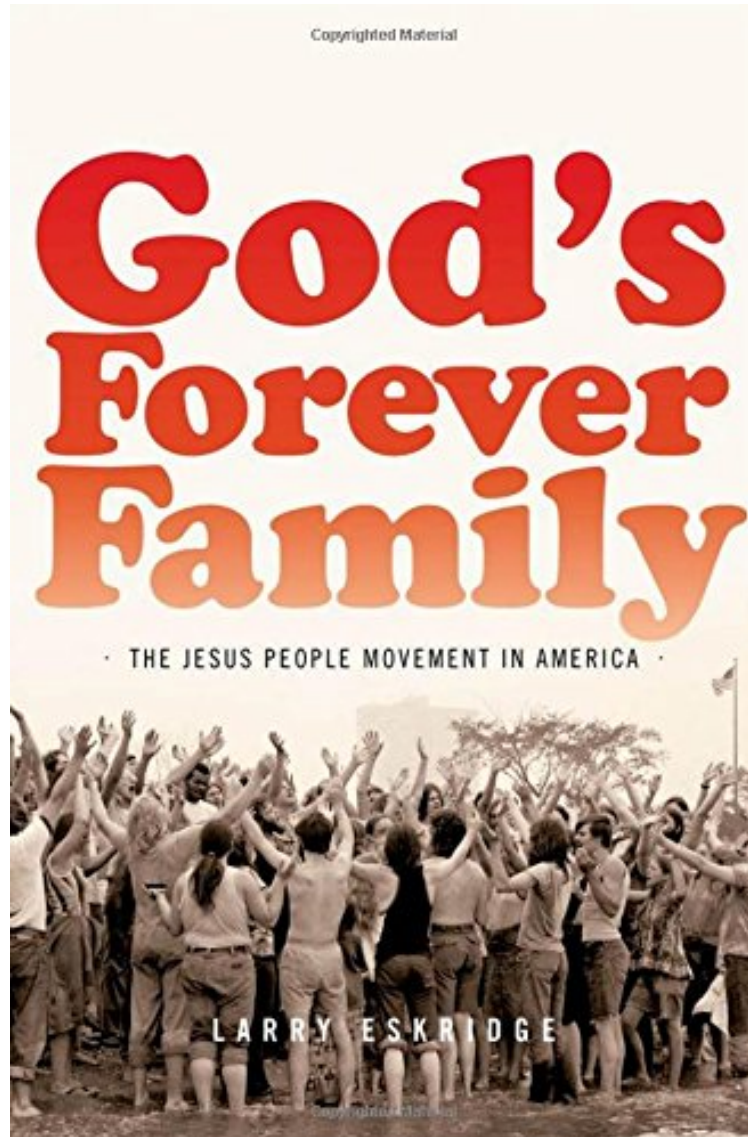


[Download free pdf] God's Forever Family: The Jesus People Movement in America

God's Forever Family: The Jesus People Movement in America

Larry Eskridge

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Larry Eskridge : God's Forever Family: The Jesus People Movement in America before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised God's Forever Family: The Jesus People Movement in America:

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Great read about how Christianity evolved By kristofuh An absolutely fascinating account of the Jesus movement that still brings forth much about the history of today's Christian culture. The event set in motion would become a generation of evangelicals who would change church life, set a foundational

model for youth ministry and would become today's Christian music. The "Jesus Revolution" began a frenzy of youth conversions to Christianity in a counter culture of sex, drugs and rock-n-roll that reached its peak in 1969. A "hippified" Christianity made an appearance in the famed (or infamous) San Francisco Haight Ashbury district in 1967 and spread across the nation to Seattle, Oregon, upstate New York, Fort Lauderdale, Detroit and anywhere the youthful hippies were headed and settled into. [1] It would be marginalized and fringe pastors such as Calvary Chapel's Chuck Smith in Costa Mesa, California who would join in supporting the "Jesus People". It would be in this little California church that the first Christian rock band - "Love Song" - would play for a youth group and set in motion a new genre of music. [2] This music would evolve into the Contemporary Christian Music Industry (CCMI) and forever change Church worship in most conservative Protestant assemblies around the world. Today, Calvary Chapel is still very much involved in youth ministry and locally supports those who are incarcerated at youth camps. [3] Chuck Smith's approach to supporting the Jesus People youth of the movement founded a youth ministry model that is duplicated in churches all across the faith. The evangelistic "Distinctives" tend to come under fire as too liberal while at the same time epitomize Christ's loving acceptance of everyone regardless of who you are or what you have done reflected in the motto, "Come As You Are". I believe it is misunderstood to mean condoning behaviors contrasting scriptural imperatives when in fact it is simply welcoming everyone into Christ's love, redemption and salvation. Everyone is offered that the difference is in the individual acceptance. The younger leaders of the movement became the underlying structure for the future generations of evangelistic acceptance in this broken world of today.

