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## What's Gone Wrong with the Harvest? A Communication Strategy for the Church and World Evangelism (Book Review)

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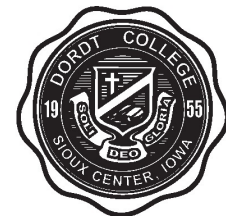
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Drivin' Out Satan," "Put on Your Boots," and "Moto Imeaka" could appeal to children, folk singers, folk groups, youth gatherings, or even a congregation eager to experiment.

The Choir Master's Guide and the topical and title indices located at the back of the book are helpful but confused by the table of contents, which lists page numbers that do not coincide with the song numbers in the book. This double number system is a problem throughout.

Whereas most stanzas are printed between the staff lines, most voice ranges are reasonable, and many selections are written in good keys for guitar.

Often selections are not easily sung because the words appear on a different page from the music, because of excessively low ranges (Numbers 74, 76, 99, and 104 extend down to Bass Clef A and many to Bb), and also because the text appears with only one voice part, while the other parts are either absent or non-syllabled.

In general, guitar chords are appropriate, and arrangements include interesting accompaniments. Most accompaniments, however, are not appropriate or are difficult for organ and require guitarists or accompanists with considerable ability.

As a source of recently composed religious folk music suitable for individual use and for such groups as the "Fisherfolk, who have sung, taught, experimented with, improved upon and shared many of these songs," *Fresh Sounds* is to be recommended. While some selections can be found which could have considerable durability and could be useful for general worship, a large proportion of the selections will probably prove to be inappropriate for public worship.

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**What's Gone Wrong with the Harvest? A Communication Strategy for the Church and World Evangelism**, by James F. Engel and H. Wilbert Norton, Zondervan Publishing House, Grand Rapids, 1975, 171 pages, \$3.95. Reviewed by James A. De Jong, Associate Professor of Theology.

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The central thesis of this study of evangelism strategy is that many are looking for Gospel answers to life's questions but that they are not getting them from the church because

she persists in presenting her message in a manner that does not get through to modern man. The church faces an "effectiveness crisis" or a "communication breakdown."

Both authors are associated with Wheaton College. Engel is director of the Billy Graham Graduate Program in Communications and has a strong background in marketing and consumer research. Norton is dean of the Graduate School of Theology. Their joint look at evangelism from their respective disciplines is a fine idea. But the result is not entirely successful.

The authors develop their argument by noting the weaknesses of one-way, sermonistic communication and the orientation towards program maintenance in most churches. As an alternative they propose their "adaptive strategy," which they less-than-convincingly argue is not Madison Avenue but New Testament in character. Essentially, the strategy sets forth a number of calculated steps for effective evangelism, argues for sensitive and personal attention to others, and pleads for program flexibility from local church to local church.

Many helpful, practical suggestions for planning and executing an evangelism program in modern America are found in this book. It goes beyond the suggestions in the "Key '73" material, with which many readers of this review are familiar. It is a title, therefore, which pastors and members of church evangelism committees could read with profit.

Theologically, however, the book is a disaster! What little theology of evangelism is found here is exegetically mangled. To "make disciples of all nations" in Matthew 28, for example, comes off as a mandate to "persuade the unbeliever" (*italics mine*) (page 44). When the "objective of persuasion is to lead to regeneration" (page 51), one is obviously dealing with an Arminian theology that looks like a throwback to Stoddardism. No awareness is shown of the redemptive historical and covenantal character of the Proverb citations moralistically quoted as guidelines for modern evangelism (page 39). Using the *Living Bible* paraphrase to substantiate theological arguments hardly instills confidence in their weight!

Yet, for its practical suggestions and its attempt to bring theology and communication theory to bear on this important topic, the book deserves notice. Zondervan is to be encouraged in its production of new titles in its Contemporary Evangelical Perspectives series, of which this book is one; however, the publisher should

take more pains to ensure theological evenness in the series.

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**The Right to Live: The Right to Die** by C. Everett Koop, M.D., Tyndale House Publishers, Inc., Wheaton, Illinois, \$2.95, 124 pages. Reviewed by E. L. Hebden Taylor, Associate Professor of Sociology.

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The author of this book is surgeon-in-chief at the Children's Hospital of Philadelphia and professor of pediatric surgery at the University of Pennsylvania. Dr. Koop is thus eminently qualified to speak upon the two subjects which are the concern of his book, namely abortion and euthanasia.

We thank God for having raised up a Christian doctor and surgeon willing to stick his professional neck out for the sake of the teaching of God's Word and Law forbidding both abortion and euthanasia. In his book Dr. Koop provides God's people with plenty of arguments with which to confound the advocates of both abortion and euthanasia. Too often, amateurs have spoken upon these two issues and have brought their cause into disrepute. Now they have superb arguments to use in the continuing struggle to restore our nation to Scriptural principles.

The book examines current attitudes and trends from several perspectives: medical, personal, social, and theological. Dr. Koop turns the spotlight of a keen Christian conscience upon the Supreme Court ruling on abortion and upon the Karen Quinlan case, evaluating their influence upon the future of every American.

Dr. Koop predicts the following consequences of the Supreme Court decision in favor of abortion on demand: 1) It will make the law look ridiculous; 2) The liberty given to women to abort their fetuses will lead to license in other areas, such as giving relatives the right to choose whether a person should be allowed to die; 3) The right to die will lead to the right to kill in mercy; 4) It will contribute to the process of the depersonalization and dehumanization of our society; 5) There has been and will continue to be an enormous increase in the number of abortions. (Since January 1973 there have been over 3,000,000.) 6) It will lead to greater sexual promiscuity especially among young people; 7) Newborn infants who are not perfect will be the next target for

killing; and 8) Abortion will be completely in the hands of the illegal abortionists and clinics.

Koop warns us that if the Supreme Court's decision on abortion is not reversed by a constitutional amendment which is pro-life, "one can predict without question that the Supreme Court will soon also make euthanasia legal. It is with the latter subject that Koop deals in the second half of his book. This volume should be in the hands of every concerned Christian citizen of this country, to be read and acted upon.

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**Music in the Christian Community**, by Dale Topp, William B. Eerdmans Publishing Co., Grand Rapids, Michigan, 1976, 205 pages, \$4.95. Reviewed by Clarence Doornbos, Instructor in Music.

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Music is often a controversial subject in the Christian community. Decisions regarding music are too often made subjectively with little regard for principles or guidelines of Biblical direction. Dale Topp has made a valuable contribution to the Christian community in this book, which provides helpful information on a wide variety of music-related situations.

The author takes neither an elitist approach, condemning all "inferior" music, nor a position which stresses the lowest common denominator. Rather, he proposes a realistic approach to music, which stresses the need for standards while respecting the demands of the situation and the needs of the people. Indeed, one of the points of emphasis in the book is that music should be appropriate. What is appropriate for a worship service may not necessarily be appropriate for a hymn-sing, a classroom, or a campfire sing.

The book repeatedly reminds Christians to go to Scripture for guidelines. The author logically builds his case for using a wide variety of quality worship music, but he also issues a call for Christian stewardship in selecting and using music in non-worship situations. Topp recognizes that God has given talents to musicians to produce everything from symphonic music to popular, rock, and jazz. The Christian is told to apply Biblical guidelines to help discern what is good and what is not good in each area. The author says that it is not right to condemn all rock any more than it would be right to assume that all orchestral