poverty and violence are real problems at a personal and societal level. But they are the symptoms of the spiritual disease we all carry around with us."