



Office of Faculty Research

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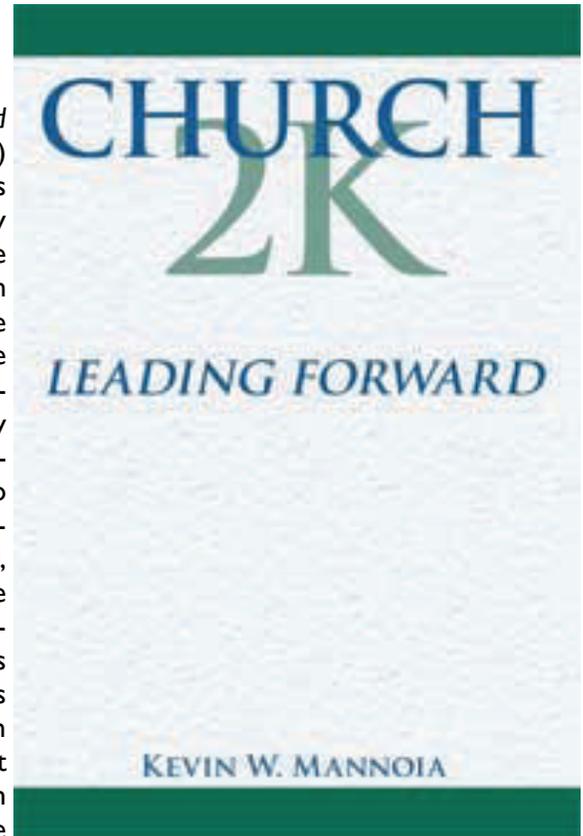
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July 2007 Research Reporter

Church 2K Leading Forward by Kevin W. Mannoia



In *Church 2K Leading Forward* (Precedent Press, 2007) **Kevin W. Mannoia**, APU’s Chaplain, speaks prophetically in a new millennium about the Christian Church’s Kingdom building efforts which will be different from those of the previous century. He envisions a healthy and holy Church whose members experience close relationships to Truth, a Person, not a doctrine, and are servants of God, not slaves to people, while simultaneously welcoming diversity of both worship styles and personal backgrounds as demonstrations of God’s rich unity. He advocates that Christians “look at the church with fresh eyes—eyes that see

concepts and influences, not polity and institutions.” He notes, “The question is not so much ‘Who has the biggest church?’ but ‘Where is there real Kingdom effectiveness happening?’”

“Kingdom effectiveness” comes from church members being both “Christocentric” and open to others. His poignant examples of children suffering extreme abuse in India reveal that urgent Kingdom works of love are needed more than old bickering over doctrines. Yet authentic Christians must understand the basic “Kingdom principles” by which they can live hopefully, as well as discern clearly between what is essential and what has become a cultural overlay on Christianity. This little book is “about the Kingdom nature of the church.” The spiritual vibrancy and simplicity of *Church 2K* do indeed inspire its readers to replace the “tilt of sin” with a deep “longing for Christ and the Kingdom.”—Carole Lambert

Active Duty? By R.S. Carlson



She woke again at Three A.M. and, since the dishes in the sink still lacked their rinse, she opened the dishwasher door, pulled the top rack forward, and started toweling the last quarter moons of droplets off the clean cups and glasses, and setting each, one by one, back home on its shelf above the counter.

Then she cleared the bottom rack of its mix of plates and bowls, slow with each motion lest the stoneware clatter sharply enough to wake the kids with sounds that would announce “Mom’s in the kitchen.”

Next, she moved the flatware basket from the bottom rack up to the counter just above the drawers they named for silverware, though “silver” in this house was euphemism.

Placing knives, one atop another, in their section of the drawer, she thought again of the news report on Marine Corps bayonets, now ground sharper at the point than had been the case since World War II...



...and, as she nested spoons on spoons, she wondered what a mess kit carried now, and whether he would eat with plastic forks and spoons in tents, and what he would have eaten on the plane as he flew to his reporting station, now that metal knives and forks are counted as security threats to civil aviation.

How soon would he be baking in the sand, heat half mediated with a canvas stretched from the side of a personnel carrier, or worse – intensified by plastic strung up on ropes, blocking direct sun, but keeping the heat high in its shadow?

She had eased each cup and saucer back into the cupboard and pushed the part-filled racks back into the machine before the east windows gave up the dark.

She needed, again, to try to doze before daylight released that shadow always twinning her every waking thought – not the “When he’s home...”

...but the “If he makes it back....”

