

Eradicating Poverty, Witnessing for Social Justice

A Resource List from the Eradicate Poverty Work Area, Board of Church and Society,
Virginia Conference of the United Methodist Church.

BOOKS (Alphabetical by author)

Alexander, Michelle. *The New Jim Crow: Mass Incarceration in the Age of Colorblindness* (New York, NY: The New Press, 2012). Contrary to the rosy picture of race embodied in Barack Obama's political success and Oprah Winfrey's financial success, legal scholar Alexander argues vigorously and persuasively that [w]e have not ended racial caste in America; we have merely redesigned it. Jim Crow and legal racial segregation has been replaced by mass incarceration as a system of social control (more African Americans are under correctional control today... than were enslaved in 1850). Alexander reviews American racial history from the colonies to the Clinton administration, delineating its transformation into the war on drugs. She offers an acute analysis of the effect of this mass incarceration upon former inmates who will be discriminated against, legally, for the rest of their lives, denied employment, housing, education, and public benefits. Most provocatively, she reveals how both the move toward colorblindness and affirmative action may blur our vision of injustice: most Americans know and don't know the truth about mass incarceration – but her carefully researched, deeply engaging, and thoroughly readable book should change that.

Barker, Ash. *Make Poverty Personal: Taking the Poor as Seriously as the Bible Does* (Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Books, 2009). Poverty is one of the great challenges of the 21st century. But poverty is not new. And neither is God's deep concern for the poor. It is a theme deeply woven throughout the Bible. Yet, sadly, churches and individual Christians have too often been blind to this emphasis, or they have been paralyzed into inaction by feelings of helplessness. In this urgent, provocative book, Barker offers both challenge and hope. Pulling out and reflecting on significant passages from both testaments, he reveals what the Bible says about both the nature of poverty and about how God calls his people to respond. These studies, ideal for either individual or small group use, are interlaced with personal reflections and first-hand accounts from fifteen years of ministry among the poor.

Boyle, Gregory. *Tattoos on the Heart: The Power of Boundless Compassio* (New York: Free Press, 2010). For twenty years, Boyle has run Homeboy Industries, a gang-intervention program located in the Boyle Heights neighborhood of Los Angeles, the gang capital of the world. In *Tattoos on the Heart*, he distills his experience working in the ghetto into a breathtaking series of parables inspired by faith. Arranged by theme and filled with sparkling humor and glowing generosity, these essays offer a stirring look at how full our lives could be if we could find the joy in loving others and in being loved unconditionally. From giant, tattooed Cesar, shopping at JCPenney fresh out of prison, we learn how to feel worthy of God's love. From ten-year-old Lula we learn the importance of being known and acknowledged. From Pedro we understand the kind of patience necessary to rescue someone from the darkness. In each chapter we benefit from Boyle's gentle, hard-earned wisdom. These essays about universal kinship and redemption are moving examples of the power of unconditional love and the importance of fighting despair. Gorgeous and uplifting, *Tattoos on the Heart* reminds us that no life is less valuable than another.

Collins, Chuck. *99 to 1: How Wealth Inequality Is Wrecking the World and What We Can Do About It* (San Francisco: Berrett-Koehler Publishers, 2012). Provides a concise analysis of

redistribution of wealth upwards over the past 30 years, why inequality is increasing, the damage this does to everyone and the quality of our democracy, and what must be done to reverse these trends. Has been called "The best popular economics book of 2012."

Edelman, Peter. *So Rich, So Poor: Why it's so hard to end poverty in America* (New York: The New Press, 2013). Edelman, a lifelong antipoverty advocate with experience in both the Kennedy and Clinton administrations and currently a professor at Georgetown University Law Center, provides an important historical perspective on why some policies have worked and why others haven't; analyzes current challenges, and provides a framework for developing solutions.

