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Human Library Visit.

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necessary information for informed decision making is not only possible but is being done to the benefit of the organizations in what might be thought of as information consortiums.

The pace of change is continuing to accelerate. It will pay to be flexible, and to ask, how will this help the organization, what is the cost benefit factor, and how will it impact the information that you are tasked with protecting, managing, and distributing?

Human Library Visit

Xiaoming Xu

I have heard about the Human Library for about two years, but my first time to visit one was on March 31, 2016, when the Staff Development Committee of the James White Library organized a visit to the Human Library event at the Illinois Institute of Technology.

When we arrived, a number of the “books” were already checked out. Groups of people with checked out “books” were chatting in low friendly voices, scattered around a nice setting in the lobby. At the entrance was the sign: “Human Library Chicago, Check out our books! 11 a.m. to 5 p.m.” The receptionists were very friendly and very quickly they helped us find a “book” that we were interested in.

The first “book” that was available to us was the “African American,” a 20-year old young man named Kiambu. He lives in the Chicago area. His philosophy and personal experience is described as “being the best is not always the best.” He enjoys competing with the best, but not trying to be the best, as he is always in the middle. He is a member of a basketball team and even though sometimes his team does not win the game, they still enjoy playing.

Kiambu’s mother has a master’s degree. His father has a high school diploma and is currently out of work, but he has his own league of basketball teams. Kiambu has one younger brother who is 11 years old.

Kiambu is an information technology major and is good at coding and software, such as C++ and Java. He loves it. He likes to code video games. Currently he works as a student assistant at a front desk job. Kiambu is also a coordinator for the Black Student Union. His parents do not push him, but support him. He has not had a hard time in his life. As noted above, he chooses not to be the best, but in the middle. He said that this was a self-taught lesson for him. He is focused on his studies and does not have a girlfriend as yet.

There are more than ten ethnic groups on campus. Kiambu is active in his group. As for the future of the United States and the world, he sees race, technology, infrastructure, housing and building as the most important. He sees positive changes in the future but he also has found that people are more distant and don’t see their friends enough. Thus human relationships go down as a social problem as people don’t know where to go, are not moving forward, and don’t see the goal.

The second “book” we opened was “asexual orientation.” Vanya, a young lady, feels no attraction to sex, is not interested in a sexual relationship, but desires a romantic relationship. She has a two-year romantic relationship with a man, but no sex. She will get married because she does not like to be lonely. This was my first time to hear about asexual orientation. I found it very interesting.

The last “book” we read was a “Black Muslim” girl whose name is Khadijah. She shared with us that it was her own choice to become Muslim. Her family background is Muslim. She was an activist at school. She dresses with her head covered. She wants to see equality among all peoples and works toward that goal.

The visit was impressive and was a good experience. We now understand what the Human Library is and understand each other and humanity better. This meets the official goal of a Human Library, which is described as “an event that aims to create dialogue and understanding between people. Individuals volunteer as human “books” and participants in the event can “read” the book—meaning that they would have a one-on-one conversation with the volunteer and share in a dialogue about that individual’s experience. “Books” are volunteers from all walks of life who have experienced discrimination based on race, religion, sexual preference, class, gender identity, sex, age, lifestyle choices, disability and other aspects of their life. The Human Library provides the opportunity for the community to share and understand the experiences of others in their community.”

<http://www.humanlibrarychicago.org/>

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Booknotes

Michael W. Campbell

Booknotes

Michael W. Campbell

This section includes some of the latest resources related to the study of religion. Prices are listed according to Amazon.com.

Church History

Several exciting new monographs should be procured: Mark A. Noll, *In the Beginning was the Word: The Bible in American Protestantism* (Oxford, 2015, \$21.74); Stephen R. Berry, *A Path in the Mighty Waters: Shipboard Life and Atlantic Crossings to the New World* (Yale, 2015, \$32); and Emily Conroy-Krutz, *Christian Imperialism: Converting the World in the Early American Republic* (Cornell, 2015, \$45). A number of significant works are being published in preparation for the 500th anniversary of Martin Luther’s 95 Theses against indulgences. The *Oxford Handbook of Martin Luther* (Oxford, 2014, \$125) is a welcome addition to the rich plethora of materials that have been and will no doubt continue to be released. For those interested in global dynamics within Christianity, a new collection of essays titled *Christian Higher Education: A Global Reconnaissance* (Eerdmans, 2014, \$28) is a thoughtful look at some of these dynamic forces.

Systematic Theology

The Pentecostal Anthony C. Thiselton has just come out with his *Systematic Theology* (Eerdmans, 2015, \$30). Don’t miss out on the new *Oxford Handbook of Christology* (Oxford, 2015, \$138), too. A useful tool that I plan to update my course on research methods includes the second edition of *Writing Theology Well* (T&T Clark, 2015, \$112). A helpful new volume on hermeneutics is Craig G. Bartholomew, *Introducing Biblical Hermeneutics: A Comprehensive Framework for Hearing God in Scripture* (Baker Academic, 2015, \$30). Also don’t miss out on Christopher Ben Simpson, *Modern Christian Theology* (T&T Clark, 2016, \$36); Gerald Bray, *The Church: A Theological and Historical Account* (Baker Academic, 2016, \$20); Peter J. Leithart, *Delivered from the Elements of the World: Atonement, Justification, and Mission* (IVP Academic, 2016, \$18). A significant Adventist contribution is John C. Peckham, *Canonical Theology: The Biblical Canon, Sola Scriptura, and Theological Method* (Eerdmans, 2016, \$35).

Biblical Resources