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Captured (Book Review)

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Scriptures deals with the central issues that confront the average Christian in his study of Scripture in relation to archeological findings.

Especially significant is Dr. Yamauchi's discussion of the conflicts that have arisen between the views of the higher critical approach and those of the emerging archeological science. It is with considerable frustration that Dr. Yamauchi notes that few of those who have accepted the views of higher criticism have chosen to make use of the new data made available by archeological discoveries. Locked in by their rationalistic presuppositions and the resulting misreconstructions of ancient history, these higher critics have persisted in ignoring mounting archeological evidence that clearly demands a radical reformulation of their views. In fact, notes the author, the findings of respectable archeologists have often been harshly labeled as "poorly informed fundamentalism" by those of the German school. Yet, the findings of archeology are gradually having their corrective effect in support of Scripture.

As an introduction to Biblical archeology, *The Stones and the Scriptures* is excellent! Dr. Yamauchi writes in a clear and interesting style. He has chosen and structured his material effectively. This book will be especially useful to pastors and to those who teach theology. The Christian community owes their thanks to Dr. Yamauchi for making available such a competent and timely study.

Captured, by Carolyn Paine Miller, Christian Herald Books, Chappaqua, New York, 288 pages, \$3.95. Reviewed by Jack Vanden Berg, Associate Professor of English.

This narrative is the account of Carolyn Miller's experiences in Vietnam during 1975. She, her husband John, and their five-year-old daughter Luanne were caught in the crossfire of the North and South Vietnamese armies, were captured, and endured an eight-month internment under the Viet Cong and their officers. She and her family were a part of the "Banmethuot 14"—a group composed of a U.S. State Dept. representative, an Australian radio official, a Filipino agricultural expert, a former Peace Corp member and ten Wycliffe translators and Christian and Missionary Alliance missionaries.

The story is extremely interesting because of the vividness of Carolyn Miller's account, her reactions to the experiences, and the view it

presents of the Viet Cong. Generally, the Viet Cong treated her group with courtesy and surprising gentleness. They were bound only once; they could refuse work assignments; and they were forced to listen to only a few indoctrination lectures. Their greatest problems were a lack of medicine, dietary deficiencies, and boredom. At first their Viet Cong captors were as uneasy with them as they were with their captors. Gradually, the Banmethuot 14 realized that their captors were aggressive only when they felt inferior.

But more important than these insights were the lessons Carolyn learned during their odyssey from Banmethuot to Hanoi and then finally home to Houghton, New York. Captivity, she discovered, led to defensive self-protectiveness and then to selfishness; it produced a sense of complete isolation from the world and a cessation of any feeling of responsibility for anyone not of her family, and finally, it led to lethargy.

But on the positive side, she discovered, paradoxically, that her real captivity and real freedom had begun simultaneously when she had been captured by Christ. "Compared with that event, our recent experience was merely an incident." Even more significant was her discovery that despite her dedication to serving the Vietnamese as a Wycliffe translator, she had not been an effective witness to the Bru tribe because she had unconsciously assumed cultural superiority. To be effective, she says, one must truly become a servant.

I began reading this book with some scepticism, expecting the usual mediocre "captivity" folderol, but the book caught my attention at once because of the immediacy of the narration and the vivid scenes. Carolyn Miller shows promise as a writer. She manages to depict the visual, aural, and emotional experience of cowering under rocket and artillery bombardment; she paints vivid pictures of prison compounds such as the Rose Garden with its stench of human excrement, Camp Wilderness with its primitive housing, Fat City with its Russian beef and increased rations. She characterizes the camp officials through their individual behavioral patterns tersely and effectively.

Captured can be read pleasurably and profitably by anyone, young or old, who is interested in the aftermath of the Vietnam War and its effect on those caught in its vortex. The reader will gain a greater appreciation of the dedication of translators and missionaries; he will understand more fully the problem of witnessing to other ethnic and cultural groups. And he will see a different view of the Viet Cong than that portrayed by our media.