MODERN SPIRITUAL MASTERS SERIES

WILLIAM Stringfellow



Essential Writings

Selected with an Introduction by

BILL WYLIE = KELLERMANN

With a Homiletic Afterword by DANIEL BERRIGAN, S.J.







Founded in 1970, Orbis Books endeavors to publish works that enlighten the mind, nourish the spirit, and challenge the conscience. The publishing arm of the Maryknoll Fathers and Brothers, Orbis seeks to explore the global dimensions of the Christian faith and mission, to invite dialogue with diverse cultures and religious traditions, and to serve the cause of reconciliation and peace. The books published reflect the views of their authors and do not represent the official position of the Maryknoll Society. To learn more about Maryknoll and Orbis Books, please visit our website at www.maryknollsociety.org.

Copyright © 2013 by Bill Wylie-Kellermann.

Published by Orbis Books, Box 302, Maryknoll, NY 10545-0302.

All rights reserved.

All book selections are used by permission of Wipf and Stock Publishers, www.wipfandstock.com.

No part of this publication may be reproduced or transmitted in any form or by any means, electronic or mechanical, including photocopying, recording, or any information storage or retrieval system, without prior permission in writing from the publisher.

Queries regarding rights and permissions should be addressed to: Orbis Books, P.O. Box 302, Maryknoll, NY 10545-0302.

Manufactured in the United States of America

Library of Congress Cataloging-in-Publication Data Stringfellow, William.

William Stringfellow: essential writings / selected with an introduction by Bill Wylie-Kellermann; with a homiletic afterword by Daniel Berrigan, S.J. pages cm. – (Modern spiritual masters series)
Includes bibliographical references.
ISBN 978-1-62698-049-5 (pbk.) I. Kellermann, Bill Wylie-. II. Title.
BX4827.S84A25 2013
230–dc23

2013005192

Contents

| A Preface Personal and Practical | X1 |
|---|--|
| Gratitudes | XV |
| Sources and Abbreviations | xvii |
| Books by William Stringfellow | xvii |
| Books about William Stringfellow | xviii |
| Introduction: Living Humanly toward the End of Empire | 1 |
| 1. THE ESSENTIALS OF A BIBLICAL THEOLOGY | 39 |
| Word | 39 |
| Living Biblically Listen to the Bible: A Primitive Act of Love Paradox, Not Syllogism Imperial Hermeneutics or De-mythologizing the Nation Marx and the Bible | 39 41 43 44 47 |
| Jesus | 50 |
| As Born and Coming Again As Tempted As Healer As Notorious Threat As Criminal As Crucified in the Freedom of Resurrection As Descended to Hell As Lord | 50 53 57 58 60 68 75 77 |
| Spirit | 79 |
| Encountering the Spirit Pentecost, Baptism, and Spirit | 79 81 |

| | Sacrament and Sacramental Ethics | 84 |
|----|---|-----|
| | Baptism | 84 |
| | Outline for a Book | 86 |
| | Eucharistic Liturgy | 86 |
| | Marriage as Ordinary Sacrament | 89 |
| | Sex and Reconciliation | 91 |
| | Exorcism and Sacramental Renewal | 92 |
| | Sacramental Recourse to Scripture | 94 |
| | Mammon Sacramented | 96 |
| | Street Sacramentals | 100 |
| | A Sacramental Ethic | 102 |
| | Church | 106 |
| | As Confessional Practice: Resignation | 106 |
| | As Body of Christ | 117 |
| | As Community | 120 |
| | As Event | 122 |
| | As Movement I | 125 |
| | As Movement II | 128 |
| | As Principality | 130 |
| | As Holy Nation | 133 |
| | As Confessional Practice: A New Barmen? | 136 |
| 2. | IN AN AGE OF EMPIRE AND DEATH | 144 |
| | Babylon as Parable | 144 |
| | Technocratic Totalitarianism | 146 |
| | Death as Social Purpose | 150 |
| | Christ and the Powers of Death | 152 |
| | What Are Principalities? | 155 |
| | Principalities as Institutions | 156 |
| | The Meaning of the Demonic | 157 |
| | Demonic Tactics and the Prevalence of Babel | 159 |
| | The Denial of Truth | 160 |
| | Doublespeak and Overtalk | 161 |
| | Secrecy and Boasts of Expertise | 162 |
| | Surveillance and Harassment | 163 |

Contents

| Exaggeration and Deception | 163 |
|---|-----|
| Cursing and Conjuring | 164 |
| Diversion and Demoralization | 165 |
| The Violence of Babel | 165 |
| A Cheerful Note on the Feast of Stephen | 166 |
| 3. LIVE HUMANLY | 168 |
| Living in the Midst | 168 |
| Freedom in Place—Ghetto | 169 |
| Freedom in Place—Island | 171 |
| Dreaming the Nightmare | 176 |
| Caring Enough to Weep | 177 |
| Betraying One's Race | 180 |
| Discerning Signs | 183 |
| Dying in Truth: The Immolations | 186 |
| Deciding Vocationally | 190 |
| Inspiring Ethics: Conscience | 193 |
| Praying Identity | 196 |
| Living Holy, Living Wholly | 201 |
| Sojourning with the Eschatological Circus | 207 |
| A STRINGFELLONIAN LEXICON | |
| A HOMILETIC AFTERWORD by Daniel Berrigan | 231 |