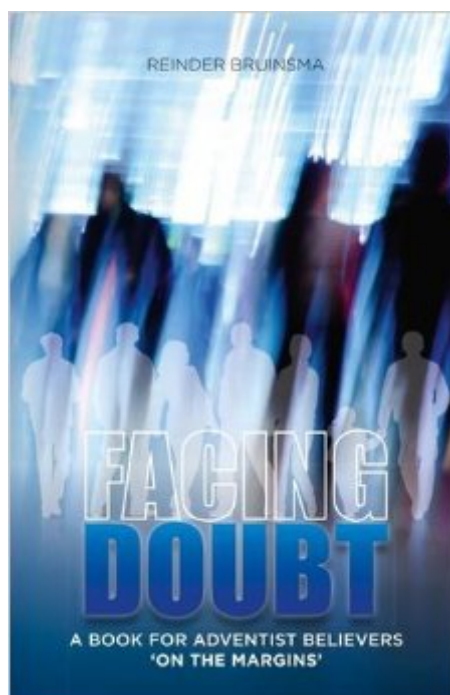


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Facing Doubt: A Book For Adventist Believers 'on The Margins'



Synopsis

On the surface it may appear that I am quite negative about many things in my church and that I am pessimistic about the church's future. That would, however, be a wrong conclusion. I am not about to give up on my church but I try to take the long view. I believe current clouds can blow away and eventually new winds can begin to blow. The last thing I would want to do is discourage any readers by my analysis of the crisis in Christianity in general, and in Adventism in particular. I would be devastated if my book drove people away from faith and away from their church. On the contrary, I hope with all my heart that it will help at least some readers to take a new 'leap of faith' and then (re)-connect with their church. I have written this book because I deeply care for all those who have ended up 'on the margins.' I do not have the illusion that reading it will make all doubts disappear. I do hope and pray, however, that it will help those who read it to establish priorities in their faith experience and in their ties with the church, and dare to live creatively with their uncertainties and doubts.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

"Itch and scratch". A much-needed volume for believers who feel unsettled in their church. First, in his analytical mode, the author describes current issues with insight and honesty, creating a strong itch. Then in response, he switches to pastoral mode and gives a scratch and builds a case for remaining in the church despite the issues he has portrayed, although not ignoring them.

I have appreciated the depth of Dr Reinder Bruinsma's kindly pastoral care ever since he shared mealtimes with us in our home in Farooqabad on the campus of Pakistan Adventist Seminary. His role as Division Secretary of the Trans-European Division required occasional visits to our section of the mission field and his counsel, willingness to listen and his efforts to understand the needs of a newish college president was always helpful. Reinder took a personal interest in my two school-age boys and they still recall the warmth of his care and concern as he related some of his own family experiences during World War II in the Netherlands. Facing Doubt, reveals the same deep pastoral concern. Dr Bruinsma demonstrates a willingness in this volume to try and understand those contemporary Adventists who struggle to see a continuing relevance for their church and who are troubled by some of the ways in which its teachings are expressed. I particularly appreciated his insightful analysis of the recent trends in Adventism addressed in Chapter 3. He engages creatively and constructively with problematic issues with a range of practical suggestions as to how to relate to them. His emphasis on the need for continuing spiritual engagement by those who feel themselves alienated and edging toward the margins is informed and his appeal winsome. He advocates the view that the church continues to have an important and distinctive contribution to make to the twenty-first century. I hope readers on the margins will find it persuasive.

I found it helpful and spiritual will study the book some more

One of the best books I have ever read!

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