

Hikmat Kashouh, *Following Jesus in Turbulent Times: Disciple-Making in the Arab World* (Carlisle, UK: Langham Monographs, 2018), 152 pages. ISBN: 978-1783685134.

Hikmat Kashouh (who completed his MTh at IBTS Prague) is Adjunct Research Professor at the Arab Baptist Theological Seminary, and Senior Pastor of Resurrection Church, Beirut (RCB). He is ideally placed to reflect on the challenges and opportunities presented to the local church as it responded to the mass movement of people into Lebanon, due to the Syrian conflict.

This is not simply a book on discipleship, but rather a story of how a local Lebanese church has been transformed into a church that has grown significantly in number and understanding of who it is called to be and the impact it is called to make in society, within the ongoing context of a refugee crisis. In this book Kashouh offers valuable insights into how the church seeks to disciple their new Syrian, Iraqi, Kurdish and other neighbours, in authentic, hospitable, holistic and humanising ways that are faithful to the biblical mandate. Whilst identifying differences in the way Muslims and Christians understand many elements of faith, Kashouh is respectful of the faith of Muslims, yet clear about his Christocentric understanding.

Throughout the book Kashouh weaves in personal insights drawn from his own life growing up during the Lebanese civil war, acknowledging the prejudice he and other Lebanese had towards Syria and its people. However, as a biblical scholar whose PhD focused on the early Arabic gospel manuscripts, he draws on his understanding of the New Testament cultural context as well as his understanding of modern Arab culture. Key biblical insights come alive in the accounts of God moving in the lives of individuals and families involved in RCB. These lenses enable Kashouh to develop an approach to discipleship which values both the existing local church, as the gathered and historic community of faith, and a more organic approach. Kashouh does not shy away from the challenges faced within pastoral ministry in such a complex situation and gives examples of how they approached these, such as, the wearing of the *hijab* and marriage guidance in a multi-cultural, multi-national and multi-faith-background church. He also shares strong views on how churches and organisations in the West should seek genuine partnership with the local church in the Arab world.

In this highly accessible book, Kashouh introduces some of the key elements of the church's teaching and practice of discipleship. Chapter themes include: Reaching, Witnessing, Changing, Nurturing, Teaching, Serving, Healing, Praying, Belonging and Suffering. The appendix briefly

describes the elements of what the church calls its ‘Discipleship Pathway’, focusing on: Believing; Being Filled; Crowning; Belonging; Witnessing about Christ and Making Disciples.

The church in Lebanon has experienced something extraordinary from which others can learn. In a very real sense, as a result of a huge influx of people who had become refugees from the Syrian war, the ‘enemy’ became the ‘neighbour’ and in many cases the neighbour, as a result of the Christlike welcome they received, became sisters and brothers in Christ. Whilst written in a very specific context, there are valuable lessons for those involved in the church as to how we relate to those who are different or new. Rather than simply expecting ‘them’ to change and become like ‘us’, we see here that we too must change. Written for those with an interest in how the church of the Middle East remains faithful to its biblical mandate in the face of so many challenges, readers will appreciate the honest authenticity and insightfulness of this unique book.

Reviewed by Revd Dr Arthur Brown — Director for Mission, BMS World Mission.

Jan Hábl, *Even When No One is Looking: Fundamental Questions of Ethical Education* (Eugene, Oregon: Cascade Books, 2018), 137 pages. ISBN: 978-1532630361.

The author (who completed his PhD at IBTS Prague) is a professor of pedagogy at Hradec Králové University in the Czech Republic. Elsewhere Hábl describes himself as working ‘at the borders of pedagogy, anthropology, ethics and the philosophy of education’, with a particular interest in the work of the seventeenth-century Czech theologian, pedagogue and educational philosopher Jan Amos Comenius. This interdisciplinary nature of Hábl’s work means that it has relevance for a wide range of academics and professionals.

In the introduction Hábl sets out his stall: this book is not an overview of ethical theories or a teaching guide on moral education; rather the author’s intention is to undertake ‘a search for the foundations or fundamentals upon which an ethical or moral education stands’. The intriguing question (using the words of Comenius) that runs throughout the book is: ‘How can we teach a person to know the good, desire the good, and do what is good, and do it “even when no one is looking”?’

Exploring this question involves engaging with other fundamental questions, such as: Is human nature good or evil? What makes a good deed