Ehrenreich, Barbara. *Nickel and Dimed: On (Not) Getting By in America* (New York: Henry Holt, 2001). Millions of Americans work full time, year round, for poverty-level wages. In 1998, Barbara Ehrenreich decided to join them. She was inspired in part by the rhetoric surrounding welfare reform, which promised that a job -- any job -- can be the ticket to a better life. But how does anyone survive, let alone prosper, on \$6 an hour? To find out, Ehrenreich left her home, took the cheapest lodgings she could find, and accepted whatever jobs she was offered. Moving from Florida to Maine to Minnesota, she worked as a waitress, a hotel maid, a cleaning woman, a nursing-home aide, and a Wal-Mart sales clerk. She lived in trailer parks and crumbling residential motels. Very quickly, she discovered that no job is truly "unskilled," that even the lowliest occupations require exhausting mental and muscular effort. She also learned that one job is not enough; you need at least two if you intend to live indoors. *Nickel and Dimed* reveals low-rent America in all its tenacity, anxiety, and surprising generosity -- a land of Big Boxes, fast food, and a thousand desperate stratagems for survival. Read it for the smoldering clarity of Ehrenreich's perspective and for a rare view of how "prosperity" looks from the bottom. You will never see anything -- from a motel bathroom to a restaurant meal -- in quite the same way again.

Gans, Herbert J. *The War Against the Poor: The Underclass and Antipoverty Policy* (New York: Basic Books, 1995). Examines the socio-economic, psychological and political reasons why better-off Americans so often indict the poor as members of an 'undeserving underclass', argues that this 'underclass' actually functions as a scapegoat for ills in society that have nothing to do with the behavior of the poor, and proposes policy ideas that will help address the needs of the growing underclass. His insights continue to be timely.

Havel, Václav, "The Power of the Powerless" in *The Power of the Powerless: Citizens against the state in central-eastern Europe*, ed. By John Keane (Armonk, NY: M.E. Sharpe, 1985); also available on the web at http://vaclavhavel.cz/showtrans.php?cat=eseje&val=2_aj_eseje.html&typ=HTML>. This classic essay, written in 1978 when the author was a dissident, inspired the Czechoslovak opposition movement, Solidarity activists in Poland, and dissidents in other neighboring countries, moving people of Eastern Europe to stand up until dictators fell. Its genius was not an economic program but a belief that the oppressed always contain "within themselves the power to remedy their own powerlessness" by giving voice to the human yearning for freedom, truth and self-dignity that can lead to a moral reconstitution of society.

Hendricks, Obery M. *The Politics of Jesus: Rediscovering the True Revolutionary Nature of Jesus' Teachings and How They Have Been Corrupted* (New York: Doubleday, 2006). The theologian Cornel West writes that "This book is a grand prophetic work -- courageous in its

message, meticulous in its scholarship, and relevant in its challenge to our sleepwalking times. Hendricks recasts the prevailing view of the meek and mild Jesus in a powerful and persuasive way." A profound reflection upon Jesus as a revolutionary which also provides a manifesto for action; addressing poverty and oppression are seen as among Jesus' revolutionary actions.

Hoppe, Leslie J. *There Shall Be No Poor Among You: Poverty in the Bible* (Nashville: Abingdon Press, 2004). In this careful study, the author examines poverty as portrayed in the Torah, Prophets, Wisdom Literature, Psalms, Apocalyptic literature, New Testament, and the Rabbinic Tradition; challenges the notion that poverty in the Bible is essentially spiritual, and argues that, on the contrary, material poverty is an outrage, a human perversion of the divine will, and that standing in solidarity with the poor today is a "genuine imitation of Christ."

Hudson, Michael, ed. *Merchants of Misery: How Corporate America Profits From Poverty* (Monroe, ME: Common Courage Press, 1996). A critical examination of the 'poverty industry' by award winning journalists who look at banking, race and redlining; small loans and big profits by finance companies, pawnshops, and payday loan businesses; home loan rip-offs, high-priced car loans and insurance, slum lords, rent-to-own industries, and trade-school scams, bringing out the struggle over corporate profits and consumer rip-offs. Although some of the statistics are dated, the stories and issues, unfortunately, remain current.

