A SOCIAL JUSTICE RESOURCE LIST

* Please note: most resources listed below can be ordered from the Regent College bookstore. All profits from the Regent bookstore support Regent College, which provides excellent theological training to people from all over the world. We encourage you to support this store, or another local non-profit store in your area.

Check out the website: www.regentcollege.edu
All sales questions: bookstore@regent-college.edu

Phone: In Canada and the U.S. call toll free 1-800-334-3279
In Greater Vancouver and worldwide call (604) 228-1820

SIMPLE READING

THE IRRESISTIBLE REVOLUTION: LIVING AS AN ORDINARY RADICAL – SHANE CLAIBORNE

Using unconventional examples from his own life, Shane Claiborne stirs up questions about the church and the world, and challenges readers to truly live out their Christian faith. "Desperately urgent. Profoundly biblical. If even one in ten contemporary "Christians" dared to truly follow the one we claim to worship with half of Shane's unconditional surrender to Christ, our evangelism would acquire an awesome power and our actions would transform our broken world."– Ronald J. Sider, president, Evangelicals for Social Action

RUN BABY, RUN – NICKY CRUZ

The story of Nicky Cruz, a warlord of a vicious New York City gang. Run Baby Run is the dramatic testimony of his desperate battle against drugs, alcoholism and his violent environment.

NO COMPROMISE: THE LIFE STORY OF KEITH GREEN – MELODY GREEN, DAVID HAZARD

Keith Green was simply a man of conviction. When his convictions led him to an eternally worthy object in the person of Jesus he sold all that he had—ambitions, possessions, and dreams—to possess His love. In Keith's pursuit of becoming like Jesus he discovered God's heart for the marginalized and he opened his heart and home to them. Although Keith died tragically at the age of 28 in a plane crash in 1982 his music still speaks a prophetic call to embrace the poor.

THE GOOD NEWS ABOUT INJUSTICE – GARY HAUGEN

The good news about injustice is that God is against it. God is in the business of using the unlikely to perform the holy, Haugen contends. And in this book he not only offers stories of courageous witnesses past and present, he also calls the body of Christ to action. He offers concrete guidance on the ways and means its members can rise up to seek justice throughout the world. Interspersed with individual stories of specific abuse, this book chronicles the vision behind IJM's work and seeks to tackle tragic injustices with practical insight, answering tough questions regarding the nature of injustice and the Biblical mandate for Christians to confront it.

TERRIFY NO MORE – GARY HAUGEN

This newly published book documents the gripping events leading up to, and surrounding, IJM's raids in the notorious Cambodian village of Svay Pak where their workers rescued 37 underage victims of sex-trafficking, many of them under the age of 10.

COMPASSION– HENRI NOUWEN, DONALD P. MCNEILL, DOUGLAS A. MORRISON

The authors look at compassion with a vigorous new perspective. They place compassion at the heart of Christian life in a world governed far too long by principles of power and destructive control. Compassion, no longer merely an eraser of human mistakes, is a force of prayer and action – the expression of God's love for us, and our love from Him and one another. Compassion is a book that says no to a compassion of guilt and failure and yes to a compassionate love that pervades our spirit and moves us to action.

GOD IN THE ALLEY– GREG PAUL

"Greg Paul tells of whores and crazies, misfits and rejects that sound as if they stepped out from the pages of the Bible." –Eugene Peterson

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CHASING THE DRAGON – JACKIE PULLINGER

Jackie Pullinger had grown up believing that if she put her trust in God, he would lead her. When she was 20 years old God called her to the Walled City. She obeyed. And as she spoke of Jesus Christ, gang members were converted, street workers retired from the sex trade, and people addicted to heroin found a new power that freed them from the bondage of drug addiction. Hundreds discovered new life in Christ.

DOROTHY DAY: CHAMPION OF THE POOR - ELAINE MURRAY STONE

A biography of the extraordinary woman who was a great social activist, tireless advocate for the poor, and founder of the Catholic Worker movement.

