

# Mission Possible Ezine

## May 2010

[David Fitch](#) wrote a [post of mission-related quotes](#) on the 4<sup>th</sup> May: quotes he wants to remember. They're scattered throughout this ezine (in the boxes.).

### BOOKS

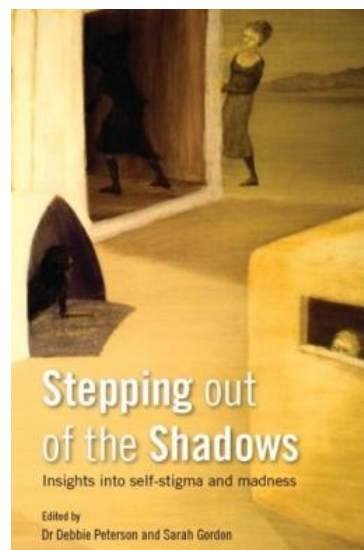
***Stepping out of the shadows: Insight into self-stigma and madness***, Edited by Dr Debbie Peterson and Sarah Gordon.

Contributors: Dr Debbie Peterson, Mary O'Hagan, Sarah Gordon, Dr Lynne Pere, Anne Helm, Vito Nonumalo, Dr Dean Manley, Ivan Yeo, Sarah O'Connor, Dennis Duerr, Niki Smith, Ruth Jackson and Alex Barnes.

This is a book of articles, essays and personal accounts about the effects of the self-stigma associated with mental illness. It is a moving collection of personal viewpoints and insights interspersed with research findings and linkages on the topic of self-stigma and madness. Of particular note is the Discrimination Intervention Model as presented by Dr Debbie Peterson and Alex Barnes for the first time on a world stage.

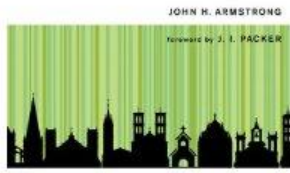
Sometimes it is difficult to read - not in being too wordy or academic, but in the way that some of the stories reflect very personal instances of tremendous physical, mental, psychological and spiritual anguish associated with self-stigma and madness. The articles written by Dr Lynne Pere, Vito Nonumalo and Ivan Yeo, offer for the first time material from tangata whaiora/ people with lived experience who are not from the dominant culture in this country. There is also highlighted focus on cultural realities, constructs and perspectives on this kaupapa of the indigenous people of Aotearoa, Pacific/ Samoan and Chinese/ Malaysian people in an in-depth way.

Published by CASE Consulting Ltd 2009. Available direct from [Mental Health Organisation NZ](#) (doesn't appear to be available in general NZ bookshops).



**David Coffey**: “They say the difference between a Hollywood actor and a British actor is – the Hollywood actor will ask, “how will this script be modified to suit my strengths/personality? The British actor will ask, how can I do justice to what the author intended in this script?”

***Your Church Is Too Small: Why Unity in Christ's Mission Is Vital to the Future of the Church, by John H Armstrong.***



your church is **too small**



In *Your Church Is Too Small*, John Armstrong presents a vision of the unity possible for Christians across social, cultural, racial, and denominational lines. When Jesus' followers seek unity through participation in the kingdom of God and the mission of Christ, they demonstrate God's character to a watching world.

'With attention to his own pilgrimage and growth in ecclesial awareness, John Armstrong explores here the evangelical heart and ecumenical breadth of churchly Christianity. I am encouraged by his explorations and commend this study to all believers who pray and labour for the unity for which our Saviour prayed.' -- Timothy George.

For more detailed reviews, check out the [Amazon.com entry](#) for this book.

Published March 2010, Zondervan.



