

Please! No More Boring Sermons

Book reviewed by Dr Lindsay Stoddart

There are so many books on preaching. The 20th century classics for me are any thing by Haddon Robinson, Ian Pitt Watson, Walter Leifeld and in the Australian context John Chapman. Throughout my ministry my church-based teams have seen many come to Christ but I had no direct pulpit fruit until I read John Chapman's books and then Stuart Robinson personally helped me.

Please! No More Boring Sermons is to be read by every preacher, lay and professional, and every one who aspires to this noble and difficult task (*Ephesians 4*).

This book should be a resource on your preaching helps shelf. Read it through and then catalogue the treasures that resonate with you.

The contributors include former Archbishop of Melbourne, Keith Rayner; John Dickson of the younger generation; Peter

Adam, leading evangelist on Australia and overseas, whose sermons are never boring; John Chapman and six others.

Let me challenge many fine young graduates refined in Biblical exegesis, hermeneutics and series preaching, to take on board Peter Adams' 'Liturgical Preaching' (chapter 6) and Keith Rayner's 'Occasional Preaching' (chapter 10).

These chapters, taken and applied, will quicken the heart of regular members and visitors to your local congregation. Good occasional preaching with a well honed liturgy (formal or contemporary) will revolutionise effective outreach.

All other chapters are equally of value. Then follow seven first class model sermons. This a very good read. With its Australian contextualisation it is a must read, indeed a must have.

Please! No more boring sermons. Keith Weller (Ed.), Acorn Press 2007. Available at most good Christian book shops and on line at <www.mathewhalepubliclibrary.com/booksale>