BECOMING HUMAN – JEAN VANIER

In this provocative work, Jean Vanier shares his profoundly human vision for creating a common good that radically changes our communities, our relationships, and ourselves. He proposes that by opening ourselves to outsiders, those we perceive as weak, different, or inferior, we can achieve true personal and societal freedom. Our society shuns weakness and glorifies strength. By embracing weakness, however, we learn new ways of living and discover greater compassion, trust, and understanding. This spirit of inclusion has extraordinary implications for the way we live our lives and build our communities.

FROM BROKENNESS TO COMMUNITY – JEAN VANIER

Vanier's "lectures", built as they are around stories from a life lived among the poor and disabled, have moved his listeners for years. Some say it is his gentleness and joy; others speak of his disarming radicalism. All note the spirit of hope. Neutral Christians beware!

THE CROSS AND THE SWITCHBLADE – DAVID WILKERSON

The inspirational true story of a country preacher and his mission to the streets of New York City.

MODERATE READING

ANNOUNCING THE REIGN OF GOD – MORTIMER ARIAS

Arias' key contribution is the rehabilitation of the Kingdom of God as the controlling perspective for the proclamation of the gospel *in word and deed*. In a style helpful to scholar and non-scholar, he combs biblical sources, especially the Synoptic Gospels, in search of Jesus' own practice. The hermeneutical outlook is clearly dictated by Arias' own battle-tested experience in Bolivia, where he was bishop of the Methodist Church and where he underwent imprisonment as

a consequence of his evangelistic practice. After reading this book, dichotomies are inexcusable: proclamation or social responsibility, intra-church or extra church evangelization, the conversion of individuals or conversion of communities. It should become at least a minor classic.

THE IRRESITABLE REVOLUTION – SHANE CLAIBORNE

Many of us find ourselves caught somewhere between unbelieving activists and inactive believers. We can write a check to feed starving children or hold signs in the streets and feel like we've made a difference without ever encountering the faces of the suffering masses. In this book, Shane Claiborne describes an authentic faith rooted in belief, action, and love, inviting us into a movement of the Spirit that begins inside each of us and extends into a broken world. Shane's faith led him to dress the wounds of lepers with Mother Teresa, visit families in Iraq amidst bombings, and dump $10,000 in coins and bills on Wall Street to redistribute wealth. Shane lives out this revolution each day in his local neighborhood, an impoverished community in North Philadelphia, by living among the homeless, helping local kids with homework, and "practicing resurrection" in the forgotten places of our world. Shane's message will comfort the disturbed, and disturb the comfortable...but will also invite us into an irresistible revolution. His is a vision for ordinary radicals ready to change the world with little acts of love.

LOAVES AND FISHES – DOROTHY DAY

Blending a journalist's perception with emotional commitment and warm humour, Day shares experiences amid the abandoned and impoverished, the hopeful and idealistic. In the process, she brings to life a host of remarkable personalities, and reveals a life of faith in action.

READING THE BIBLE WITH THE DAMNED – BOB ECKBLAD

Exploring the challenges that both the churched and the unchurched have faced regarding giving and receiving the word of God, Ekblad encourages us all to learn to read the Bible together as a whole. In this compelling book, he reflects on how Christians have often found it difficult to proclaim God's good news to every realm of society, while those who have needed it most have frequently deemed themselves unworthy due to social circumstances or sinfulness. In Reading the Bible with the Damned, Ekblad offers concrete advice on how to bridge this gap through a variety of insights ultimately leading to spiritual transformation. This book is full of examples of how Scripture changes lives for those who attend Bible studies and for those who lead them, offering practical suggestions on many passages from the Old and New Testaments.

