

Boekaankondiging

Brenda Salter McNeil. 2008. *A Credible Witness - Reflections on Power, evangelism and race.* Downers Grove: IVP. January 2008 gepubliseer. ISBN: 978-0-8308-3482-2. IVP BESTELLINGSKODE: 3482.

Dr Brenda Salter McNeil* is 'n Afro-Amerikaanse evangelis, wie se teologie van meet af aan werk met 'n vertikale as (versoening met God in Christus) sowel as 'n horisontale as (versoening met mekaar in Christus) oor gender, ras en sosiale grense heen.

In haar onlangse boek werk Brenda met die verhaal van die Samaritaanse vrou in die evangelie van Johannes hoofstuk 4 om dié teologiese punt te onderstreep. Sy vervleg haar eie verhaal, wat baie keer diskriminerende kante gehad het, met dié van die Samaritaanse vrou, wat sy *Sam* noem. Sy oordink op verfrissende wyse die impak wat 'n greep op beide die vertikale en horisontale as van versoening op gelowiges se hantering van mag, evangelisasie en ras (die subtitel van haar boek) kan hê.

Van die kommentaar op die boek gee alreeds 'n prentjie van die waarde wat die boek kan hê.

- “We lack the urgency to bring down the barriers that divide us in the church, and we don't know how to live the gospel in a multicultural society. The chapters on intentionality and needing one another are themselves worth their weight in gold. If only we will listen!” (Neta Jackson)
- Dr Salter McNeil gives us the vocabulary of justice, reciprocity and authenticity that, if heeded, gives us an opportunity for a genuine, authentic and credible witness to an increasingly diverse and rapidly changing cultural context.” (Soong-Chan Rah)

In plaas van 'n resensie waarin ek maklik my eie perspektief op haar werk op die voorgrond kan plaas, wil ek eerder 'n aantal uittreksels uit die boek maak, om haar perspektiewe te deel.

Oor eenheid

- “To choose Christ is also to choose his community.” (2008:16)
- “Our unity in the midst of our diversity is one of the most powerful ways we reveal the reality of what Jesus accomplished on the cross.” (2008:16)

Oor evangelisasie

- “Jesus models a startling kind of evangelism that loves people deeply, crosses religious, ethnic and socio-political barriers, builds relationships of mutuality, and calls us all into profound, far-reaching transformation.” (2008:18)

- “Clearly Christians must become interculturally competent if they are to cross the divides of age, gender, ethnicity, race, class, social status and religion in order to share the gospel.” (2008:19)
- “This presents an extreme challenge for many of us because our natural inclination is to approach people who are most like us – people we identify with and feel most comfortable with.” (2008:20)
- “In this changing milieu our individualistic evangelistic methods are less than effective to reach people who have a collective, relational worldview.” (2008:23)
- “If we are going to regain our evangelistic credibility, we must recognize our need for people who are different from us and invite them into our lives.” (2008:72)

Oor horisontale versoening

- “Jesus reconciled the woman back to God, and as a Jewish man he also reconciled with her across religious, ethnic, cultural, social and gender barriers.” (2008:21)

- “Far too often well-meaning Christians preach only the vertical truth of the cross: that we have been reconciled to God through Jesus Christ. This is true, but it is only one part of the truth ... There is a horizontal reality that must also be declared: that the walls that divided people from one another have been crushed and we are now one blood-related family in Christ ... to preach anything less is a one-dimensional message that is not the cross but a ‘stick’ that we can use to hit people over the head.” (2008:21)

Oor 'n narratiewe aanpak

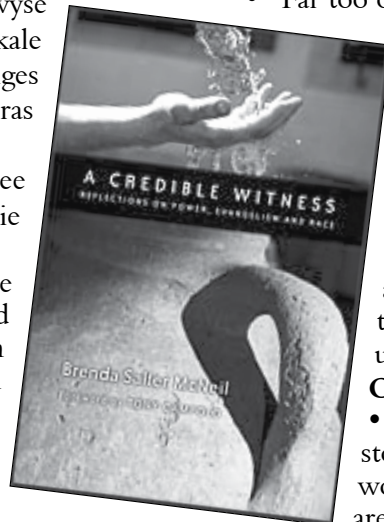
- “Just like my friend Sam, we need a new story – a story that makes sense, a story that's worth living for, a story that tells us who we are and gives us meaning and purpose in life. And then we need to connect our stories

together to create a collective narrative that is rooted in the best story of all – that God loves us just the way we are and our narrative has a plot worth living out because of Jesus Christ.” (2008:26)

Oor rassisme

- “This is what true, life-changing evangelism is, and it begins with God – in the heart of God. Compelled by the love of God for us and for the world, we choose to follow a divine mandate to cross gender lines, racial barriers, denominational divides, political affiliations, age separations and class distinctions. This is not a good idea – it's a God idea!” (2008:43)

* Brenda Salter McNeil is die stigter en president van Salter McNeil & Associates, LLC. Dié maatskappy fasiliteer 'n interkulturele bedrewenheid- (competence) proses in vennootskap met Christen-leiers om organisasies te transformeer. Hulle slagspreuk is: *Igniting a passion for reconciliation*. Lees meer daaroor by www.saltermcneil.com



Chris van Wyk