Kraybill, Donald. *The Upside-Down Kingdom* (Scottsdale: Herald Press. 2003). Completely revised in 2003, *The Upside-Down Kingdom* continues to change people's lives. In it, Kraybill shows how the kingdom of God announced by Jesus appeared upside-down in first-century Palestine. Jesus wins by serving and triumphs by losing. Today, God's way still looks upside-down as it breaks into diverse cultures around the world. Translated into six languages, and with 100,000 sold, this book continues to call many to radical discipleship.

Kotlowitz, Alex. *There Are No Children Here: The Story of Two Boys Growing Up in the Other America* (New York, NY: Doubleday, 1991). The devastating story of brothers Lafayette and Pharoah Rivers, children of the Chicago ghetto, is powerfully told here by Kotlowitz, a Wall Street Journal reporter who first met the boys in 1985 when they were 10 and seven, respectively. Their family includes a mother, a frequently absent father, an older brother and younger triplets. We witness the horrors of growing up in an ill-maintained housing project tyrannized by drug gangs and where murders and shootings frequently occur. Lafayette tries to cope by stifling his emotions and turning himself into an automaton, while Pharoah first attempts to regress into early childhood and then finds a way out by excelling at school. Kotlowitz's affecting report does not have a "neat and tidy ending. . . . It is, instead, about a beginning, the dawning of two lives." These are lives at a crossroads, not totally without hope of triumphing over their origin.

Kozol, Jonathan. *Amazing Grace: The Lives of Children and the Conscience of a Nation* (New York, NY: Random House, 1995). *Amazing Grace* is Jonathan Kozol's classic book on life and death in the South Bronx – the poorest urban neighborhood of the United States. He brings us into overcrowded schools, dysfunctional hospitals, and rat-infested homes where families have been ravaged by depression and anxiety, drug-related violence, and the spread of AIDS. But he also introduces us to devoted and unselfish teachers, dedicated ministers, and – at the heart and center of the book – courageous and delightful children. The children we come to meet through the friendships they have formed with Kozol defy the stereotypes of urban youth too frequently presented by the media. Tender, generous, and often religiously devout, they speak with

eloquence and honesty about the poverty and racial isolation that have wounded but not hardened them. Amidst all of the despair, it is the very young whose luminous capacity for love and transcendent sense of faith in human decency give reason for hope.

Levine, Bruce E. *Get Up, Stand Up: Uniting Populists, Energizing the Defeated, and Battling the Corporate Elite* (White River Junction, VT: Chelsea Green Publishing, 2011). Levine offers important insights in how so many Americans have been pacified to remain passive and apathetic, even when opposed to such things as the war on Iraq or outraged by Wall Street scandals; how their dignity and energy can be reclaimed, and suggests strategies and tactics by which they can resist domination by tyrannical institutions and regain their humanity.

Loeb, Paul Rogat, ed. *The Impossible Will Take a Little While: A Citizen's Guide to Hope in a Time of Fear* (New York, NY: Basic Books, 2004). In *The Impossible Will Take a Little While*, a phrase borrowed from Billie Holliday, the editor of *Soul of a Citizen* brings together fifty stories and essays that range across nations, eras, wars, and political movements. Danusha Goska, an Indiana activist with a paralyzing physical disability, writes about overcoming political immobilization, drawing on her history with the Peace Corps and Mother Teresa. Vaclav Havel, the former president of the Czech Republic, finds value in seemingly doomed or futile actions taken by oppressed peoples. Rosemarie Freeney Harding recalls the music that sustained the civil rights movement, and Paxus Calta-Star recounts the powerful vignette of an 18-year-old who launched the overthrow of Bulgaria's dictatorship. Many of the essays are new, others are classic works that continue to inspire. Together, these writers explore a path of heartfelt community involvement that leads beyond despair to compassion and hope. The voices collected in *The Impossible Will Take a Little While* will help keep us all working for a better world despite the obstacles.

