

# BE *the* BRIDGE

Ottawa City Launch, Michigan

## ● Book Resources:

Christianity Today: Ten Books on Racial Reconciliation and the Church—Amy Julia Becker

1. **Disunity in Christ: Uncovering the Hidden Forces that Keep Us Apart** by Christena Cleveland

An eye-opening look inside the divisions, cliques, and conflicts of the church and the hidden reasons behind them.

2. **Reconciliation Blues: A Black Evangelical's Inside View of White Christianity** by Edward Gilbreath

"[An] honest picture of both the history and the present state of racial reconciliation in evangelical churches...Charting progress as well as setbacks, his words offer encouragement for black evangelicals feeling alone, clarity for white evangelicals who want to understand more deeply, and fresh vision for all who want to move forward toward Christ's prayer "that all of them may be one."

3. **Building a Healthy Multi-Ethnic Church: Mandate, Commitments, and Practices of a Diverse Congregation** by Mark DeYmaz

"Through personal stories, proven experience and a thorough analysis of the biblical text, Building a Healthy Multi-ethnic Church illustrates both the biblical mandate for the multi-ethnic church as well as the seven core commitments required to bring it about."

4. **Beyond Racial Gridlock: Embracing Mutual Responsibility** by George Yancey

"Sociologist George Yancey surveys a range of approaches to racial healing that Christians have used and offers a new model for moving forward...[His] vision offers hope that people of all races can walk together on a shared path--not as adversaries, but as partners."

5. **Divided by Faith: Evangelical Religion and the Problem of Race in America** by Michael O. Emerson & Christian Smith

"Through a nationwide telephone survey of 2,000 people and an additional 200 face-to-face interviews, Michael O. Emerson and Christian Smith probed the grassroots of white evangelical America. They found that despite recent efforts by the movement's leaders to address the problem of racial discrimination, evangelicals themselves seem to be preserving America's racial chasm."

6. **United by Faith: The Multiracial Congregation As an Answer to the Problem of Race**

by Curtiss Paul DeYoung, Michael O. Emerson, George Yancey, and Chai Kim

"A multiracial team of sociologists and a minister of the Church of God argue that multiracial Christian congregations offer a key to opening the still-locked door between the races in the United States."

7. **The Post-Black and Post-White Church: Becoming the Beloved Community in a Multi-Ethnic World** by Efrem Smith

"Using the example of Jesus, Smith develops a theology of multi-ethnic and missional leadership. Embracing urban and ethnic subcultures such as hip-hop, this book provides a rich mix of multi-ethnic church development, reconciliation theology, missional church thinking, and Christian community."

8. **The Next Evangelicalism: Freeing the Church from Western Cultural Captivity** by Soong Chan Rah

"[P]rofessor and pastor Soong-Chan Rah calls the North American church to escape its captivity to Western cultural trappings and to embrace a new evangelicalism that is diverse and multiethnic."

9. **Being the Church in a Multi-Ethnic Community: Why It Matters and How It Works** by Gary McIntosh & Ian McMahan

"Being the Church in a Multi-Ethnic Community is an introductory guide, a basic primer for pastors and congregation leaders who are wrestling with how to reach the ethnic groups next door and welcome them into the multi-ethnic body of Christ."

10. **United: Captured by God's Vision for Diversity** by Trillia J. Newbell

"On the Last Day every tongue and tribe will be represented in the glorious chorus praising God with one voice. Yet today our churches remain segregated. Can we reflect the beauty of the last day this day? United will inspire, challenge and encourage readers to pursue the joys of diversity through stories of the author's own journey and a theology of

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### **The Gospel Coalition: 7 Books on the White-Black Racial Divide You Should Read:**

**Divided by Faith: Evangelical Religion and the Problem of Race in America** by Michael Emerson and Christian Smith (Oxford University Press, 2001). The authors take a sociological approach to discern exactly why the church in the United States is segregated along racial lines.

**Why Are All the Black Kids Sitting Together in the Cafeteria?" And Other Conversations About Race** by Beverly Daniel Tatum (Basic, 2003). An educator and psychologist, Tatum tries to explain how the process of racialization happens within communities, and among children and adolescents in particular.

**Notes of a Native Son, by James Baldwin**, is worth its weight in the title essay alone. In that essay Baldwin fleshes out profound truths—not the least of which is the fact that any kind of appropriate response to racism and violence must begin with the hard and humbling acknowledgement of our own individual propensity toward both.

**Just Mercy: A Story of Justice and Redemption** (Spiegel & Grau, 2015) is Bryan Stevenson's memoir as a black man living in the South and as a criminal constitutional attorney who has argued before the Supreme Court six times for death row clients, ranging from abused and neglected children to mentally disabled persons to innocent adults in the wrong place at the wrong time.

**In A Stone of Hope: Prophetic Religion and the Death of Jim Crow** (University of North Carolina, 2005), David Chappell shows that Southern African-American Protestant ministers didn't fit neatly into a conservative/liberal paradigm. Many of them, especially the key leaders, combined a progressive social vision with a traditionally orthodox understanding of human sinfulness and salvation.

**In The Origins of Proslavery Christianity: White and Black Evangelicals in Colonial and Antebellum Virginia** (University of North Carolina, 2008), Charles Irons paints a finely detailed picture of how evangelical whites (focusing on Virginia) developed a Christian defense of slavery.

**Heal Us, Emmanuel: A Call for Racial Reconciliation, Representation, and Unity in the Church\*** [review] (Storied Communications, 2016) is a collection of essays from a multiethnic group of 31 PCA pastors, professors, and ruling elders. chronicling their stories with race and the church in America. Some are journeys of awakening, understanding, and repentance; some are historical narratives. Others are from our beloved ethnic minority brothers and sisters who kindly, gently, and graciously lead us into greater understanding of their experiences, thus helping us uncover our own massive blind spots. This volume a great starting place for any Christian who wants to think more about these issues from a biblically rooted and theologically conservative perspective.

### **The Most Important Writing From People Of Color In 2015**

[https://www.google.com/amp/m.huffpost.com/us/entry/us\\_5668639de4b009377b2346ad/amp?client=safari](https://www.google.com/amp/m.huffpost.com/us/entry/us_5668639de4b009377b2346ad/amp?client=safari)

### **Robyn Afrik's Book Recommendations:**

1. Christena Cleveland's **Disunity in Christ; uncovering the hidden forces that keep us apart**
2. Rev.Curtiss Paul DeYoung and Alan Boesak's **Radical Reconciliation; beyond political pietism and Christian quietism**
3. Dr. David Anderson's **Gracism: The Art of Inclusion**

**Here is a MOVIE resource for those who are interested in understanding our history or how our nation was really affected through slavery;** by way of a woman named Katrina Brown. She is the direct descendant of the largest slave owning family in the north. She didn't know this until she found her grandmothers papers after she passed and broke open the entire slave trade... including the money she's made, the deals that were done that shaped our current education and entire world system today. She chose to really bear all through this incredible documentary called, **"Traces of the Trade"** <http://www.tracesofthetrade.org/>