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INSTITUTE *of*
METROPOLITAN
WASHINGTON

LOOKING FOR A GOOD BOOK TO READ THIS SUMMER?

The selections are not exactly beach reading, but this year the Reformed Institute recommends...

Hansen, Collin. *Young, Restless and Reformed—A Journalist's Journey with the New Calvinists* (Crossway 2008)

In the past year both the *New York Times* and *Time* magazine have run stories on a phenomenon known as the “new Calvinism” which appeals mainly to young people in their 20’s and 30’s. This book, which is an expansion of an article that appeared in the evangelical journal *Christianity Today*, is a report on a young journalist’s attempt to make sense of this movement through face-to-face encounters with some of its leading proponents. It is a quick, entertaining read.

Michlethwait, John & Woolridge, Adrian. *God Is Back—How the Global Revival of Faith is Changing the World* (Penguin, 2009)

The authors of this book are Oxford-trained journalists, both of whom work for *The Economist* magazine. It provides a wide-ranging analysis of the contemporary boom in religious belief and practice around the world. Its main theme is the relationship between religion and modernity, and it is organized around a well-conceived contrast between the American experience and that of European peoples. It offers provocative answers to many of the more important questions that are raised by the current religious revival, such as why this is happening and what it portends for the relations among the world’s major religions. The book is written in the crisp style for which *The Economist* has come to be known, which makes for easy reading.

Migliore, Daniel L. *The Power of God and the gods of Power* (Westminster/John Knox, 2008)

This is a significantly revised update of a book originally published in 1983. Written by a long-time member of the faculty of Princeton Theological Seminary, it does an excellent job of showing how people's beliefs about God affect the way they approach life. The issue of God's power is a critically important one for Christians to be discussing today, and Migliore explores that subject in a manner that brings clearly into focus what is distinctive about Christian beliefs. This new edition contains a concluding chapter on the theological aspects of the encounter with Muslims. The book would be an excellent basis for an adult education class.

Wells, David. *The Courage to be Protestant—Truth-Lovers, Marketers and Emergents in the Postmodern World* (Eerdmans 2008)

Wells is an evangelical who has taught theology for many years at Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary. He is also a gifted interpreter of contemporary cultural trends who has devoted much effort to making theological sense of what is occurring in the twists and turns of our cultural life. This latest volume, which is the fifth in a series begun in the early 1990's, focuses directly on some of the more popular strategies being pursued by Protestant churches in this country today as they seek to respond to the challenges posed by the latest cultural trends. Framed as a defense of the truth of "historic Protestantism," the book is at once lively and deep, and it should be of interest to anyone, evangelical or not, who is interested in thinking strategically about the mission of the church today.