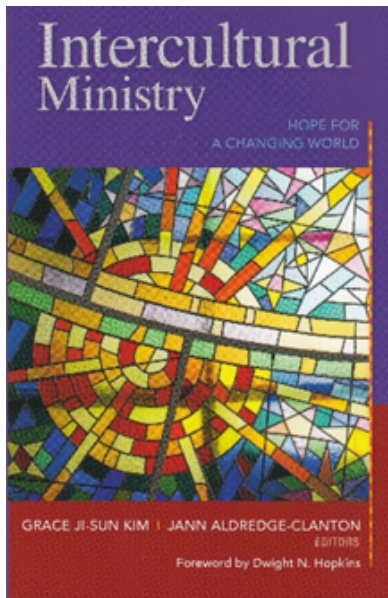


## Book Reviews

### *“Intercultural Ministry: Hope for a Changing World”*

By Grace Ji Sun Kim and Jann Aldredge - Clanton (Eds)

Reviewed by Gail Reneker : Sefton, NSW

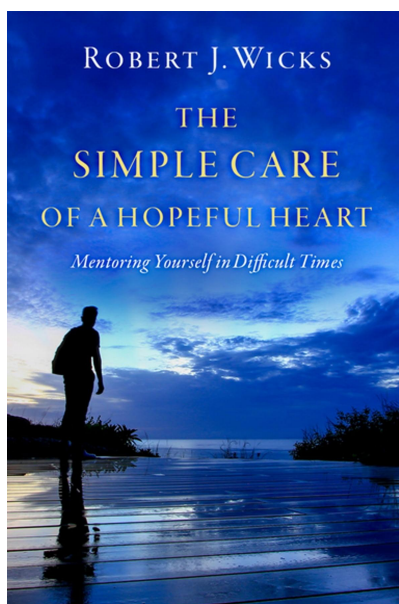


This book presents us with a collection of essays written by pastoral leaders telling of their personal experience of ministering within communities of diverse cultures in American churches – experiences with relevance in Australia. The writers offer Scriptural and theological reflections on their experience and the call being made to the church, as one contributor puts it, to become ‘the beloved community’. It is suggested by one that what the church needs is not a multicultural ministry but rather an intercultural community. The significant challenges that this poses, e.g. the variety of perceptions of what this means, threats to power and privilege, racial and ethnic tensions, toleration of difference, are experienced and described in different ways. One gift required, and one pertinent to us as spiritual directors, is cultural competency. Mindful of the Pentecost experience it is described as ‘understanding deeply the experience of another while still being rooted in your own cultural reality’. In general, the book provides an invitation to readers to move out of their comfort zones!

### *“The Simple Care of a Hopeful Heart: Mentoring Yourself in Difficult Times”*

By Robert J Wicks

Reviewed by Gail Paxman : Melbourne, VIC



This book has come to me during a time of personal transition and has spoken into the ups and downs I am experiencing in life. Following the recent CSD presentation by Robert J Wicks, this book offered me compassion, hope, structure, and insight to move forward.

It is a book speaking to Spiritual Directors, and others in the helping and healing professions, as we deal with issues life presents to us, including the impact of the pandemic on ourselves. Offering fifty brief but engaging lessons, this book invites you to contemplate what is impacting you and to listen to yourself. Each lesson is concise and offers approaches to mentor yourself, with courage and commitment, through whatever is going on for you, so you can emerge in humility, wisdom and compassion with a deeper embrace of true love.

This is not a “read it once” book, I will revisit it as I experience future life challenges because it offers me a way to mentor myself through, and reinvigorate myself during life’s inevitable storms.