***Deep Church: a third way beyond emerging and traditional, by Jim Belcher.***

Passionately, articulately and with sometimes winsome self-confidence, Belcher seeks to chart a third way between the often divided factions within the traditional and emerging wings of American evangelicalism. The author, founding pastor of Redeemer Presbyterian Church in Newport Beach, Calif., asserts that it is possible to forge a new ecumenism and unity based in creedal orthodoxy, while also respecting the particularities of denominations and faith communities. After defining what impels the emerging church movement, he analyzes the seven protests levelled by the movement against traditional churches within the evangelical movement, from being too caught up in the rationalism of the Enlightenment, to overemphasizing doctrinal purity and an unwillingness to engage modern culture. Following that, he responds to each critique with an alternative solution that blends both reform and tradition to create a new body of Christian gospel-centred believers. A caveat: readers who think that mainline Protestantism has anything to contribute to this dialogue will not find any encouragement. Focused on the internal struggle within the American Christian evangelical wing, Belcher barely mentions this other flank of Christianity. [This last comment – the review is from Publishers' Weekly - doesn't necessarily seem to be borne out by those who provide reviews on the [Amazon.com page for this book.](#)]

Published by IVP Sept 2009

**David Fitch:** "If you're not careful (with the attractational ministry approach), you'll end up looking back after 30 years of ministry realizing the high point of your ministry was that one moment in time when you finally got all 300 people to come to your church and be happy at the same time."

## Engagement 21 -

### A Wake-up Call to the 21st Century Church in Mission

By Bishop Richard Randerson

\$20.00

Engagement 21 challenges the Church to radically review its mission strategy if it seeks to gain traction in today's world. A mission-focused theology, a deeper understanding of modern society and more effective skills in ministry are central to the task. Based on a survey of 96 clergy and laity in New Zealand and Australia, Engagement 21 reports a widespread grass-roots desire for change. But it also documents 126 creative ministry projects that are signs of a new mission paradigm. Designed for individual or group reading, the book is priced to facilitate local study and mission planning.



Topics include:

- Statistics of church participation rates 1945-2006
- Results of the mission survey with 16 graphs documenting the extent of theological and ministry training, perceptions of parish ministries, chaplaincies and lay vocation, and attitudes re the need for new models of ministry and less institutional focus
- A three-part Biblical study on mission based on the redemption of all Creation
- 126 innovative ministry projects that span the range from spirituality, worship and theological education to community outreach, social justice and environmental stewardship
- Foreword by Bishop Philip Richardson.

#### **Bishop Tom writes:**

*I warmly commend Bishop Richard Randerson's book - "Engagement 21", which is a newly published research work looking at our mission in the community across the country. A number of projects from this diocese feature but taken as a whole it is a comprehensive review of where we are at and is a resource we will all benefit from.*

Available either: [resource@wn.ang.org.nz](mailto:resource@wn.ang.org.nz) or telephone 0800 833 477, or direct from the author: [randersonjr@paradise.net.nz](mailto:randersonjr@paradise.net.nz) – 04 976 6050, or from Epworth Books. Prices vary slightly depending on where you order it from.

**Dallas Willard:** "Prayer is a power sharing arrangement for a world of recovering sinners. I'm talking to God about what we're doing together." ... "in regard to Peter's denial of Jesus, Jesus is working through a larger system of reality with Peter. He could have stopped him right there – instead he goes and prays for Him."

There's a new online magazine called [Fear.Less](#). It's well written, has half a dozen interesting contributors from a variety of fields, and can be downloaded, or read on your browser, or printed out. All for free.

The magazine promotes itself this way: *fear.less is a free online magazine that empowers people through unique stories of overcoming fear. From entrepreneurs, business leaders, artists and scientists to survivors of extreme experiences, these stories demonstrate the hidden potential we have to confront our fears and come out victorious. Fear.less is our answer to an emergency.*



Okay, so why am I mentioning it here, since there's no particular Christian connection in it? Well, firstly in each case the contributors discuss overcoming a fear or failure in their life that could easily have debilitated them for the future. Secondly, it's a biblical principle that fear is something to be overcome, or it will be your master.

Thirdly, it's a prime example of what magazines might look like in the future. I don't think that future is here yet; not quite. Paper magazines are still rampant, even though large numbers of them are losing money, and increasingly they have more ads than content. (*fear.less* has more content than ads.) Depending on the state of the Internet in the next ten/twenty years, this could be the way magazines go. Far more economical to produce, environmentally more friendly (I think!) and accessible to larger numbers of people - or just to a small group that wants to read about those particular issues.