Loeb, Paul Rogat, ed. *The Impossible Will Take a Little While: Perseverance & Hope in Troubled Times* (New York, NY: Basic Books, 2014). What keeps us going when times get tough? How do we keep on working for a more humane world, no matter how hard it sometimes seems? In a time when our involvement has never been needed more, this anthology of political hope will help readers with the essential work of healing our communities, our nation, our planet – despite all odds. In *The Impossible Will Take a Little While*, a phrase borrowed from Billie Holliday, the editor of *Soul of a Citizen* brings together fifty stories and essays that range across nations, eras, wars, and political movements.

Lupton, Robert D. *Toxic Charity: How Churches and Charities Hurt Those They Help, And How You Can Reverse It* (New York: HarperOne, 2011). Argues that much of our charitable giving “is either wasted or actually harms the people it is intended to help” by creating destructive dependency, but that this can be reversed by establishing healthy relationships, identifying the ‘real needs’ of the poor, and supporting recovery of dignity and empowerment. Focus is on more responsible aid; does not address public policy issues.

McLaren, Brian, Elisa Padilla and Ashley Bunting Speer, eds. *The Justice Project* (Grand Rapids: Baker Books. 2009). Justice and the call for change are in the air. Whether it's extreme poverty, human rights, racism, or the Middle East, news outlets bombard us with stories about the need for justice in the world. But how are Christians to respond to these stories and the conditions to which they refer? Here's help. Editors Brian McLaren, Elisa Padilla, and Ashley Bunting Seeber have amassed a collection of over 30 brief chapters by some of the most penetrating thinkers in the justice conversation, including René Padilla, Peggy Campolo, Will

and Lisa Samson, Sylvia Keesmaat, Bart Campolo, Lynne Hybels, Tony Jones, and Richard Twiss. Divided into sections, "God of Justice," "Book of Justice," "Justice in the USA," "Just World," and "Just Church," The Justice Project invites readers to deepen their understanding of the pressures our world faces and to take up the challenge of alleviating them. Never has the world been in greater need of Christians who "do justice, love mercy, and walk humbly with God." This resource will help them do just that.

Miles, Sara. *Take This Bread: A Radical Conversion* (New York, NY: Ballantine, 2008). Early one morning, for no earthly reason, Sara Miles, raised an atheist, wandered into a church, received communion, and found herself transformed—embracing a faith she'd once scorned. A lesbian left-wing journalist who'd covered revolutions around the world, Miles didn't discover a religion that was about angels or good behavior or piety; her faith centered on real hunger, real food, and real bodies. Before long, she turned the bread she ate at communion into tons of groceries, piled on the church's altar to be given away. Within a few years, she and the people she served had started nearly a dozen food pantries in the poorest parts of their city. *Take This Bread* is rich with real-life Dickensian characters—church ladies, millionaires, schizophrenics, bishops, and thieves—all blown into Miles's life by the relentless force of her newfound calling. Here, in this achingly beautiful, passionate book, is the living communion of Christ.

Moore, Wes. *The Other Wes Moore: One Name, Two Fates* (New York, NY: Random House/Spiegel & Grau, 2011). Two kids named Wes Moore were born blocks apart within a year of each other. Both grew up fatherless in similar Baltimore neighborhoods and had difficult childhoods; both hung out on street corners with their crews; both ran into trouble with the police. How, then, did one grow up to be a Rhodes Scholar, decorated veteran, White House Fellow, and business leader, while the other ended up a convicted murderer serving a life sentence? Wes Moore, the author of this fascinating book, sets out to answer this profound question. In alternating narratives that take readers from heart-wrenching losses to moments of surprising redemption, *The Other Wes Moore* tells the story of a generation of boys trying to find their way in a hostile world.

Nunez, Ralph da Costa and Ethan G. Sribnick. *The Poor Among Us: A History of Family Homelessness in New York City* (New York: White Tiger Press, 2013). Conditions that perpetuate homelessness and poverty today have deep roots in America's past. In *The Poor Among Us*, Nunez and Sribnick explore the world of New York's poor children and families, from the era of European settlements to the present day: their physical and social environments, the causes of their poverty, and the institutions and social movements that evolved to improve and regulate their lives. This comprehensive history examines the successes and failures of past efforts to reduce poverty and homelessness, providing the historical context that is often lacking in contemporary policy debates.

