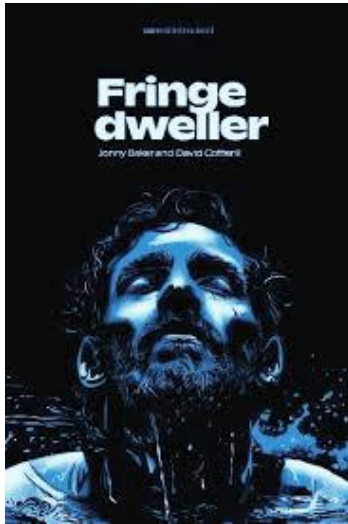




Fringe Dweller

Jonny Baker and David Cotterill

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This book is concerned with mission and ministry to those whose lives the authors recognise as dwelling on the fringes of society, whether through racism, poverty, injustice, sexual orientation, or other factors. They see Jesus as essentially a 'fringe dweller' (hence the book's title) whose ministry was much to those on the fringes rather than the centre. This is the lens through which the whole book is framed.

The book is not linear so much as a collection of resources to encourage and facilitate mission and ministry to marginalised 'fringe dwellers' today. It contains 40 bible stories in which Jesus encounters those on the fringes in one way or another. Each story is followed by a substantive reflection by the authors. These are then followed by a suggested spiritual practice in response. Some of these are missional and outward facing while some are more devotional. These are each then followed by suggestions for liturgy related to the reflection and the practice, mainly prayers devised by the authors. The reflections are thoughtful and insightful.

Although occasionally drawing on academic sources, the authors' style in their reflections is not academic but personal and accessible. The suggested practices in response to the reflections are imaginative and very varied, ranging from Ignatian spiritual practices to an 'alternative' Holy Communion service for example.

By and large the material invites use by groups and this is the authors stated hope although there is plenty of scope for individual use.

Both authors have strong backgrounds in pioneer ministry. This is clearly evidenced and there is much practical encouragement for this kind of outreach, not only by pioneer ministers as such. There is abundant material in its 280 pages but this is not a book to be read from cover to cover so much as one to be dived into as one is drawn by the bible stories and reflections. To this extent all the material is helpfully indexed to help selective engagement.

This is an impressive and impassioned work offering engaging and thoughtful resources for outreach to modern 'fringe dwellers', like those encountered so often by Jesus.

Peter Wright