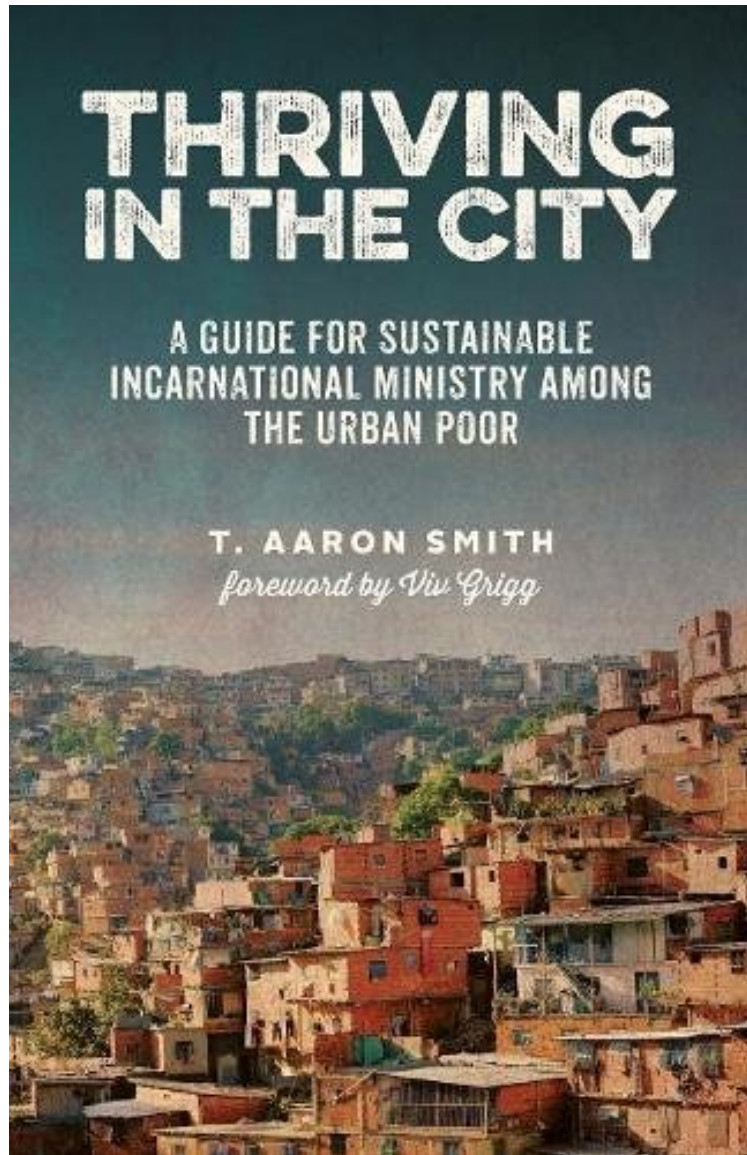


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Thriving in the City: A Guide to Sustainable Incarnational Ministry Among the Urban Poor

T. Aaron Smith

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T. Aaron Smith : Thriving in the City: A Guide to Sustainable Incarnational Ministry Among the Urban Poor before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Thriving in the City: A Guide to Sustainable Incarnational Ministry Among the Urban Poor:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. This is a great book! For anyone interested in learning more about

...By Bob Green This is a great book! For anyone interested in learning more about serving alongside the urban poor, this book will help you understand both the challenges of living incarnationally in settings like this and the joys and rewards of investing in places that are most often overlooked by others. I'm inspired by Aaron and Emma's example and have learned a lot about how to think through a variety of issues related to serving alongside the poor. And the research he includes throughout (and in an appendix at the end) really helps ground his writing and conclusions in good data. I've been to Botocan and seen Aaron and Emma in action in their community and they are the real deal. Practical, gritty and inspiring. Definitely worth reading. 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Practical portrait of "incarnational ministry" By Customer With a writing style as simple as the community he serves, Aaron Smith paints a vivid yet practical portrait of "incarnational ministry" among the urban poor. While it is intended as an evaluation and planning tool for Christian workers contemplating such a commitment themselves, the book subtly challenges those of us who might be termed drive-by missionaries to rethink the notion of incarnational living even in our own middle class American neighborhoods. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Five Stars By Customer Inspiring the readers to do more for the Kingdom.