References:[1] Eskridge, Larry. *God's Forever Family*. (Oxford, NY: Oxford University Press, 2013), 2.[2] Smith, Chuck Jr. *Chuck Smith: A Memoir Of Grace*. (Costs Mesa, CA: The Word For Today, 2009), 185.[3] Eskridge, Larry. *God's Forever Family*. (Oxford, NY: Oxford University Press, 2013), 269-270.

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. A Readable and Inspiring AccountBy GregGod's Forever Family is a well organized history of the Jesus People movement in America. Larry Eskridge provides a readable account from the movements' inception in San Francisco to its outgrowth nationwide. Nearly any city of any size would come to have a Jesus People inspired coffee house. The movement began as a hippie-Christian counter to the secular counter-culture, from which many of the hippie-Christians were recent converts. As the movement grew and the secular counter-culture declined, the Jesus People turned inward and became a ministry to evangelical youth. Eskridge is especially good in showing the interaction (and friction in some cases) between the hippie-Christians and their "straight" counterparts within the evangelical church. Eskridge also shows how the movement declined due to economic hardship in the mid-1970s, leadership struggles, and due to the participants in the movement getting older and moving into married life. Despite its decline, the movement would have long-term consequences on evangelical church life and secular culture in the form of contemporary worship and the social conservatism of the pro-life movement. The energy and enthusiasm of the Jesus People, especially their zeal for in-person evangelism, is something the church needs today. This book shows us why.

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Fascinating history of the Jesus PeopleBy Fred ProvencherThis is a tremendous book, a great work of recent history and a fascinating tale of the merger of evangelical faith and hippy culture. There are so many things to appreciate about Eskridges book. It is well written, thoroughly researched and insightful. The narrative starts in the Haight-Ashbury section of San Francisco as young Jesus followers started to share the gospel with hippies. These early evangelists motivated only by a love for people and deep devotion to Jesus found a population of young people hungry for meaning and tired of the drug scene. They believed, started to live together in community and shared everything they had. They went out into the street and told the good news to anyone they could find, drug addicts, drifters, drop outs and starving artists. They dropped acid and saw Jesus. They smoked pot until they stopped. They wrote new music about God in a style that had never been seen in the church before. The movement spread indirectly, organically from San Francisco to Southern California, from Chicago and the mid-west, to New York state and even Paramus NJ. They set up drop in centers and sponsored coffee shops with bands cycling in and out. They held rallies and wrote broad sheet newspapers. It was a wild scene that eventually caught the public eye. Eskridge does more than just chronicle the past nostalgically. He shows how this youth culture affected the church and how the gospel found expression in baby boomer drop outs. He shows how movements became institutions and how those institutions imploded, exploded, crumbled or succeeded. He makes the case that the Jesus People was an important and authentic Christian movement that rose in 1968 and was gone by 1976 but that nonetheless marked the evangelical church forever. It is fascinating, inspiring and entertaining, a must read for anyone who lived through it or who wonders how the contemporary, praise-singing, casual-dressing, bible-believing, youth-absorbing church of today got that way.

Winner of the 2014 Christianity Today Book of the Year First Place Winner of the Religion Newswriters Association's Non-fiction Religion Book of the Year The Jesus People movement was a unique combination of the hippie counterculture and evangelical Christianity. It first appeared in the famed "Summer of Love" of 1967, in San Francisco's Haight-Ashbury district, and spread like wildfire in Southern California and beyond, to cities like Seattle, Atlanta, and Milwaukee. In 1971 the growing movement found its way into the national media spotlight and gained momentum, attracting a huge new following among evangelical church youth, who enthusiastically adopted the Jesus

People persona as their own. Within a few years, however, the movement disappeared and was largely forgotten by everyone but those who had filled its ranks. God's Forever Family argues that the Jesus People movement was one of the most important American religious movements of the second half of the 20th-century. Not only do such new and burgeoning evangelical groups as Calvary Chapel and the Vineyard trace back to the Jesus People, but the movement paved the way for the huge Contemporary Christian Music industry and the rise of "Praise Music" in the nation's churches. More significantly, it revolutionized evangelicals' relationship with youth and popular culture. Larry Eskridge makes the case that the Jesus People movement not only helped create a resurgent evangelicalism but must be considered one of the formative powers that shaped American youth in the late 1960s and 1970s.