DISCIPLING NATIONS – DARROW L. MILLER, BOB MOFFITT AND SCOTT D. ALLEN

The power of the gospel to transform individual lives has been clearly evident throughout New Testament history. But what of the darkness and poverty that enslave entire cultures, even nations? Have Christians underestimated the power of God's truth to transform entire societies? Miller builds a powerful and convincing thesis that God's truth not only breaks the spiritual bonds of sin and death but can free whole societies from deception and poverty. This book will challenge, reenergize, and reequip Christians everywhere who labour to see "His kingdom come, His will be done."

RICH CHRISTIANS IN AN AGE OF HUNGER – RON SIDER

In the 20th anniversary revision of his groundbreaking book Sider examines the complex causes of poverty and offers concrete, practical proposals for social and individual change. The most thorough, biblical case against poverty-20 years ago or today.

INTENSE READING

THE POLITICS OF JESUS – JOHN HOWARD YODER

Tradition has painted a portrait of a Savior who stands aloof from governmental concerns and who calls his disciples to an apolitical life. But such a picture of Jesus is far from accurate, according to John Howard Yoder. This watershed work in New Testament ethics leads us to a Savior who was deeply concerned with the agenda of politics and the related issues of power, status, and right relations. By canvassing Luke's Gospel, Yoder argues convincingly that the true impact of Jesus' life and ministry on his disciples' social behavior points to a specific kind of Christian pacifism in which "the cross of Christ is the model of Christian social efficacy." This second edition of The Politics of Jesus provides up-to-date interaction with recent publications that touch on Yoder's timely topic. Following most of the chapters are new "epilogues" summarizing research conducted during the last two decades - research that continues to support the outstanding insights set forth in Yoder's original work.

THE PROPHETIC IMAGINATION – WALTER BRUGGEMAN

In this challenging and enlightening treatment, Brueggemann traces the lines from the radical vision of Moses to the solidification of royal power in Solomon to the prophetic critique of that power with a new vision of freedom in the prophets. Here he traces the broad sweep from Exodus to Kings to Jeremiah to Jesus. He emphasizes that the prophetic vision not only embraces the pain of the people but creates an energy amazement based on the new thing that God is doing.

THE PEACEABLE KINGDOM – STANLEY HAUERWAS

In this classic work, Stanley Hauerwas presents an overall introduction to the themes and method that have distinguished his vision of Christian ethics. Rather than survey ethical thinkers or quandaries he develops one straightforward account of a Christian ethic, systematically displaying ideas introduced in his previous works and emphasizing peaceableness as a hallmark of Christian life.

BINDING THE STRONG MAN: A POLITICAL READING OF MARK'S STORY OF JESUS – CHED MYERS

This is the first commentary on the Gospel of Mark to systematically apply a multi-disciplinary approach, called “socio-literary method.” Myers integrates literary criticism, socio-historic exegesis, and political hermeneutics in his investigation of Mark – the oldest story of Jesus – as “manifesto of radical discipleship.” Insisting on fidelity to both text and context, Myers reads Mark’s narrative of Jesus’ life and messianic practice first against the historical circumstances of first century Palestine, and then against the backdrop of contemporary oppression and violence. Mark’s Jesus, Myers argues, offers a compelling model for a Christian practice of non-violent resistance to social, economic, and political domination.

EXCLUSION AND EMBRACE – MIROSLAV VOLF

Christians must learn that salvation comes, not only as we are reconciled to God, and not only “as we learn to live with one another,” but as we learn to take the dangerous and costly step of opening ourselves to the other, of enfolding him or her in the same embrace with which we have been enfolded by God.

