

Reader's reactions

Samuel Wells

Learning to Dream Again: Rediscovering the Heart of God

William B Eerdmans Publishing Company 2013

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Samuel Wells is Vicar of St Martin in the Fields and has taught Christian Ethics in the UK and the USA. This book is a collection of pointed and thought-provoking reflections on the world we live in today, and where faith touches upon, illuminates or challenges our thinking about and our practicing of that faith. Wells does not shy away from the hard questions and the moral ambiguities Christians are confronted by, and nor does he give easy or glib answers. The book challenges us to be open to and shaped by the wisdom of God by:

- Learning to love again
- Learning to live again
- Learning to think again
- Learning to read again
- Learning to feel again
- Learning to dream again.



The Church of Scotland

Mission and Discipleship Council

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Wells writes: *“In 490 BC, the Athenians defeated the Persians in the battle of Marathon... the Athenian messenger Phaedippides was sent to bring the news of victory to the Athenian Assembly... He ran the whole way... without stopping. He arrived, breathless, and proclaimed, ‘We won!... When I prepare sermons, addresses, essays, papers or even books, I want them to be like Phaedippides’ announcement. I want them to tell of great news, wondrous news, news on which the lives of my hearers depend. I want them to announce news that shapes the destiny of peoples, news that I’d run 26 miles to share.”*¹

What is powerful about this book is that it is written to address contexts that are paradoxically contemporary and timeless. It draws from real, live issues and reflects on them theologically and practically. Wells’ intention is to focus our thinking not only on the involvement and engagement of God in our world, but what practical effect this has on our own action and reaction to situations ethically, emotionally and intellectually. Wells brings all of this to bear on the worship we offer, and the thought and heart processes worship is meant to engage. This book stimulates the imagination as well as the intellect, and provides a sometimes gritty, sometimes subtle challenge to the way we think, the way we feel, and the way we act, in the context of what and why we believe.

Please note that the views expressed in these materials are those of the individual writer and not necessarily the official view of the Church of Scotland, which can be laid down only by the General Assembly.

¹ Samuel Wells, *Learning to Dream Again*, p ix



Additional Resources

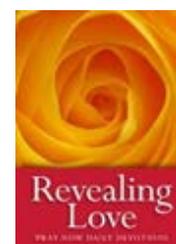
Resourcing Mission



[Resourcing Mission](#) is host to Starters for Sunday and other key mission resources for download and purchase. Online booking is available for [Mission & Discipleship events](#). Please check back regularly, as new items are being added all the time. If there is something you'd like to see on this new site, please [contact us](#) via the website.

Prayer Resources

These materials are designed to be a starting point for what you might look for in prayers. [Revealing Love](#) is available now from [St Andrew Press](#).



Starters for Sunday



[Starters for Sunday](#) offer a range of suggested material which can be used each week for individuals and congregations to develop. All of the material is written by people who are experienced in leading worship regularly though not all are ordained.

Music Resources

For some excellent articles on church music and ideas for new music resources, please check out our online music resource [Different Voices](#).



Preaching Resources



[Preachers Perspectives](#) is a resource where we have asked twelve preachers to share the insights they have gathered through their experiences of writing and delivering sermons regularly.

