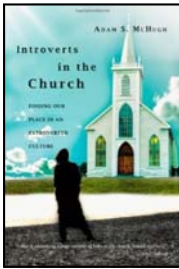
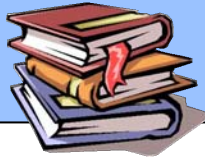


Library News



Book Review by Dan Benson *Introverts in the Church* by Adam S. McHugh

As someone who trends toward being introverted, I looked forward to reading *Introverts in the Church: Finding Our Place in an Extroverted Culture* by Adam S. McHugh to perhaps discover what makes people like me tick. I found the book at times affirming and at times convicting and challenging. It was affirming in that it helped describe my need for time to internally process information and events, and how social interaction can sometimes drain me of energy. It also challenged me, however, to not overindulge those tendencies at the expense of my relationships. “The introverted trajectory of growth is toward relationships with others and relationship with the outside world,” McHugh writes.

To help introverts get more involved in community, McHugh suggests: Search out and make friends with those who already are well-connected relationally and allow them to network on their behalf. Join a small group, perhaps preferably one that emphasizes shared interests or deeper study as opposed to being primarily a social club. Socialize with a purpose and don't just settle for small talk. Seek out deeper relationships during church coffee time or at parties and gatherings. Introduce yourself to new people.

McHugh says introverts should avoid overcompensating by being “joiners.” But he does suggest building task-oriented relationships, rather than conversation-based, by joining a committee or work group with a specific purpose, such as supporting foreign missions, caring for the elderly or building maintenance.

This book helped me discover I possess both introvert and extrovert aspects, as I'm sure most people do. “Introversion and extroversion do not describe two categories of people but two separate forces within each person,” McHugh writes. *Introverts in the Church* is of value to those who are primarily introverted to help them gain greater self-

awareness. But it's probably even more valuable to those who are more extroverted, who often misjudge introverts and fail to recognize their gifts.

Extroversion dominates today's church, emulating patterns of the world more than of Scripture, he argues. It equates intimacy with constant togetherness, increased activity with spiritual growth, mental quickness with intelligence, a desire for solitude with lack of faith, and a resistance to sharing intimate details of one's life as a sign of a heart resistant to God. Consequently, introverts often are made to feel deficient by this louder, higher-energy culture that leadership models. As a result, McHugh says, introverts often “are masquerading as extroverts in order to find acceptance.”

While McHugh sometimes writes as though introversion is superior to extroversion, he makes clear that both introverts and extroverts are created by God and of value to the church and its mission. As one of McHugh's subjects says, “I'd like to think that the work of God might be displayed through my introversion, and not in spite of it.”

“Introverts in the Church” is available in the Friedens library.

Building & Grounds By Gary Schlenvogt

The administrative assistant's office will be receiving a facelift in early May. New paint and carpet will be installed to update that room.

The financial secretaries office will be changed over to a classroom setting. The financial secretaries' files and equipment will be set up in the administrative assistants office. That room will receive new paint and carpet cleaning.

Bids are being finalized for the various window replacements and window repairs throughout the church.