WEBSITES

www.compassion.ca
www.catholicworker.com
www.ijm.org
www.jacobswell.ca
www.micahchallenge.ca
www.peoplesseminary.org

www.sanctuaryministries.on.ca
www.streetlevel.ca
www.thesimpleway.org
www.unmilleniumproject.org

INTERNET ARTICLES

BUILDING BRIDGES TO YOUR COMMUNITY TO HELP THE POOR - RONALD SIDER
http://www.pastors.com/article.asp?artID=8987

BONO'S REMARKS AT THE NATIONAL AMERICAN PRAYER BREAKFAST 2006
http://www.data.org/archives/000774.php

WHY AFRICA? - BOB GELDOF
http://www.straight.com/content.cfm?id=6277

THE CHRISTIAN PARADOX – BILL MCKIBBEN (HARPER'S MAGAZINE)
http;//www.harpers.org/ExcerptTheChristianParadox.html

WHEN THE POLITICS OF JESUS MAKE A DIFFERENCE – STANLEY HAUERWAS
http://www.religion-online.org/showarticle.asp?title=109

THE END OF POVERTY – JEFFREY D. SACHS
http://www.unmillenniumproject.org/documents/TimeMagazineMar142005-TheEndofPovertysmall1.pdf

MOVIES

BABETTE'S FEAST (G)

In 19th century Denmark, two adult sisters live in an isolated village with their father, who is the honored pastor of a small Protestant church that is almost a sect unto itself. Although they each are presented with a real opportunity to leave the village, the sisters choose to stay with their father, to serve to him and their church. After some years, a French woman refugee, Babette, arrives at their door, begs them to take her in, and commits herself to work for them as maid/housekeeper/cook. Sometime after their father dies, the sisters decide to hold a dinner to commemorate the 100th anniversary of his birth. Babette experiences unexpected good fortune and implores the sisters to allow her to take charge of the preparation of the meal. Although they are secretly concerned about what Babette, a Catholic and a foreigner, might do, the sisters allow her to go ahead. Babette then prepares the feast of a lifetime for the members of the tiny church and an important gentleman related to one of them.

BORN INTO BROTHELS (R)

Amidst the apparent growing prosperity of India, there is a dark underbelly of poverty of another side of the nation that is little known. This film is a chronicle of filmmakers Zana Briski and Ross Kauffman's efforts to show that world of Calcutta's red light district. To do that, they inspired a special group of children of the prostitutes of the area to photograph the most reluctant subjects

of it. As the kids excel in their new found art, the filmmakers struggle to help them have a chance for a better life away from the miserable poverty that threatens to crush their dreams.

CRASH (R)

For two days in Los Angeles, a racially and economically diverse group of people pursue lives that collide with one another in unexpected ways. These interactions are always interesting, and sometimes quite unsettling. The film explores and challenges your ability to judge books by their covers. It's a rich, intelligent, and moving exploration of the interlocking lives of a dozen Los Angeles residents--black, white, latino, Asian, and Persian.

THE CORPORATION (NR)

An exploration of the nature and spectacular rise of the dominant institution of our time, the corporation. Footage from pop culture, advertising, TV news, and corporate propaganda, illuminates the corporation's grip on our lives. Taking its legal status as a "person" to its logical conclusion, the film puts the corporation on the psychiatrist's couch to ask "What kind of person is it?" Provoking, witty, sweepingly informative, The Corporation includes forty interviews with corporate insiders and critics - including Milton Friedman, Noam Chomsky, Naomi Klein, and Michael Moore - plus true confessions, case studies and strategies for change.

FIX: THE STORY OF THE ADDICTED CITY (R)

Dean Wilson used to be an IBM salesman. Now he is possibly the most outspoken drug addict in Canada. As president of the Vancouver Area Network of Drug Users (VANDU) he is a loud and articulate advocate for street addicts from Vancouver's Downtown Eastside, one of Canada's poorest neighbourhoods, and the site of the highest HIV rate in North America.
(available also in a TV version (45 minutes). Check your local library.)

THE JUSTICE MISSION

The Justice Mission is a video-based curriculum (includes both VHS and DVD) geared toward high school students that depicts the stark reality of oppression and injustice around the world and presents a constructive approach to dealing with them. Available @ www.ijm.org under the resources section.