"[An] excellent new book...The book reads as an invaluable chronicle of an important moment in the history of American evangelicalism...This is an important, valuable, and engaging book that will certainly be the standard on the Jesus People movement for years to come."--Church History "Larry Eskridge has written what will instantly become the standard account of the Jesus movement and its legacy...all scholars of recent American religion would do well to take a turn through God's Forever Family."--American Historical "This is an important contribution to our historical understanding of American (and global) Evangelicalism." --Encounter "This book is the first serious, scholarly account of the Jesus Movement...We owe [Larry Eskridge] a debt of gratitude." --The Gospel Coalition "If you haven't yet checked out Larry Eskridge's God's Forever Family: The Jesus People Movement in America, you should move it to the top of your "to read" list right away. Beyond being beautifully written, the history (or histories) of the Jesus People it narrates should provoke some interesting questions for anyone interested in religion, culture, and politics in the twentieth century... Eskridge persuasively argues that despite the Jesus People movement's relatively short lifespan, it significantly changed evangelical culture in the long run. But God's Forever Family also gives us a much deeper look at the movement itself than previously available, and thus offers us an opportunity to consider it within the broader religious and cultural transformations of the period." --Religion in American History "[A] painfully funny yet deadly serious study of the Jesus People, circa 1966 to 1976...The book presents a deft study of a timeless process of challenge and renewal in American Christianity." --The Christian Century "It's extraordinary that it's taken this long for someone to write a comprehensively researched history and analysis of the Jesus People of the '60s and '70s... [Eskridge] deserves our grateful thanks for this account of how large numbers of young people from the '60s hippie counter-culture embraced Christianity...God's Forever Family fills a vital gap in chronicling a movement which radically changed the face of the American Church and should therefore be on the book shelf of every theological college." --Cross Rhythms "[A] rich, tender history of one of the more surprising developments of the late 1960s Thanks to Larry Eskridge, the Jesus People finally have a rich, documented history of their own." --Christianity Today "Right on time for a new generation to reflect on the free flowing move of God that transformed people and institutions...The sheer enormity of fact-gathering in Eskridge's exploration of the Jesus Movement makes this a terrific reference." --Worship Leader Magazine "Larry Eskridge does a great job of highlighting this often forgotten yet extremely influential segment of American evangelicalism, bringing his own personal experience and humor to brighten up what could have been a dull, scholarly tome. Just a great, fun, enlightening and informative read."-- National Religion Newswriters "This book is the epitome of definitive, with rich, entertaining detail on all the key players and personalities that united 1960s/70s youth culture and evangelical Christianity. Anyone who has background in the Christian counterculture, the 1970s charismatic renewal, or the Calvary Chapel, Vineyard, or Willow Creek church associations, will feel a sense of reading one's autobiography in this book. More broadly, the book is a must-read for anyone wanting to understand the shape of contemporary evangelicalism." --The Anxious Bench "This rich and surprisingly entertaining book is the definitive work on the Jesus People movement, a significant shaper of contemporary evangelicalism. Eskridge masters an incredible range of stories and sources. For anyone with a background in the Jesus People movement, Calvary Chapels, Vineyard churches, the Willow Creek Association, or the charismatic renewal that began in the 1970s, this is like reading an autobiography." --Thomas Kidd, Baylor University "This long-awaited book tells one of the most important untold stories in postwar American religious life. One cannot understand the resurgence of American evangelical Christianity without taking into account the way the hippie Christians shaped its character and development. God's Forever Family is a splendid history. Both thoroughly researched and engaging, it will become the authoritative account of the Jesus People." --Tanya Marie Luhrmann, author of When God Talks Back: Understanding the American Evangelical Relationship with God "Blossoming amidst the fads and frenzy of the youthful counterculture, the Jesus People blurred traditional boundaries between conservative religion and consumer popular culture. With clarity and insight, Larry Eskridge unearths the backstories and central dynamics of this curious phenomenon to show how it left a lasting mark on American evangelicalism. Solidly researched, God's Forever Family is sure to become the go-to text on the Jesus Movement." --William D. Romanowski, author of Reforming Hollywood: How American Protestants Fought for Freedom at the Movies "In this substantial contribution to American social history, Eskridge [...] makes a cogent case for the continuing relevance of the youth-oriented Jesus movement that peaked in the 1970s, was largely neglected by scholars in subsequent decades, and is given definitive treatment here. Eskridge rightly credits the movement with changing attitudes of evangelicals

from separatism to engagement in the world. Highly recommended." -G.R. Thursby, emeritus, University of Florida, CHOICE "Eskridge does an excellent job of offering a narrative of the late 1960s and 1970s Jesus People Movements while inserting retrospective insights that position the events in the wider socio-historical context of American culture and ecclesial responses to social change... This is an important contribution to our historical understanding of American (and global) Evangelicalism. It will serve as a sourcebook for years to come." --Encounter "This well-researched and deftly written book will probably become the definitive history of the Jesus People movement, which caught the attention of the American public in the early 1970s." --Religious Studies About the Author Larry Eskridge was born in North Carolina and raised in the Chicago area, where he was involved with the Jesus People movement in the 1970s. A student of evangelicals' relationship to mass media and pop culture, he has been on the staff of the Institute for the Study of American Evangelicals at Wheaton College since 1988.