

REVIEW: GREENE, MARK. FRUITFULNESS ON THE FRONTLINE: MAKING A DIFFERENCE WHERE YOU ARE. NOTTINGHAM: IVP, 2014.

Mark Greene is the Executive Director of the *London Institute for Contemporary Christianity* (LICC), a legacy of Rev. Dr. John Stott's ministry and a reflection of his concern that Christians should engage in 'double-listening' if they were to effectively engage with the modern world.

Stott argued that, "Contemporary Christians are called to the difficult and even painful task of 'double listening'. That is, we are to listen carefully both to the ancient Word and to the modern world, in order to relate the one to the other."

In reflecting Stott's desire to help Christians engage more effectively with the world, the LICC focuses on helping churches to refocus their understanding of mission and helping the local church to equip ordinary people to make a difference wherever they are.

Fruitfulness on the Frontline is Mark Greene's contribution to this agenda – a simple, clear framework to help Christians envision where God is already using them in their everyday, ordinary lives and where he might want to use them as they become more intentional about their discipleship and mission on their frontlines, the places where God sends them Monday to Saturday.

In the authors' own words, "This book is about two things: to help us see where we are with fresh eyes, and to explore a range of ways in which we might grow to be more fruitful for God where we are now." Frontlines are simply the myriad of places where God has placed us and where we rub shoulders with non-Christians on a regular basis – places of opportunity and potential according to Greene.

The core of the book is the 6M framework which outlines a broader canvas to help Christians impact their frontlines – beyond just being nice or, as Greene would say trying, "... to crowbar a gospel presentation into a casual conversation about the weather."

So what are the 6Ms?

- Modelling godly character
- Making good work
- Ministering love and grace
- Moulding culture
- Being a Mouthpiece for truth and justice

- Being a Messenger of the gospel

Chapter by chapter, Greene provides a clear biblical perspective as he explores the Bible “through worker’s eyes.” Very quickly the relevance of Scripture to daily life becomes evident.

Two aspects of Greene’s background are evident throughout. His time in the advertising industry enables him to capture the essence of a principle or story in a succinct and memorable form. And his Scottish/Jewish heritage emerges through turns of phrase and a wry sense of humour that will have the reader chuckling along.

Greene’s very accessible writing is immensely practical, hugely encouraging and enlivened with an array of real-life anecdotes drawn from the extensive engagement he and his colleagues have with churches across the spectrum.

Readers expecting to find in-depth discussion of any of these areas may be disappointed – that is not Greene’s intention. His focus is very much on providing encouragement and inspiration to everyday Christians in their everyday work and witness.

Murray Wright

Director, Malyon Workplace