Parker, Paul P., ed. *Standing with the Poor: Theological Reflections on Economic Reality* (Cleveland: Pilgrim Press, 1992). A collection of discerning essays that provide critical economic analysis, theological reflections and homiletical resources for addressing poverty through advocacy as critical public theology.

Piven, Frances Fox and Richard A. Cloward. *Poor People's Movements: Why They Succeed, How They Fail* (New York: Vintage Books, 1979). This continuing classic study of four 20th Century movements argues that such movements made gains when they engaged in mass mobilization within specific historical-social contexts, but declined when they sought to become mass membership organizations as leaders became distracted by bureaucracy and elite support.

These ideas are further developed in Piven's *Challenging Authority: How Ordinary People Change America* (Lanham, MD: Rowman & Littlefield, 2006).

Pringle, Peter, ed. *A Place at the Table: The Crisis of 49 Million Hungry Americans and How to Solve It* (Philadelphia, PA: Participant Media, 2013). Forty-nine million people – including one in four children – go hungry in the U.S. every day, despite our having the means to provide nutritious, affordable food for all. Inspired by the acclaimed documentary *A Place at the Table*, this companion book offers powerful insights from those at the front lines of solving hunger in America. Hunger and food insecurity pose a deep threat to our nation. *A Place at the Table* shows they can be solved, once and for all, if the American public decides – as they have in the past – that making healthy food available, and affordable, is in the best interest of us all.

Rogers, Mary Beth. *Cold Anger: A Story of Faith and Power Politics* (Denton, TX: University of North Texas Press, 1990). Considering the importance which Latinos will have on American culture and politics in the 21st century, very little of a nonscholarly nature has been written about them. Rogers fills the gap somewhat with this journalistic biography of Ernesto Cortes, a grass-roots leader who teaches Latinos how to use the political system. A man who combines religion and secular ideology, Cortes is doing for the Latino communities nationally what Jesse Jackson did in Chicago a decade earlier. The book effectively captures the flavor of the movement in small, rural locales and in major urban centers, conveying Cortes's ideology and energy, as well as the issues close to the Latino heart. A welcome look at minority politics in the 1990s. Recommended for all libraries.- Roderic A. Camp, Central Coll., Pella, Ia.

Schwartz-Nobel, Loretta. *Growing Up Empty: How Federal Policies are Starving America's Children* (New York, NY: Harper, 2002). *Growing Up Empty* is a study of the hidden hunger epidemic that still remains largely unacknowledged at the highest political levels and "an unforgettable exploration of public policy, its failures and its victims." Twenty years after Ronald Reagan declared that hunger was no longer an American problem, Schwartz-Nobel shows that hunger has reached epic proportions, running rampant through urban, rural, and suburban communities, affecting blacks, whites, Asians, Christians and Jews, and nonbelievers alike. Among the people we come to know are the new homeless. Born of the "Welfare to Work" program, these working poor have jobs but do not make enough to support their families, such as the formerly middle-class housewife reduced to stealing in order to feed her children, or the soldier fighting on our front lines while his young wife stands in bread lines and is denied benefits and baby formula at a military health clinic.

Shipler, David K. *The Working Poor: Invisible in America* (New York, NY: Vintage Books, 2005). "Nobody who works hard should be poor in America," writes Pulitzer Prize winner David Shipler. Clear-headed, rigorous, and compassionate, he journeys deeply into the lives of individual store clerks and factory workers, farm laborers and sweat-shop seamstresses, illegal immigrants in menial jobs and Americans saddled with immense student loans and paltry wages. They are known as the working poor. They perform labor essential to America's comfort. They are white and black, Latino and Asian--men and women in small towns and city slums trapped near the poverty line, where the margins are so tight that even minor setbacks can cause devastating chain reactions. Shipler shows how liberals and conservatives are both partly right--that practically every life story contains failure by both the society and the individual. Braced by hard fact and personal testimony, he unravels the forces that confine people in the quagmire of low wages. And unlike most works on poverty, this book also offers compelling portraits of employers struggling against razor-thin profits and competition from

abroad. With pointed recommendations for change that challenge Republicans and Democrats alike, *The Working Poor* stands to make a difference.

