

Economics and money

Print and electronic resources for the church

Arlyn Friesen Epp

L*iving Justice: A Gospel Response to Poverty*, edited by Karri Munn-Venn and Adam Snook (Ottawa, ON: Citizens for Public Justice, 2011). How is the Christian faith community to live out the justice mandate to love the stranger, the widow, and the orphan, and to seek just relations within society? Through reflections, questions, activities, and prayers, this resource provides insight into the situation of poverty in Canada, the challenges and opportunities we face as a society, and actions that Christians can take. Also see their succeeding volume, *Living Ecological Justice*.

Trading Rights Cards and Teacher's Guide, by Sheilagh McGlynn et al. (Toronto, ON: Kairos, 2009). A unique youth curriculum that aims to raise awareness about the connections between international trade and human rights and help students understand the role they play in the global economy. Each card focuses on an everyday product, company, or human rights defender, and draws a link between our daily lives and human rights struggles around the world.

How the Church Fails Businesspeople (and What Can Be Done about It), by John C. Knapp (Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2012). Why do many Christians struggle to relate their faith to their daily work? This book argues that the church's ambiguous teachings about vocation, money, and business have long contributed to Christians' uncertainty about discipleship in the workplace. Drawing on his own expertise in business ethics and numerous interviews with Christians in diverse occupations, Knapp offers a theological framework for Christian life in the world of business.

Building an Ethical Economy: Theology and the Marketplace (DVD series), by Rowan Williams, Sir Partha Dasgupta, Kathryn Tanner, and Bernard Ntahoturi (New York, NY: Trinity Institute,

2010). Does theology have a role in shaping a new economy—one that works toward the biblical ideal of sufficiency for all and is resistant to exploitation? In this lecture series, leading theologians and economists talk about the relationship between economics and Christian faith. Speakers address topics of capitalism, wealth, and future responsibility.

Why Business Matters to God (and What Still Needs to Be Fixed), by Jeff Van Duzer (Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 2010). Van Duzer integrates biblical studies with the disciplines of business and economics. Looking beyond the place of ethical principles and the character of the individual, Van Duzer displays a vision of business that contributes to the very purposes of God.

God's Economy: Redefining the Health and Wealth Gospel, by Jonathan Wilson-Hartgrove (Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2009). Wilson-Hartgrove draws from Jesus's teachings on money, exploring five tactics for living in God's economy of abundance. Then he demonstrates how people have practiced these tactics in the past, as well as what these principles can do for you, your family, and your church today. Also listen to Wilson-Hartgrove's related public lecture at St. Benedict's Table, Winnipeg, in 2009; podcast available for download at www.mennonitechurch.ca/tiny/2221.

Preaching and Stewardship: Proclaiming God's Invitation to Grow, by Craig Alan Satterlee (Herndon, VA: Alban Institute, 2011). A nuts-and-bolts handbook for preaching on stewardship, raising issues preachers need to consider when preparing stewardship sermons and offering advice on how to address them.

Money Enough: Everyday Practices for Living Faithfully in the Global Economy, edited by Douglas A. Hicks (San Francisco: Jossey-Bass, 2010). Walking the line between rejecting the marketplace and accepting its excesses, this book shows how to develop practices that help us survive in hard times and reach out to others.

Money and Faith: The Search for Enough, edited by Michael Schut (Denver: Morehouse Education Resources, 2008). On a personal level, this book opens up issues of scarcity and abun-

dance, idolatry and freedom. On a societal level, it invites exploration of greater equity and sustainability. On both levels, it empowers individuals and groups to apply their faith's values in practical ways while taking pastoral and prophetic stances. Includes an extensive study guide.

Free: Spending Your Time and Money on What Matters Most, by Mark Scandrette (Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 2013). Packed with helpful exercises for getting a handle on your money story, and designed for healing and generative money conversations with friends, *Free* gives you a path to financial freedom and spiritual flourishing.

The Cost of Community: Jesus, St. Francis and Life in the Kingdom, by Jamie Arpin-Ricci (Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 2011). St. Francis of Assisi challenged the church and empire of his day by ordering his life around the gospel—giving up his power, wealth, and privileges; claiming the poor and powerful alike as his brothers and sisters; and loving Islamic neighbors even as his church and state waged war on them. Centuries later, Jamie Arpin-Ricci and his friends and neighbours in the new monastic community of Little Flowers in urban Winnipeg have likewise heard Jesus's message and ordered their lives around it. This book is Jamie's field report, giving surprising insights about what life together in the spirit of Jesus's teachings offers us, and what it demands of us.

Your Treasure, Your Heart: Women and the Stewardship of Money, by Patricia Burdette (Scottsdale, PA: Faith and Life Resources, 2008). This thirteen-session Bible study guide is designed for women's gatherings, Sunday school classes, or individual reading and inspiration.

Everence (in the United States: www.everence.com) and Mennonite Foundation (in Canada: <http://www.mennofoundation.ca>) offer personal and congregational resources on budgeting, estate planning, stewardship, first-fruits giving, and more. Here are a few examples:

Giving Your First Fruits: Money, Faith and Worship, by Edwin Friesen (Mennonite Foundation of Canada, 2013). This series of short stories/essays deals with “financial discipleship.” Available for download at www.mennonitechurch.ca/tiny/2114.

Lifestyle Choices: An Exercise in Timbits® Economics, by Darren Pries-Klassen (Mennonite Foundation of Canada, 2013). This group exercise for youth/young adult settings explores the relationship between money, choice, and power. Available for download at www.mennonitechurch.ca/tiny/2220.

From Grateful to Generous: Stewardship Sermons and Discussion Questions, by John H. Neufeld and Elsie Rempel (Mennonite Foundation of Canada, 2007). These six sermons and accompanying study guide address topics of money, assets, and greed. Available for download at www.mennonitechurch.ca/tiny/1840.

Year-Round Congregational Stewardship (Lancaster, PA: Everence, 2009). This resource provides a comprehensive stewardship strategy for congregations. Available for download at www.mennonitechurch.ca/tiny/2222.

But It's Only a Story: Why Jesus Told Stories about Money and Why We Should Too, by Beryl M. Jantzi (Lancaster, PA: Everence). This four-session curriculum is designed to help people talk about money, greed, generosity, stewardship.

About the author

Arlyn Friesen Epp is director of Mennonite Church Canada Resource Centre, Winnipeg, Manitoba. Within Canada, resources from the centre (including the items listed above) can be borrowed; items for sale or free download are available to all. Check <http://resources.mennonitechurch.ca> for more information.