

interested in theology who have also been exposed to Fromm will be drawn to this book. I found myself wishing Dr. Glen had broadened the scope of his work, somewhat, perhaps also writing in a more lively style, in order that his basically careful thinking might reach a wider audience.

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**The Grass Roots Church.** By Stephen C. Rose. Holt, Rinehart, and Winston. Pp. 174. \$4.95.

Don't be misled by the title! *The Grass Roots Church* does not refer to rural or agrarian life, but rather to Church renewal at the local level. For the past five years nearly everybody's brother has browbeaten the Church for being trivial as "scarcely a religious gathering was held without the presence of an iconoclastic jet-age circuit rider who flagellated the audience with visions of Christian irrelevance in our time."

Stephen Rose (Presbyterian) does this too—but goes beyond dire diagnosis to practical prescription. Episcopalians who yearn to translate MRI principles into action will find some exciting proposals. For instance, the parish structure is not obsolete, but does need a thorough overhaul job in order to utilize the team ministry of men and buildings across denominational lines. Rose proposes a radical decentralization of ecclesiastical bureaucracy in favor of local lay initiative.

Except for some oversimplification and the omission of available documentation, *The Grass Roots Church* deserves a special spot on the shelf of "renewal" books because it offers specific and uncluttered suggestions for making the Church's role "viable" in this twentieth century. It is time to shift from self-criticism to constructive action. Carp makes a big flourish in the water but it is not very good eating.

(The Rt. Rev.) G. T. MASUDA, D.D.  
The Bishop of North Dakota

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**How I Changed My Mind.** By Karl Barth. Intro. and epilogue by John D. Godsey. John Knox. Pp. 96. \$3.

*How I Changed My Mind* is an altogether delightful and informative book consisting of reprints of the three autobiographical articles Karl Barth wrote for the *Christian Century* in 1938, 1948, and 1958, happily placed in the wider context of his life by his friend and student Prof. John D. Godsey.

Everybody in theological circles is aware of Barth's immense influence and his prodigious literary output. (The selected bibliography of his works available in

January 1, 1967

English provided by Dr. Godsey takes up seven pages of this book.) But how many know that he was an avid reader of English detective novels; a daily listener to the music of Mozart, having in his study pictures of Calvin and the great musician hanging side by side and "at the same height;" and also that he was so interested in and knowledgeable about the American Civil War that in the middle of a doctoral examination of an American student he nonplussed the poor lad by asking what happened one hundred years ago. Answer expected, but not forthcoming: the second day of the Battle of Gettysburg!

Perhaps more can be learned of Barth's theological change of mind from his essay *The Humanity of God* than from this book. But here in a brief space is amply demonstrated the humanity of Karl Barth, truly a great and good man.

(The Rev.) WOOD B. CARPER, JR., D.D.  
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**Religion In Contemporary Debate.** By Alan Richardson. Westminster. Pp. 124. \$2.75.

The "word-event" of religion is the authentic utterance by a prophet in crisis. The Bible is such a word-event or language-event. From these two propositions Dean Alan Richardson (of York) finds the leverage to pull theology out of the subjective morass of the new religious atheism to return it to those who are ready to listen to the Word of God rather than indulge in metaphysical speculation about God.

With its 124 pages, *Religion In Contemporary Debate* seems at first a rather slight book, the kind of thing you would expect to emerge from a series of lectures by a British dean attempting to allay the current flutter in the dove-cotes. It is not light. It is condensed. Its density is forbidding. Dean Richardson has the philosophical background to lead an expedition through the thickets of Heidegger and the swamps of Tillich and bring those who travel with him to the "authentic" (his favorite word) Word of God in Christ. If, on the way, he has lost the Greek philosophers and, perhaps Thomas Aquinas as well, this may be because it was they who created the complications of "theistic metaphysics" which Dean Richardson assures us is, excusably but falsely, mistaken for faith.

JOHN KNOX REVIEW

LIVING CHURCH  
magazine

JAN-1967  
date of issue

—author's copy —editorial copy

those of us who have been too busy demythologizing the Bible to read it.

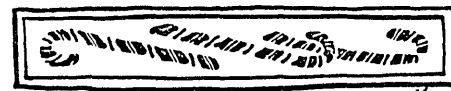
(The Rev.) EDGAR M. TAINTON, JR.  
St. Thomas Church  
Eugene, Ore.

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**Toward Fullness of Life: Studies in the Letter of St. Paul to the Philippians.** By Suzanne de Dietrich. Westminster. Pp. 94. \$1.25.

Suzanne de Dietrich has written in *Toward Fullness of Life* an inexpensive commentary, useful to the laity and the clergy. The scholarship is sound and expressed in words easy for the non-scholar to accept without the feel of being patronized.

She makes clear that Philippians is of a piece with the Pauline emphasis on God's initiative and man's inability to redeem himself. Bonhoeffer's phrase "man come of age" is abused by the new theologians to imply that man is able to save himself, is able to care for his needs fully; but the message of the Gospel as understood by St. Paul is quite clear that man is incapable of fulfilling his own deepest needs, that man must be broken on the Chief Cornerstone before he can be saved. As Miss de Dietrich says, "The ego must die if Christ is to grow." (p. 32)



The author sounds this evangelical truth throughout the commentary while at the same time emphasizing the need for contemporary ways to express it in ministry. (p. 92)

At times Miss de Dietrich repeats the clichés, i.e. "truthful relationships," "the scandal of our divisions." But so do we all for want of better ways to say these things.

This book could be used with profit by a study group or the individual Christian as he reads Philippians.

(The Rev.) HARRIS C. MOONEY  
Christ Church  
La Crosse, Wis.

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**The Strategy of World Order.** Edit. by Richard A. Falk and Saul H. Mendlovitz. VII. 4. World Law Fund. \$10.

I: *Toward a Theory of War Prevention.* Pp. 394 paper. \$2.50.

II: *International Law.* Pp. 382 paper. \$2.50.

III: *The United Nations.* Pp. 848 paper. \$3.50.

IV: *Disarmament and Economic Development.* Pp. 672 paper. \$3.50.

It is a trite saying that the invention of the atom bomb has changed the whole