Footnotes: Book Recs + Monte Cox + 9/11

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It's fascinating. Don't pull it up if you have somewhere to be in the next hour or so.

I'll admit that this is one of the signature moments of my life, which brought together emotions of fear and anxiety with the larger times. I’ll encourage that you check out Understanding 9/11. It allows you to see the details through the eyes of others.

McGraw-Hill published a book I wrote with my wife, Diane, called Significant Others: We Who Live Next Door. This book and its companion website describe strategies for engaging neighbors. People who live in or near the larger American cities are bound to have neighbors of religious diversity. As a result, most of us will have more opportunities to cross paths with adherents of other faiths. So don’t be afraid; be hospitable. Reach out to the parent at the PTA or at Little League who crossed paths with adherents of other faiths. Some have recently asked if Christianity has a multicultural problem. I’m inclined to think they probably have never actually met a Muslim. Let’s suppose I don’t live in LA, Houston, DC, or one of the other cities where global faiths might be prominent. Suppose I live in Memphis, Birmingham, or Indianapolis. Where should I go to meet my neighbors? Table 3.1 offers some suggestions of places to meet your neighbors. You can pay them a visit together, and ask thoughtful questions.

Many friends of mine have participated in international meetings, and I have spent time at Baha’i gatherings, expressing my desire to learn about my new neighbors. How do I do that? If you are a church small group, contact your local mosque, Buddhist Temple or temple, or Hindu center. Find out if there are local resources for new neighbors. For example, in Memphis, there are a number of resources specifically designed to help church leaders discover the religious diversity of our neighbors. This issue will have a number of things that I’d put under the category of relevant, not urgent. The interview with Monte Cox is excellent for helping church leaders discover the religious diversity of our communities. It is nice to have experts who can speak more about our religious, non-Christian neighbors.

This issue will have a number of items that I’d put under the category of move ahead in a post-Christian context, it is vital to cleanse our system of many of our Christian assumptions. So, we will spend this issue thinking more about our religious, non-Christian neighbors.

We will use a new column, The Christian's Essential Reading List, to highlight books and the websites of authors who are helping Christians think more about how to move ahead in a post-Christian context.

I received some kind feedback regarding John Barton's responses in the interview. I have read and reread John's responses, and I have been impressed by his thoughtfulness and the deep insights he shared. The interview that I did with him has been fantastic. If you are new to John Barton's work, you should definitely check out his books, most recently Why We Are How We Are. I encourage him to do multiple interviews, with or without me. He is a natural speaker and expert.