Simon, Arthur. *How Much Is Enough: Hungering for God in an Affluent Culture* (Grand Rapids: Baker, 2003). In a world filled with both prosperity and poverty, how can Christians handle their finances in a way that honors God? In *How Much Is Enough?*, Simon takes an uncompromising look at America's wealth, reflecting what dominates the hearts and motivations of its people. He diagnoses Western civilization as sick with "affluenza," or runaway materialism, and shows readers how to reject the disease and set new priorities. Churches, social ministry groups, and thoughtful readers will be enlightened by Simon's grasp of Western affluence against the backdrop of a world where 800 million people are chronically starving. Readers will gain a clearer understanding of how money becomes an object of worship when passion for material things is stronger than compassion for the poor. Simon's life-changing book also reveals how affluenza takes control of people's lives and goals. Without discounting prosperity as a blessing, *How Much Is Enough?* proposes new pathways to living as disciples of Jesus. It suggests a myriad of solutions for taming materialism and sheds light on the profound reality that possessions may capture our hearts, but they are unable to nourish our souls.

Singer, Peter. *The Life You Can Save: How to Do your Part to End World Poverty* (Random House: New York, 2009). For the first time in history, eradicating world poverty is within our reach. Yet around the world, a billion people struggle to live each day on less than many of us pay for bottled water. In *The Life You Can Save*, Singer uses ethical arguments, illuminating examples, and case studies of charitable giving to show that our current response to world poverty is not only insufficient but morally indefensible. *The Life You Can Save* teaches us to be a part of the solution, helping others as we help ourselves.

Sklar, Holly, et al. *Raise The Floor: Wages and Policies That Work for All Of Us* (Ms. Foundation for Women, NY: 2001). Tells the story of the working poor, analyses relevant data, argues for a higher minimum wage and other policy changes to lift the poor out of poverty, and demolishes the myth that a higher minimum wage is the main reason so many small businesses fail. The main ideas remain central to the current debate.

Smiley, Travis and Cornell West. *The Rich and the Rest of Us: A Poverty Manifesto* (New York: Smiley Books, 2012). This book builds on the 11-state, 18-city "Poverty Tour: A Call to Conscience" the authors undertook in August, 2011. Their purpose in writing the book "is to make us think about the pervasiveness of poverty, its real causation, and the threat it poses to our democracy." This slim volume provides a snapshot of contemporary poverty in the U.S., and the authors' critique with 12 poverty-changing ideas.

Stearns, Richard. *The Hole in Our Gospel* (Nashville: Nelson. 2009). Ten years ago, Rich Stearns came face-to-face with that question as he sat in a mud hut in Rakai, Uganda, listening to the heartbreaking story of an orphaned child. Stearns' journey there took much more than a long flight to Africa. It took answering God's call on his life, a call that tore him out of his corner office at one of America's most prestigious corporations – to walk with the poorest of the poor in our world. *The Hole in Our Gospel* is the compelling true story of a corporate CEO who set aside worldly success for something far more significant, and discovered the full power of the gospel of Jesus Christ to change his own life. He uses his journey to demonstrate how the

gospel – the whole gospel – was always meant to be a world changing social revolution, a revolution that begins with us.

Taylor, Adam. *Mobilizing Hope: Faith-Inspired Activism for a Post-Civil Rights Generation.* Downers Grove: InterVarsity Press. 2010.

Zahnd, Brian. *Unconditional?: The Call of Jesus to Radical Forgiveness.* Brian Zahnd. Lake Mary: Charisma House. 2010.