LES MISERABLES (PG)

Frenchman Jean Valjean (Liam Neeson), imprisoned for stealing bread, is paroled after nearly two decades of hard labor. A gift of silver candlesticks from a kindly priest helps him begin anew. Forging a decent and profitable existence, he finds success as a businessman and as the mayor of a small town. He even takes in a pregnant young woman (Uma Thurman) and raises her daughter as his own. When a former prison guard (Geoffrey Rush) recognizes Valjean, his past catches up to him.

LIFE AND DEBT (NR)

This documentary, directed by Stephanie Black, concerns the effects of globalization and multinational corporations on the island of Jamaica. What could have been a dry-as-dirt lecture on the evils of banking, the closings of farms, and unfair import practices gets shaped by the filmmaker into a comprehensive and involving film about the pillaging of a beautiful island and its people.

RABBIT PROOF FENCE (PG)

This is the true story of Molly Craig, a young black Australian girl who leads her younger sister and cousin in an escape from an official government residential school, set up as part of an official government policy to train them as domestic workers and integrate them into white society. With grit and determination Molly guides the girls on an epic journey, one step ahead of

the authorities, over 1,500 miles of Australia's outback in search of the rabbit-proof fence that bisects the continent and will lead them home. These three girls are part of what is referred to today as the “Stolen Generations.”

ROMERO (PG)

This movie portrays the true story of a quiet, bookish man, Oscar Romero, who stood in the gap between the machine of dehumanizing globalization and the poor. We watch him wrestle with discovering an authentic Christian response to the injustices and oppression prevalent in El Salvador. We see him reprimand all those who would practice violence, whether as military authority, rebels, or institutionalized violence that robs people of their humanity and ability to feed their families. Romero is a hero of the Christian faith.

TSOSTI (R)

Academy Award winner “Best Foreign Film” of the year (2006).
Set amidst the sprawling Johannesburg township of Soweto - where survival is the primary objective - TSOTSI traces six days in the life of a ruthless young gang leader who ends up caring for a baby accidentally kidnapped during a car-jacking.

WATER (PG 13)

Set in the 1930s during the rise of the independence struggles against British colonial rule, the film examines the plight of a group of widows forced into poverty at a temple in the holy city of Varanasi. It focuses on a relationship between one of the widows, who wants to escape the social restrictions imposed on widows, and a man who is from a lower caste and a follower of Mahatma Gandhi.

AUDIO: CD’S/TAPES

LIFE IN THE MARGINS – JOYCE HERON

A workshop geared to introduce you to effective relationships with people on the margins of society this teaching covers the biblical mandate to be toward those on the outside as well as practical ways to build friendship with folks who struggle with addictions, mental health issues, loneliness, handicaps, terminal illnesses etc. We all have people who cross our paths who we feel uncomfortable with because we don’t know how to relate to them, we are afraid, or we simply want to ignore them. As Christians, we know that these are not the responses we are “supposed” to have but we don’t know how to change. Learn how to see those on the margins of society differently and become equipped with basic pragmatics of relating to marginalized people.
(to order email info@jacobswell.ca)

ANNOUNCING THE KINGDOM – JOYCE HERON

Addressing the National Church Planting Congress 2005, Heron challenges us to consider how holistic announcement of the gospel must embrace the poor.
(to order email info@jacobswell.ca)

THE FRAGRANCE OF JUSTICE – JACKIE PULLINGER, JOHN WIMBER, DAVID RUIS

Main sessions from an international conference in Winnipeg, Canada on ministry to the poor and broken. These sessions cover with truth and passion our need of the poor and our accountability to them.
To order: http://www.doin-the-stuff.com/johnsaudio.html

HOPE WITHIN A PRECARIOUS WORLD – DAVE DIEWERT

(Available through the regent bookstore.)

SOLIDARITY, RESISTANCE AND LIBERATION – DAVE DIEWERT

Dr. Diewert explores the role of Christians in an affluent society where a disproportionate number of its members live in poverty and marginalization.
(Available through the regent bookstore.)