

# REVIEWS

## **EARTH-CONNECT – A MULTI-SENSORY, INTERACTIVE, REFLECTIVE TRAIL**

**Created by Janet Lunt and Chris Sunderland**

The purpose of this pack is to enable a church or school to construct a labyrinth which will provide people of all ages with an opportunity to react to and reflect on issues relating to ecology in a biblical and spiritual context. It is an excellent resource in three ways. First, it really does provide you with the basic tool kit. This has two components. (1) A series of A4 laminated sheets which provide a photograph for each of the ten stations in situ – thus indicating the 'feel' and layout for each of them; on the reverse of each sheet is a list of requirements to construct the station and how it operates. (2) A CD-Rom which enables the production of the posters and other printed parts of the stations to be achieved to a high standard. Obviously the user needs to supply a computer and printer as well as all the physical materials. Secondly, the process of constructing the labyrinth will itself enable people with many gifts and talents to work together and in so doing actively engage them with the issues that are being raised. This in itself will inform reflection but will also be empowering.

Thirdly, providing the labyrinth enables a church or school to engage people with the insights of the Bible around an issue which is of growing social and moral concern. In this way people are encouraged to 'discover the Bible' in a constructive, inspirational, transformative and significant way.

The ten stations are Introduction – in the beginning; Earth – seedbed

of civilisation; Air – Breath is life; Fire ... is energy; Water – our daily dependence; So much to discover, so much to destroy – all God's creatures; The good, the bad and the ugly; Cityscape; Rubbish dump; Seeds of Hope. It is, of course, possible to use individual prayer stations. The pack can be used as a resource for festivals, exhibitions, and in the classroom.

Although £30 for the pack may seem expensive, the quality of the concept, together with the mission opportunities it offers make it excellent value. To find out more, visit [www.agoraspace.org](http://www.agoraspace.org) and follow the leads for Earth-Connect.

David Spriggs

## **USING THE BIBLE IN CHRISTIAN MINISTRY: A WORKBOOK**

**Stephen Pattison, Trevor Cooling and Margaret Cooling**

(London: Darton, Longman & Todd, 2007)

ISBN 0232526818

160pp.; rrp £14.95

From the front cover to the last page this book encourages thought and reflection, in a manner that informs and inspires the reader to use the Bible more effectively in the full range of ministries experienced in everyday church life.

Undergirded by substantial research foundations, each unit is delivered in an accessible format, making it useable by church leader and lay worker alike. At the conclusion of each unit there are also helpful references and websites to support further reading.

It is primarily designed to help you discover how you might use the Bible more widely in your ministry

practice and prompts a great opportunity to review and develop ways of improving its use. The workbook can be used for independent study or with groups, being filled with plenty of creative individual and group activity ideas to support different learning styles, it will prove to be an excellent tool for exploring the subject.

This workbook provides an invaluable resource for someone who feels they have become dry in ministry and desires to serve their church community with fresh vigour. It is equally useful for the young minister serving in their first parish, wishing to provide a practical expression of the years of theological study in caring for the flock.

However, the place where I think this workbook will be most effective is in developing the skills and practice of ministry teams, such as home group leaders or pastoral care teams. By exploring the appropriate units for the relevant ministry team, the whole team can develop a thoughtful and coherent agreement of how they might use the Bible within daily ministry practice.

In the business of the pastoral task this workbook highlights the need for reflection, growth and restoration. As a leader, I found the extensive sections on resources and the helpful tips throughout the book to be particularly useful in my own work. I could also relate much of the content to my own pastoral experiences and would highly recommend this book.

The \$64,000 question is, or should I say £14.95 question is, would I buy it? YES, YES, YES, and so should you.

Brain Dacre

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## **Political Discourse Colloquium**

**27–28 September 2007  
Liverpool Hope University**

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For more information, event synopsis and booking form, visit [www.bible2babel.org](http://www.bible2babel.org)