ONLINE

The Global Poverty Project. <http://www.globalpovertyproject.com/>

The Institute for Children, Poverty, and Homelessness. <http://www.icphusa.org/>

The Poverty Cure: From Aid to Enterprise. <http://www.povertycure.org/>

Poverty USA: We Can End It. (An initiative of the Catholic Campaign for Human Development.) <http://www.povertyusa.org/>

Half in Ten: The Campaign to Cut Poverty in Half in Ten Years. <http://halfinten.org/>

Too Much – an online weekly commentary on economic excess and inequality, published by the Washington, DC based progressive think tank, Institute for Policy Studies. Provides useful, up-to-date information on the vast gap that exists between the very wealthy and everyone else, why this divide exists and what needs to be done. Subscriptions are free at <http://www.toomuchonline.org>.

United for a Fair Economy “challenges the concentration of wealth and power that corrupts democracy, deepens the racial divide and tears communities apart.” Through popular economics education, trainings, and creative communications it seeks to support movements for a more sustainable and equitable economy. Many useful resources are available at its website, <http://www.faireconomy.org>.

United States Census Poverty Data.
<http://www.census.gov/hhes/www/poverty/poverty.html>

Wealth Inequality In America <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QPKKQnijnsM> > [Nov., 2012]. A six minute infographics video which dramatically illustrates the distribution of wealth in the United States – visually showing that possession of wealth is far more skewed than what the average person thinks it is and extremely more so than it ought to be, unfairly concentrated in the hands of a very small segment of the total population with the top 1% owning 40% of all wealth and over half of all stock, bonds, and mutual funds.

ARTICLES ONLINE

The Battle Hymn of the War on Poverty: How the Call to Empathy Helped Mobilize a Nation.
<http://www.thenation.com/article/177932/battle-hymn-war-poverty>

This is Your Brain on Poverty: What Science Tells Us About Poverty.
<http://www.truth-out.org/opinion/item/21967-this-is-your-brain-on-poverty-what-science-tells-us-about-poverty>

FILMS/DVDs

A Place at the Table. [See book description above.]

Briars in the Cotton Patch: The Story of the Koinonia Farm. This compelling documentary takes a closer look at Clarence Jordan's work in Americus, Georgia during the movement from racial segregation to integration.

Food Stamped: Is it Possible to Eat Healthy on a Food Stamp Budget? (Shira & Yoav Potash, Dirs.). *Food Stamped* is an informative and humorous documentary film following a couple as they attempt to eat a healthy, well-balanced diet on a food stamp budget.

Frontline: Two American Families. With poignant and revealing intimacy, *Two American Families* chronicles the struggles of the Neumanns and the Stanleys as they try to hold onto their homes, their jobs, their health insurance, and a future for their children. A remarkable portrait of perseverance, the 90-minute film raises unsettling questions about the changing nature of the U.S. economy and the fate of a declining middle class.

Paper Clips. I think every teacher in America needs to see this documentary. Teachers in a small, middle school in the mountains of East Tennessee began a study of the Holocaust as a way to learn about intolerance and diversity. The Paper Clip Project initiated by these teachers had a profound effect on the students and brought them into contact with Holocaust survivors – a conversation that took place at the local United Methodist Church, I might add! Very touching story of how small things – like the paper clip, which was a symbol used by Norwegians as a symbol of solidarity against the Nazi occupiers – and young students at a small school making a powerful, life-changing, community-transforming statement. I highly recommend this documentary!

The End of Poverty? Think Again. Global poverty did not just happen. It began with military conquest, slavery and colonization that resulted in the seizure of land, minerals and forced labor. Today, the problem persists because of unfair debt, trade and tax policies -- in other words, wealthy countries taking advantage of poor, developing countries. Renowned actor and activist, Martin Sheen, narrates *The End of Poverty?*, a feature-length documentary directed by award-winning director, Philippe Diaz, which explains how today's financial crisis is a direct consequence of these unchallenged policies that have lasted centuries. Consider that 20% of the planet's population uses 80% of its resources and consumes 30% more than the planet can regenerate. At this rate, to maintain our lifestyle means more and more people will sink below the poverty line. Filmed in the slums of Africa and the barrios of Latin America, *The End of Poverty?* features expert insights from: Nobel prize winners in Economics, Amartya Sen and Joseph Stiglitz; acclaimed authors Susan George, Eric Toussaint, John Perkins, Chalmers Johnson; university professors William Easterly and Michael Watts; government ministers such as Bolivia's Vice President Alvaro Garcia Linera and the leaders of social movements in Brazil,

