

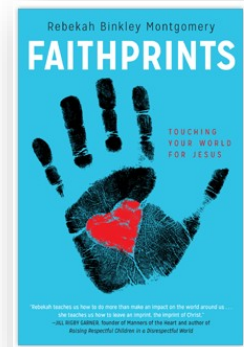
BOOK REVIEW

From Bob's bookshelf



FAITHPRINTS

by Rebekah Binkley Montgomery



I READ IT BECAUSE: I purchased the book on the recommendation of Outreach Magazine. It was on a short list of books recommended on missional living and ministry for 2013.

THE FEEL: Faithprints is a book that is highly practical. The author demonstrates how people can become involved in local mission initiatives. It will motivate those who have a heart to reach people in need.

THE SUBJECT: This book contains ideas relating to outreach. It discusses how a person can make the largest "faithprint" for the largest impact.

SYNOPSIS: The book is broken down into thirteen chapters. Each chapter describes how a person can leave a "faithprint" on a distinct group of people. The chapters cover outreach to a broad range of people. Prisoners, children, fire survivors, the homeless, and neighbors are just a few of the groups that can be ministered to. The practical aspects of the book will come in handy for those who are first-timers. The story that the author tells on page 124 about underwear is priceless.

The author also dives into ways that one can minister through fasting, praying and giving monetarily. Wisdom is shared in how to approach these disciplines. She also gives practical advice on the do's and don't's of each discipline.

QUOTABLE: "Warmly welcoming visitors and strangers is the most basic service a church can provide. A church can have a sanctuary that is an architectural marvel, inspiring music and dynamic preaching, but if the people in the pew are cold and unwelcoming, visitors won't come back. People initially come to church for the preaching but they stay for the fellowship." p. 149

"Be aware that when people are in this spiritual state, they are looking for someone other than themselves to blame for their failures and sin. In their minds, it will always be a "judgmental church" or a similar paper tiger that drove them into desperate sin." p. 160

WHO SHOULD READ THIS BOOK? This book is perfect for someone who is just getting started in community outreach. It has a bent that may appeal more to a female reader. It is not the best read for seasoned veterans or pastors looking for new ideas.

RECOMMENDATION: This book is not worth paying full retail price. My recommendation is that it be purchased on Kindle or eBay at a discount. You're not going to fill the inside with notes.