

Anthony G. Reddie
Acting in Solidarity - Reflections in Critical Christianity
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The title of this book indicates its contents:- dramatic pieces to be 'acted' or read, in order to stimulate discussion and 'critical enquiry' on issues which may then lead people to act in solidarity with others who are different from themselves by way of theological perspective or socio- theological situations. A minimum of props is needed as the use of chairs, telephone, 'office' furniture and hats will suffice; some movement to 'act' the plays would enhance them though they can be simply read aloud. Some are dialogues without actions. The pieces are designed for Christian groups to use, and are grouped under the headings of biblical re-telling, pastoral care and ministry, racial justice/black theology, and ethics/action. They have already been used by the author in workshop or classroom situations, and he sometimes includes responses from them in the discussion section.

An introduction includes suggestions of how to 'perform' the sketches and how to prepare the participants (i.e. actors and audience) for the discussion following the presentation. Suggestions are also given to begin the post-sketch discussion and include references for biblical readings as additional stepping off points. Notes for each dramatic piece give suggestions for further reading, if desired.

These sketches would be particularly useful for use in religious education classes, with youth groups, with adults in a study group or possibly as an icebreaker with a group exploring aspects of racial discrimination or a particular issue of social justice. Two sketches are particularly situated in an Afro-Caribbean setting, and prompt participants to reconsider their own cultural values in the light of gospel teachings or their attitudes towards people of different race or with different cultural values. Other sketches deal with attitudes to people with AIDS, living in cities, and the theological perspective that identifies wealth with God's blessing. It is clear that all of the sketches have proved their value in provoking critical thinking and providing new insights for the participants.

Maureen CSF