R. S. Carlson

First published in *The Texas Review* 25.3&4 (Fall/Winter 2004):129-130.

The Impact of Self-esteem on High School Retention Among Girls in Nigeria

By Dr. James B. Kantiok & Dr. Linda H. Chiang

James B. Kantiok, Associate Professor of Education, and **Linda H. Chiang**, Professor of Education, analyze the high drop-out rate of females in northern Nigerian primary and secondary schools. For western educators, this is a problem because it limits a woman's fulfilling her potential and taking "her rightful place as an equal partner in [Nigeria's] development." For Muslim educators, the lack of education among women protects them from secular influences and conversion to Christianity.

The reasons for girls dropping out of school are many: "Hausa-Fulani cultural practices that marry out girls at pre-puberty," early pregnancy, unwed mothers, and social and religious practices. Consequently, in "the Northeast and Northwest, the average illiteracy rate among men was 69% while that of females was 84.3%." Kantiok's and Chiang's study of 501 girls from three Nigerian Northwestern states—Kaduna, Katsina, and Kano—verified already established assumptions and provided additional reasons for high drop-out rates among females: finances (50.3%), pregnancy (32.7%), poverty (34.5%), fear of failure (19%), and teasing by boys (12.8%).

On the other hand, their research showed that many girls liked school: "89% went to school out of their own volition or for the joy of learning." Many dreamed of future careers in medicine (49.4%) and banking (16%) with "90.8% saying they would want to finish high school and go to university."

The lack of education among young women who may end up divorced from the often elderly men

they are married to when they are between twelve and fifteen years old leads to serious social consequences: prostitution and begging in the cities. Kantiok and Chiang make seven strong recommendations for action to be taken by the Nigerian government and school systems which can reverse educational discrimination against females. These recommendations conclude their fine article "The Impact of Self-esteem on High School Retention Among Girls in Nigeria" (*International Journal of Arts & Sciences* 2.2 (2007): 44-47). They affirm that educating a girl "is the best investment for societal development. . . . educated girls develop essential life skills, including self confidence, the ability to participate effectively in society and protecting themselves against sexual exploitation and pressures for early marriage and childbirth."—Carole Lambert



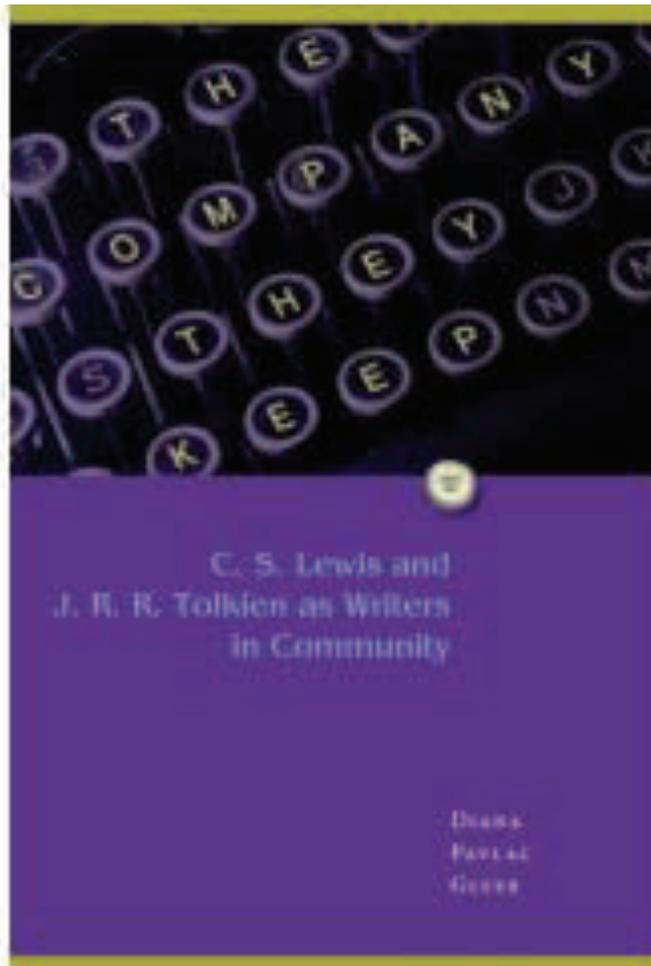
Check This Out!!!

Reviews of and an excerpt from Diana Glycer's *The Company They Keep: C. S. Lewis and J. R. R. Tolkien in Community*, reviewed in the May 2007 Research Reporter, may be viewed at <http://www.ThePlaceoftheLion.com>

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