

Pastor Stef's Book Review – October 2015

I wish I could like *Guinness* beer and, after reading ***The Search for God and Guinness: A Biography of the beer that Changed the World (2009)***, I *really* wish I could like *Guinness* beer. I like my beer light and somewhat sweet, however, and, unfortunately, *Guinness* is the complete opposite of that.

Arthur *Guinness* began his brewery in the 1700's. He was motivated by a strong commitment to Jesus Christ, and this was evident in the way he conducted his business affairs. The following generations were also guided by their faith in Jesus. From the wages they paid their workers, to their employee benefits, education, recreation, health-care and retirement, the *Guinness* family was far ahead of its time. In addition to this, *Guinness* poured much of their profits back into their community by building libraries, churches, hospitals, schools, theaters and better housing for the poor. Some in the *Guinness* family even chose to live among the poor in order to minister to them, and others in the family went into full time ministry.

As we are learning in our *Reframe* series on Friday nights, the *Guinness* family never compartmentalized their lives into sacred and secular, but saw all of what they did as unto God's glory. It was not just about an inner spirituality and worshiping God on Sunday, but about an earthy spirituality that cared about brewing good beer, caring for their employees and giving back to the community. All of life was seen as a way to please God.

The Search for God and Guinness is an inspiring story that shows what God can do with a successful and wealthy family and their business when their whole life is committed to Christ. You do not have to enjoy beer to enjoy reading this, as my wife loved the book! And beyond being inspired by the *Guinness* family, it raises questions for the rest of us: "How can I be a school teacher, electrician, computer programmer, or veterinarian for God's glory?" "What would it look like if I learned to enjoy God right in the midst of what I do at work every day?"

The *Guinness* Family would have made Martin Luther proud as Luther continually emphasised the "priesthood of all believers," and that running a business or a home to God's glory can be of greater delight to our Creator than all our church rituals, vows and monasteries put together. Luther, however, like me, would not have chosen *Guinness* as his beer. Luther regularly boasted about his wife's beer as the best he had ever tasted. On one occasion, when he was away from home, he wrote the following to his wife, "I had to take a nasty drink today, and I do not like what is not good. I keep thinking of what good wine and beer I have at home, as well as a beautiful wife, or shall I say lord? Your loving Martin Luther."

THE SEARCH FOR
GOD AND
GUINNESS

A BIOGRAPHY OF THE BEER THAT CHANGED THE WORLD



STEPHEN
MANSFIELD

New York Times Best-Selling Author