Venezuela, Kenya and Tanzania. It is produced by Cinema Libre Studio in collaboration with the Robert Schalkenbach Foundation. Can we really end poverty within our current economic system? Think again.

STUDIES

Dissident Discipleship: A Spirituality of Self-Surrender, Love of God, and Love of Neighbor. David Augsburg. Grand Rapids: Bazos Press. 2006.

Resources for Reconciliation Series. Emanuel Katongole and Chris Rice, eds. Downers Grove: IVP Books. See specifics below:

- Reconciling All Things: A Christian Vision for Justice, Peace and Healing. Emanuel Katongole and Chris Rice. Downers Grove: IVP Books, 2008.
- Forgiving as We've Been Forgiven: Community Practices for Making Peace. L. Gregory Jones and Celestin Musekura. Downers Grove: IVP Books, 2010.
- Making Peace with the Land: God's Call to Reconcile with Creation. Fred Bahnson and Norman Wirzba. Downers Grove: IVP Books, 2012.
- Living Gently in a Violent World: The Prophetic Witness of Weakness. Stanley Hauerwas and Jean Vanier. Downers Grove: IVP Books, 2008.
- Friendship at the Margins: Discovering Mutuality in Service and Mission. Christopher L. Heuertz and Christiane D. Pohl. Downers Grove: IVP Books, 2010.
- Living without Enemies: Being Present in the Midst of Violence. Samuel Wells and Marcia A. Owen. Downers Grove: IVP Books, 2011.
- Welcoming Justice: God's Movement Toward Beloved Community. Charles Marsh and John Perkins. Downers Grove: IVP Books, 2009.

MUSIC

What Does the Lord Require of You?

Music by Mark A. Miller
Abingdon Press

For Everyone Born

Words: Shirley Erena Murray
Music: Brian Mann
Hope Publishing Company

The United Methodist Hymnal

363, And Can It Be that I Should Gain
209, Blessed Be the God of Israel
199, Canticle of Mary (Magnificat)
208, Canticle of Zechariah (Benedictus)
196, Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus
360, Freedom in Christ (prayer)
448, Go Down, Moses
203, Hail to the Lord's Anointed
586, Let My People Seek Their Freedom

579, Lord God, Your Love Has Called Us Here
198, My Soul Gives Glory
388, O Come and Dwell in Me
200, Tell Out, My Soul
121, There's a Wideness in God's Mercy
210, Toda la Tierra (All Earth Is Waiting)
257, We Meet You, O Christ
533, We Shall Overcome

The Faith We Sing

2104, An Outcast among Outcasts
2146, His Eye Is on the Sparrow
2219, Goodness Is Stronger than Evil
2232, Come Now, O Prince of Peace (O-So-So)
2192, Freedom Is Coming
2019, Holy (Santo)
2151, I'm So Glad Jesus Lifted Me
2234, Lead On, O Cloud of Presence
2194, O Freedom
2029, Praise to the Lord
2144, Someone Asked the Question
2117, Spirit of God
2241, The Spirit Sends Us Forth to Serve
2172, We Are Called
2182, When God Restored Our Common Life

MISCELLANEOUS

New World Outlook (January/February, 2014), "How To Help Without Causing Harm." Several articles on how to work with the poor in ways that empower rather than create dependency.

New World Outlook (May/June, 2012), "Mission Study: Poverty." Several articles on understanding poverty.

Graphic Illustration of the U.S. Distribution of Wealth.

<http://randycoffeyillustration.com/wp-content/uploads/The-Distribution-of-Wealth-in-the-U.S.pdf>

May, 2014.