

Rick Richardson, *Reimagining Evangelism: Inviting Friends on a Spiritual Journey* (Queensway, Scripture Union, 2006)

Reviewed by Darren Cronshaw

This is my favourite writer on personal evangelism because of his clear and passionate approach. He acknowledges the bad rep the E-word has, but reclaims its place and suggests some wonderful images for communicating the gospel. He says we are travel guides on a spiritual journey rather than salespeople seeking to close the deal, junior detectives working with the Holy Spirit discovering clues for God being at work, matchmakers in the dating-and-marriage dance between people and God, and team players witnessing as communities. The book offers a simple way of sharing the story of God's plan to transform the world and presents a captivating picture of an outside-the-box-Jesus who is bringing the Kingdom now and not just promising an afterlife. Richardson offers some great questions to ask – crucially important if we want to understand where people are coming from and encourage real dialogue. And he addresses the big issue of trust, especially important in a multicultural context where some groups have trust issues toward dominant churches and white religion. Richardson's two key suggestions are to find something you love doing and do it with non-Christians, and be prepared to share your own struggles, doubts and questions.

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@buv.com.au](mailto:darren.cronshaw@buv.com.au)