

BOOKS

❖ Donal Dorr (1996) *Divine Energy: God Beyond us, Witin us, Among us*

It is the Spirit who sends Christians on Mission, just as Jesus himself was led by the Spirit (Lk 4:1, 14 and as his first followers were sent (Jn. 20:22 – 23). Prophetic ministry is one that involves a strong commitment to human liberation. In this regard to exercise a prophetic ministry is to allow oneself to be the instrument of the Holy Spirit (p19)

❖ Peter McVerry SJ (2008) *Jesus Social Revolutionary?*

Mc Verry cites biblical verses to discuss the kingdom of God and those who qualify to belong to it. He emphasizes a lot on Justice that please Jesus and how Jesus himself lived it. Jesus provided guidance for our moral lives. Could this be what “God’s Call” is pointing us to when talking of Justice? He says; “For I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another” (John 13:34). He also says; “In everything do to others as you would have them do; for this is the law and the prophets” (Matt 7:3). In another instance he says; “you shall love your neighbour as yourself” (Matt 23:39).

McVerry argues that to understand the mission and ministry of Jesus, and simultaneously the mission and ministry of his followers, why Jesus was crucified has to be explained.

He poses three questions; why was Jesus put to death, by crucifixion, by religious/political authorities of his day? What was Jesus doing or saying that was so threatening to them that

they felt that they had to take this action? What are the implications of this for the followers of Jesus and for the life and ministry of the Christian Community? (p12). The answers to these questions are found in the gospels.

❖ Peter Van Breemen (2009) *The God who won't Let Go*

Some notable quotes from Breemen on Mission (p71 – 80)

Breemen interprets having been chosen “to go out and to bear fruit” as mission. He starts by talking about forgiveness. He says that it is crowned when the one forgiven receives once more the full confidence of the one forgiving and is trusted again with a mission. This is our reality, we fail Jesus now and again, however he still trusts us and sends us on mission. He argues that trust is part and parcel of mission.

Breemen praises Eliezer in Genesis 24 who when sent by Abraham to look for a wife for his son never lost sight of the intention of Abraham. He does what he thinks Abraham would do. He is said to combine great conviction and vigor with a clear harmony with the intentions of his master. Let this be said of us.

The essence of the mission is the relationship of trust between the one who sends and the one who is sent. The two must be in harmony.

Mission could be described as representation. The one sent represents his or her master. He or she renders the master present and active. The master speaks and operates in the one sent.

An indispensable selfishness is required of the one sent. Only self-forgetful person can represent their master. In the one sent there must be room for the person who sends her. This then requires that whoever accepts the mission need to be transparent for the master to shine through her. Jesus was completely transparent. “whoever has seen me has seen the father” (Jn14:9).

Jesus carried out his mission with dedication and fidelity. “My work is to do the will of the one who sent me and to finish his work” (Jn 4:34). Mission resides in union with God and union with God exists only in mission.

The roots of Jesus’s mission go deep. They reach into the profound mystery of the Trinity which implies the giving life in unending self-emptying. The mission of Jesus stands in the context of Kenosis (Phil 2:7 – 8).

The mission, from and for which he lived and which formed the content of his life, he passed on to his disciples; “as the father has sent me, so I send you” (Jn 20:21)

We are invited to live our mission anew every day. Mission means living with open hands.

All who genuinely live the mission experience an inner freedom. Mission makes us free.

Mission is resting in the movement of God – God is motion, energy, the tremendous dynamic of love. God is rest because God does not strive for a goal. Mission, though active, means at the same time resting in this God-flow.

We surrender ourselves to this divine movement, we let ourselves be carried buoyantly by the dynamic of God, like floating on the waves of an immense sea of love. Then we live in harmony with the deepest desires of our own heart, with the ground of our being. That is union with God.

Mission is lived from a fullness not from an emptiness.