

# ISARC

[www.isarc.ca](http://www.isarc.ca) or [infor@isarc.ca](mailto:infor@isarc.ca)

## ISARC is

a faith community coalition dedicated to faith-based approaches to public policy reform in the area of social justice and poverty elimination.

**DID YOU KNOW? Poverty afflicts 12.6% of all Ontario children including 44% of all children in low-income families**

ISARC invites us to unite *with the shared hope that together we can contribute to new public policies based upon greater justice and dignity for Ontarians marginalized by poverty. The central message shared by religious communities inspires people of faith to respond to our neighbours in need by addressing structural poverty.*

## ISARC Projects: ([www.isarc.ca](http://www.isarc.ca))

Poverty Advocacy Toolkit  
Climate Justice  
Economic Justice  
Housing for all



## Religious Leaders' Forum 2012

Sponsored by ISARC

**March 29, 2012**

9:00 a.m. to 2:30 p.m

Queen's Park  
Toronto

Theme:

**"Health and Poverty:  
What is the cost of poverty and its  
impact on the health of people in  
Ontario communities?"**

This event will include

**Theological Reflection** with Rafael Vallejo  
**Keynote Address** on Health and Poverty  
by Dr. Rosana Pellizzari,  
**Panel Discussion** with Members of the  
Provincial Parliament

Lorna MacQueen- Minister of Discipleship



Toward Daring  
Discipleship

***NOT FOR THE  
FAINT OF HEART***

Hamilton Conference  
The United Church of Canada

**March, 2012**

Not for the faint of heart...



## Finding God in the graffiti

Empowering teenagers through stories  
**Frank Rogers Jr.**

A part of the *Youth Ministry Alternatives* series, this book is **not for the faint of heart**. It is NOT a simple resource for those who wish to plan Youth Group meetings, but rather an examination of the power of story in the faith tradition, in the shaping of personal and communal identity, social transformation, creative nurture, and the mediation of the sacred.

Through story and examples the author offers to all of us (whether we minister specifically to teens, children or adults) a challenge to remember, use, re-tell, renew and create the stories of our lives and our faith in new and powerful ways.

“...our youth live in a world where plotlines of destruction and plotlines of hope are often difficult



to distinguish...and the ways of death and the ways of life are near impossible to untangle. In

illuminating the healing possibilities of narrative through precise descriptions of its various pedagogies, this book hopes to help young people discover the divine presence pulsating toward peace within this complex world. In short, in finding God within the graffiti of narrative pedagogies, this book hopes to help teens find God within the graffiti of their lives.” (p.19)

## PERSISTENT POVERTY VOICES FROM THE MARGINS

**James Swift, Brice Balmer &  
Mira Dineen**

Challenging societal stereotypes of poverty, this book is **not for the faint of heart**.

In 2010 conversations were begun by hundreds of volunteers with the poor of Ontario. This book offers “an opportunity for people whose voices are too rarely heard to describe life on the precarious edge of a culture that tends to place more value on celebrity than on human dignity.” (p.1)

It places us face to face with the questions:

“Will we stand in solidarity with those who suffer because of low incomes, inadequate housing, lack of opportunities, hunger, and stigmatization? Will we create communities where human dignity holds pride of place? It is up to each of us – and all of us together – to address, and answer, these questions.” (p. 4)

Faith communities have long provided charitable services in local communities... yet the prophets... have also called for building a world in which all people have the means to live a decent and secure life... Poverty is a force that has destroyed human dignity. Thus the persistence of poverty is an ethical and moral dilemma that must be addressed, with deliberate speed, as a question of the highest priority.” (p. 143)

## The Practice of Prophetic Imagination

Preaching an Emancipating Word  
**Walter Brueggemann**

Walter Brueggemann gifts us with another book that challenges us to return to the Hebrew Scriptures and wrestle with the work of prophetic proclamation in these scriptures and in the context of the work of preaching in our present context. The book is focused on the cultural/religious/political reality of Israel and the United States, but still has words of challenge and wisdom for the Canadian church. It is **not for the faint of heart**.

“It is my hope, in what follows, to make a credible connection between the material of “prophetic utterance” in the Old Testament itself and the actual practice of “prophetic preaching” that is mandated in the actual work of pastors who are located in worshipping congregations... “Prophetic preaching,” undertaken by working pastors, is profoundly difficult and leaves the preacher in an ambiguous and exposed position (p.1)...

my thesis: “Prophetic preaching is an effort to imagine the world as though YHWH, the creator of heaven and earth, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ whom we Christians name as Father, Son, and Spirit is a real character and decisive agent in the world.”