## MISSION

It takes quite a few paragraphs of the [Stuff.co.nz story](#) to find this out, but **Daniel Chung**, who hands out food *every Sunday* in Latimer Square, Christchurch, is a Christian. 13 years ago he came to NZ from South Korea, and has worked as a taxi driver for a good deal of that time, not being able to get work here in his field of chemical engineering.

He doesn't make a lot of money, but still spends between \$100 and \$300 a week on providing food for homeless people in the area.

"It is a struggle financially to keep doing it. If possible, if God permitted me, I would do this to the end of my days. It's an eternal job I will do until I leave this world."

His desire to help people came from his mother, who was a pastor in Pusan, South Korea, where he was born. She dedicated her life to helping people with leprosy, and that had a big impact on him, he said.

After feeding the people, he and his family head off to a church service. Seems to me they may have already 'done' church before they leave.



**David Fitch:** “Because our pastors have been so trained to understand the ministry in terms of their own success, we have thousands of them who are either manic-depressive or egomaniacs.”

## QUOTES

When internal and external alignment is lost, the organization faces a choice: either adapt or take the road to slow death. Usually the organization can be renewed, energized, or made effective only if some leader is willing to take some big risks by stepping outside the well-defined boundaries. When this happens, the organization is lured, pushed, or pulled into unknown territory. The resulting journey through the unknown is a terrifying experience, with the possibility of failure or death a reality rather than a metaphor.

*From the opening chapter of **Deep Change: discovering the leader within**, by Robert E Quinn.*

**A comedian whose name David Fitch has forgotten:** “Every morning you need to get up, go to the mirror and look at yourself and say three times ‘It’s NOT about me, It’s NOT about me, It’s NOT about me.’ You need to repeat this again and again until you get it thoroughly into your soul. Only at that point then do you need to go back to the same mirror and say ‘It’s about me, It’s about me, It’s about me.’”

## WELLNESS

### [Working harder, faster](#)

*The following paragraphs are from an article by **Tony Schwartz**, entitled, [The Productivity Myth](#)*

Americans already put in more hours than workers in any country in the world - and that doesn't include the uncounted shadow work that technology makes possible after the regular workday ends. Here's the bigger point. Just as you'll eventually go broke if you make constant withdrawals from your bank account without offsetting deposits, you will also ultimately burn yourself out if you spend too much energy too continuously at work without sufficient renewal.

Getting more tasks accomplished — say writing and responding to scores of emails in between other activities — may technically represent higher productivity, but it doesn't necessarily mean adding greater value.

Instead, the ethic of more, bigger, faster ultimately generates value that is narrow, shallow and short-term.

When you're running as fast as you can, what you sacrifice is attention to detail, and time to step back, reflect on the big picture, and truly think strategically and long-term.

*A lot of what he says applies to.....ministers (!) Yes, there is a need to be available to your congregation, but if you're tired out, lacking concentration and in general working well under par, you may not be much good to them.*

*It's interesting to read some of the comments to this article - the work ethic is so strong in the American psyche that a number of the commenters find it difficult to agree with much of what Schwartz says.*

**N T Wright:** "When we deschatologize the kingdom – we make it purely about a social ethic: Jesus' message becomes – go out and hug a peasant now."

**N T Wright:** "There are many Kingdom churches that don't know what the cross is about and there are many cross churches which don't know what the Kingdom is about ... the Kingdom and the cross go inextricably together. They cannot be separated from each other."

[All you need to know...](#) is that it's possible (*from Seth Godin*)

"Wolf was carrying a super-small pack which weighed 14 pounds including food and water. When asked how he got his pack weight so low, Wolf would reply, 'All you need to know is that it's possible.'"

One of the under-reported stories of the internet is this: it constantly reports on what's *possible*. Somewhere in the world, someone is doing something that you decided couldn't be done. By calling your bluff and by pointing out the possibilities, this reporting of possibility changes everything.

You can view this as a horrible burden, one that raises the bar and eliminates any sinecure of comfort and hiding you can find, or you can embrace it as a chance to stretch.



Don't forget to check out the [Mission Resource Blog](#)

*Due to time pressures, this month's ezine is a little smaller than usual – but hopefully still has enough in it to engage your attention!*