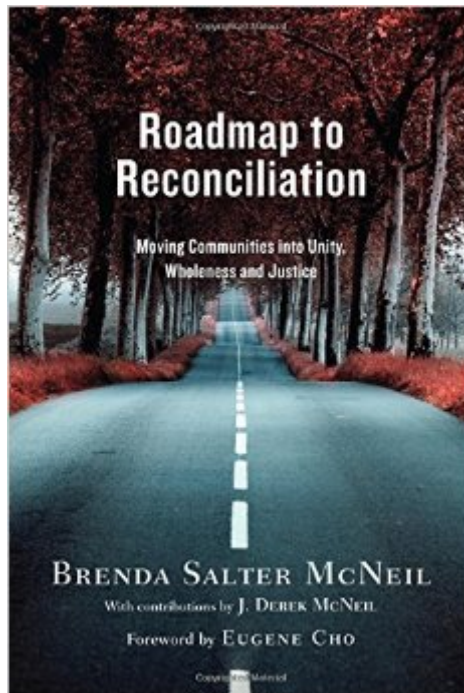


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# Roadmap To Reconciliation: Moving Communities Into Unity, Wholeness And Justice



## Synopsis

Missio Alliance Essential Reading List of 2015 We can see the injustice and inequality in our lives and in the world. We are ready to rise up. But how, exactly, do we do this? How does one reconcile? What we need is a clear sense of direction. Based on her extensive consulting experience with churches, colleges and organizations, Rev. Dr. Brenda Salter McNeil has created a roadmap to show us the way. She guides us through the common topics of discussion and past the bumpy social terrain and political boundaries that will arise. In these pages she voices her call to all believers: "It's time for the followers of Jesus to embark on the prophetic journey that leads to reconciliation and transformation around the world. Many of us may already be aware of the need for reconciliation in our own backyards. . . . We cannot ignore the plight of the people around us and as globalization continues its relentless march onward, we cannot turn a blind eye to the world at large either. We have to face the realities here at home and we must also embrace the stories of people all around the world." Each chapter lays out the next step in the journey. With reflection questions and exercises at the end of each chapter, it's ideal to read together with your church or organization. If you are ready to take the next step into unity, wholeness and justice, then this is the book for you.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Roadmap to Reconciliation, by Brenda Salter McNeil, is a very timely book, outlining steps individuals and the church can take to help bridge the racial and ethnic divides in the US. More than

that, the same basic principles can be applied to other areas of conflict within the church. Well-written, concise, full of hope, I highly recommend it. McNeil cites Bruce Wexler's work, *Brain and Culture*, which shows that from a neurological point of view we are prone to resist change. Moreover, as we age, our brains lose their plasticity and we become even more resistant to change. Catalytic events cause stress, challenging those fixed patterns of thought. Without moving through the ensuing period of chaos and distress, real change is impossible. As I read the book, the thought kept recurring that this is just as true of our views of origins, my own area of research and writing, as it is in our intercultural relationships. Following a time of crisis, the catalytic event, comes a long process. While the details are of course different for views on origins than they are for racial relations, the stages remain the same. After accepting that there might be a different way of looking at reality, you have to get to know people who look at reality in that way, spend time gathering information, and begin to identify with the other group, or as I have put it in various talks I have given, think inside the box. Don't merely think outside your own box, but get into theirs with them and see the world from their perspective. McNeil's book is vital in its own right: there are many catalytic events shaking race relations in the US right now and a desperate need for reconciliation. It is a sign of the book's greatness that the same basic model can equally be applied to other areas of conflict. Well done, sister.

Dr. Brenda Salter McNeil has over twenty five years of experience in the ministry of racial, ethnic, and gender reconciliation. Every bit of her learning and experiences has been packaged into a systemic process to help the reader understand the reconciliation journey and how to move and grow from one phase reconciliation roadmap to the next. When presenting each of the stages, Dr. McNeil defines essential tasks, important questions, and temperament. In other words, each phase presents its own joys, realities, challenges, and assumptions. Being aware of these factors and ensuring common language and understanding can help move the conversation forward with less confusion, resistance, and distraction. For each phase, Dr. Neil also shares stories and examples of what she has seen work, and this serves as encouragement for readers as they consider ministry in their own context. Read more here:

<http://asistasjourney.com/2016/01/12/book-review-roadmap-to-reconciliation/>

Timely and desperately needed wisdom on how anybody can work toward reconciliation. I love how the author does not judge others, how she's always honest, and pragmatic thoughtfulness she shares. Wish this book was out years ago -- who knows, it might've prevented a lot of the sadness

we see in the world today! Read it and love it.

In this pivotal season of open revelation to the difficulties we face as a nation and the church around matters of race, culture, and love, Brenda Salter McNeil has provided the following:- a flashlight of faith needed- a signpost of hope that provides functional tools that are effective for the transformation of community and the hearts of many, and...-a roadmap that can be taken to truthful reconciliation.GET THIS BOOK IF YOU'RE SERIOUS ABOUT SOCIETY BEING SUCCESSFUL IN THE 21ST Century. Read it, study it with others, and work to achieve it. Thank you Dr. Salter McNeil for this tremendous addition to the work our world need to study and employ!

Brenda Salter McNeil writes not just from a scholastic point of view, but from the very powerful place of walking this reconciliation road with great intention for the last 20 years. She embodies the work she writes about with an authenticity that is palpable. You must read this book, then you must do what it asks.

I will proudly admit that I have two copies of this book. One copy I bought for myself. And the other copy was gifted to me by friends. Typically, I would feel ashamed of having multiple copies of a book, but not in this instance. I am tremendously excited by the potential to lend this book out to the students I work with.As a fairly new campus minister, I am just beginning to form my vision for what Christian fellowships on university campuses can look like. That being said, so much of what I dream and long for my students and for the relationships that they build, can be found within this book.Are you a student? Are you trying to figure out what reconciliation looks like? Are you finding that your church or even your campus fellowship is eerily silent about the topic? Are you trying to figure out how to begin conversations, begin relationships, begin seeking healing and transformation? Are you currently in a cross cultural relationship? When people talk about cross cultural relationships do you think "Yes, of course, I want that, that's really good" but then find yourself a few hours later asking "But where do I start, but what happens when \_\_\_\_\_, but if I do/go/say \_\_\_\_\_, then \_\_\_\_\_"? If any of these questions resonate, that I encourage you to find yourself a copy of this book.- A.T.

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