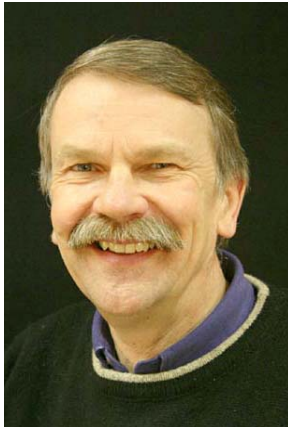


July-August 2004, *Equipping*

## Summer Reading



The promises of summer are with us, and one of the delights of summer is time for reading! So I asked each Area Conference Minister to suggest the books they would most enthusiastically nominate for a pastor's summer reading list. Here are the suggestions:

Jim Shantz, MC Alberta:

1) ***The Pressure's Off***, by Larry Crab, Waterbrooke Press. This thoughtful and soul-searching book is about seeking God for himself, rather than the blessings he gives.

2) ***Emotional Intelligence at Work***, by Hendrie Weisinger, Jossey-Bass Press. The author, a psychologist, addresses the need not only for the usual academic credentials, but also for emotional awareness for successful leadership and service, whether in business or both in service fields. This approach is highly recommended by Roy Oswald of the Alban Institute.

Ken Bechtel, MC Sask:

1) ***Difficult Conversation: Taking risks, acting with integrity***, by Katie Day, Alban. This short book grows out of Professor Day's work with classed and congregations, seeking to find ways to facilitate safe constructive conversation. The discipline of "exercising our conversation muscles" enables congregations to mobilize their God given differences in order to face new challenges and opportunities.

2) ***Behavioral Covenants in Congregations***, by Gil Rendel, Alban. In an age of "Survivor" and "road rage," this classic returns congregational attention to the "holy manners" assumed by the New Testament to be important for our life and talk together.

Henry Kliever, MC BC:

1) ***Real Power, Stages of Personal Power in Organizations***, by Janet O Hagberg, Sheffield Publishing. This book helps identify levels of power that we deal with personally as well as within our churches and conferences. Moving from external to internal sources of power requires going through 'a wall:' addressing and becoming comfortable with one's shadow side. The transformation required has helped me understand conversion and the journey to holiness from a new angle.

Muriel Bechtel, MCEC:

1) ***Feed My Shepherds***, by Flora Slossun Wuellner, Upper Room Books. The author draws from each of Jesus' post-resurrection appearances and important message of healing and hope to the disciples, those who would be charged with leading his followers after he was gone.

2) ***Evensong***, by Gail Godwin. This novel is about an Anglican priest and what she learns from some of the unusual characters she encounters in her ministry.

John Klassen, MC Manitoba:

1) ***Open Secrets: A Memoir of Faith and Discovery***, by Richard Lischer. The author shares what he learns in his early years as a pastor in a Presbyterian congregation. Amazingly every Mennonite pastor, especially in small town settings, would easily identify. The cover description on the book jacket says, "In the tradition of Garrison Keillor, *Open Secrets* captures the friendships, rivalries, and rumors of small-town life by chronicling the lives of the citizens of a small Midwestern community through the eyes of a young minister."

Happy reading!

Sven Eriksson, Denominational Minister