What does it mean to live in an urban poor slum or inner city for twenty years? What does it take to raise a family there, and to find God's love and peace in the most challenging neighborhoods? In *Thriving in the City: A Guide for Sustaining Incarnational Ministry among the Urban Poor*, T. Aaron Smith helps new leaders to answer that question for themselves. Smith integrates the voices of 100 incarnational leaders who have made the choice to live, to work, and to raise families within urban poor communities. He adds twelve years' worth of stories from his own ministry in Manila, Philippines to create a thoughtful, narrative-based reflection guide to different decisions and strategies that could help many leaders to stay longer and minister more powerfully in their uniquely challenging contexts. Smith leads the Servant Partners team in Manila, Philippines, where he serves as a founding leader of Botocan Bible Christian Fellowship. He also directs the Transformational Urban Leadership program at Asian Theological Seminary in Manila, and is the lead instructor in Servant Partners Global Urban Training School, Foundations. He earned a Masters of Divinity from Asian Theological Seminary, and a Doctor of Ministry from Bakke Graduate University in Seattle, Washington. Aaron and his wife, Ema, and their sons, Zach and Ezra, continue to live and serve among the urban poor.

"*Thriving in the City* is an outstanding practical guide that provides valuable insights into the issues and options faced by those who seek to live meaningfully among the urban poor as agents for transformation. It is a must-read for those whom God is calling to live among the urban poor and those wanting to support others in this path." - Kevin Walton, Vice-President, Thai Peace Foundation "While incarnational strategies in urban poor communities are not new, every practitioner knows there is hardly ever any discussion of those issues that affect sustainability-until now. Smith has contributed something of immense value, which brims with authentic experience and insight wrought from the pain and beauty of his Botocan community." - Randy White, Author of *Encounter God in the City* "This book covers the waterfront on incarnational ministry to a depth I have not seen in any other book. It works with this theme theologically, biblically, methodologically, attitudinally, and practically. And the reason it treats the subject so thoroughly is because Aaron and Ema Smith live it." - Robert C. Linthicum, Founding Director of World Vision's Urban Advance, Pastor of Urban Churches, and Community Organizer "This is an insightful and reflective work-a rich, thoughtful reflection on the decisions facing those who would live among the people they minister to-particularly among the poor. It is powerful in story-telling and brings clarity to the base truths we hope to live out. May we be found faithful in them." - Kevin Blue, Author of *Practical Justice* "This is a powerful read. It calls growing ministers to draw from proven principles in solidarity with the poor, cross-cultural living, and church planting. But just as importantly, readers will be inspired Aaron's own testimony of a life poured out for God's cause. If you are considering ministry of presence and advocacy for social justice, and if you believe in the central role of the church in social transformation, I would highly recommend this book." - Maripaz Batik, Church Planting Team Leader; Adjunct Professor, Asian Theological Seminary "*Thriving in the City* is a gift to the emerging movement serving the urban poor. Beginning with one of the most thoughtful explorations on what it means to be incarnational, Smith takes us on a journey through his experiences living in desperately poor communities. He has constructed a practical guide for those seeking to en flesh the gospel while living alongside our neighbors on the margins of the empire. For those living or planning to live among the urban poor, whether in the high poverty neighborhoods of the West or the favelas and barrios of the Majority World, consider this book a part of your weaponry." - Scott Bessenecker, Associate Director of Missions, InterVarsity Christian Fellowship "*Thriving in the City* is one of the finest books on incarnational ministry that I've read. The power behind Aaron Smith's theological reflection comes from the fact that he has lived and raised a family in squatter communities for many years. His stories and insights are both practical and inspirational, urging us all to greater faithfulness to Jesus' call." - Lisa Engdahl, General Director, Servant Partners