

Jim Henderson & Matt Casper, *Jim & Casper Go To Church: Frank conversation about faith, churches, and well-meaning Christians* (Carol Stream: Barna, 2007)

Reviewed by Darren Cronshaw

Jim, an experienced pastor, takes Casper, a friendly agnostic, along to a variety of American churches (compare [www.churchrater.com](http://www.churchrater.com)). They visit Saddleback, Mosaic, Willow Creek, Mars Hill and others; mega, missional, big-budget, mainstream, Pentecostal, liquid, segregated, black, contemplative and house churches. They question the widespread celebrity culture, money-obsession, segregation, proof-texting, sparse Bible-reading and myopic concern with personal happiness. They were amazed people so rarely talked to them, except rostered greeters. It is insightful what Casper notices. He looked for what people were being asked to *do* to make a difference. He was impressed when churches focused on “inbreaking” and joining existing community action, rather than just “outreaching” and inviting others to join theirs. The resulting advice is to shift from apologetics to apology, talking to listening, strength to weakness, beliefs to spirituality, debate to dialogue, and from defending the faith to defending the space for relationships with non-Christians, as real people not targets.

Darren Cronshaw coordinates leadership and mission training for Baptist Union of Victoria and Forge Mission Training Network. This review originally appeared in “Exploring faith ... Explaining rebirth ... Re-birthing Evangelism”, *Witness: The Voice of Victorian Baptists*, No.3 (April), p.21. Darren welcomes feedback to [darren.cronshaw@bu.vic.edu.au](mailto:darren.cronshaw@bu.vic.edu.au)