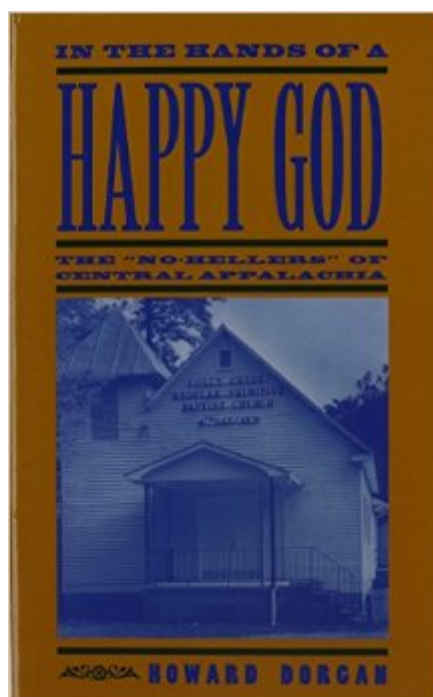


The book was found

In The Hands Of A Happy God: The "No-Hellers" Of Central Appalachia



Synopsis

The investigation of Primitive Baptist Universalists -- Calvinist 'No-Hellers,' which sounds for all the world like an oxymoron -- requires the exact type of seasoned and comprehensive field experience which Dorgan has brought to it with meticulous care and insight. -- Deborah Vansau McCauley, author of *Appalachian Mountain Religion* Among the many forms of religious practice found in the ridges and hollows of Central Appalachia, one of the most intriguing -- and least understood -- is that of the Primitive Baptist Universalists (PBUs). Popularly known as the No-Hellers, this small Baptist sub-denomination rejects the notion of an angry God bent on punishment and retribution and instead embraces the concept of a happy God who consigns no one to eternal damnation. This book is the first in-depth study of the PBUs and their beliefs. As Howard Dorgan points out, the designation No-Heller is something of a misnomer. Primitive Baptist Universalists, he notes, believe in hell -- but they see it as something that exists in this life, in the temporal world, rather than in an afterlife. For a PBU, sinfulness is the given state of natural man, and hell a reality of earthly life -- the absence-from-God's-blessing torment that sin generates. PBUs further believe that, at the moment of Resurrection, all temporal existence will end as all human-kind joins in a wholly egalitarian heaven, the culmination of Christ's universal atonement. In researching this book, Dorgan spent considerable time with PBU congregations, interviewing their members and observing their emotionally charged and joyous worship services. He deftly combines lucid descriptions of PBU beliefs with richly textured vignettes portraying the people and how they live their faith on a daily basis. He also explores a fascinating possibility concerning PBU origins: that a strain of early-nineteenth-century American Universalism reached the mountains of Appalachia and there fused with Primitive Baptist theology to form this subdenomination, which barely exists outside a handful of counties in Tennessee, Virginia, Kentucky, and West Virginia. Like Dorgan's earlier books, *In the Hands of a Happy God* offers an insightful blend of ethnography, history, and theological analysis that will appeal to both Appalachian scholars and all students of American religion.

Book Information

Paperback: 224 pages

Publisher: Univ Tennessee Press; 1 edition (April 23, 1997)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0870499629

ISBN-13: 978-0870499623

Product Dimensions: 5.5 x 1 x 9 inches

Shipping Weight: 10.4 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 5.0 out of 5 stars See all reviews (6 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #843,701 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #231 in Books > Christian Books & Bibles > Christian Denominations & Sects > Protestantism > Baptist #5283 in Books > History > World > Religious > Christianity #5300 in Books > Christian Books & Bibles > Churches & Church Leadership > Church History

Customer Reviews

This book collects most of the written material available and includes actual person-to-person contact to document the Primitive Baptist Universalist church in Central Appalachia.

Well-researched and well-written, this book describes a religious group that is remarkable for its openness and extreme forgiveness in a region traditionally viewed as fundamentalist, crude, and harsh. Readers must wade through excessive detail at times but if they persevere, the detail helps to color in the shades of this unique group.

In the Hands of a Happy God is a superb introduction to a kinder view of religion and especially of the doctrine of atonement. Dr. Dorgan, in an easy-to-read but quite scholarly way, shows how the notion of universal salvation enlivens a religious view that can be rather dreadful. He shows how it works in the very real lives of people who live in the Appalachian culture. This is a must-read for anyone who has an interest in culture and religion.

Not an overstatement. If you have so much as a passing interest in Appalachian culture, do yourself and solid and read this book-- it brings to light a church that is usually overlooked in Appalachia, even by those who live there. To say it is interesting is to make a great, great error of judgement. It is riveting! Of course, I am assuming going in that you are interested in Appalachian Studies and Culture. If not-- this probably isn't the book for you. But also, you probably didn't navigate to this page if you're not interested in Appalachian culture. Dr. Dorgan takes an academic subject and writes it in a way that is accessible to the average joe. His book is thoroughly researched and well written, including plenty of one-on-one interviews. It's priceless that Dr. Dorgan succeeded in recording this facet of Appalachian culture.

[Download to continue reading...](#)

In the Hands of a Happy God: The "No-Hellers" of Central Appalachia
Happy, Happy, Happy: My Life and Legacy as the Duck Commander
The Heart of Confederate Appalachia: Western North

Carolina in the Civil War (Civil War America) Lost Mountain: A Year in the Vanishing Wilderness
Radical Strip Mining and the Devastation of Appalachia African Banjo Echoes In Appalachia: Study
Folk Traditions (Publications of the American Folklore Society) Wayfaring Strangers: The Musical
Voyage from Scotland and Ulster to Appalachia The Antebellum Kanawha Salt Business and
Western Markets (WEST VIRGINIA & APPALACHIA) Extracting Appalachia: Images of the
Consolidation Coal Company, 1910–1945 God Wants You Happy: From Self-Help to God's
Help Animal Habitats! (Williamson Little Hands Series) (Williamson Little Hands Book) Science Play
(Williamson Little Hands Series) (Williamson Little Hands Book (Paperback)) Learn CSS in One Day
and Learn It Well (Includes HTML5): CSS for Beginners with Hands-on Project. The only book you
need to start coding in CSS ... Coding Fast with Hands-On Project) (Volume 2) Learn C# in One
Day and Learn It Well: C# for Beginners with Hands-on Project (Learn Coding Fast with Hands-On
Project) (Volume 3) Hands on Rigid Heddle Weaving (Hands on S) Little Hands Sea Life Art &
Activities: Creative Learning Experiences for 3- To 7-Year-Olds (Little Hands Book) Little Hands
Celebrate America!: Learning about the U.S.A. Through Crafts & Activities (Little Hands Book)
Health Is in Your Hands: Jin Shin Jyutsu - Practicing the Art of Self-Healing (with 51 Flash Cards for
the Hands-on Practice of Jin Shin Jyutsu) (2014 Next Generation Indie Book Award Finalist) Happy
Herbivore Holidays & Gatherings: Easy Plant-Based Recipes for Your Healthiest Celebrations and
Special Occasions (Happy Herbivore) Whole Health for Happy Cats: A Guide to Keeping Your Cat
Naturally Healthy, Happy, and Well-Fed (Quarry Book) The Hundred Thousand Fools of God:
Musical Travels in Central Asia (and Queens, New York)

[Dmca](#)