

Dry Bones and Holy Wars

A Call for Social and
Spiritual Renewal



Brandan Robertson



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.orbisbooks.com

Copyright © 2022 Brandon Robertson

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

All rights reserved.

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

Names: Robertson, Brandon, 1992– author.

Title: Dry bones and holy wars : a call for social and spiritual renewal / Brandon Robertson.

Description: Maryknoll, New York : Orbis Books, [2022] | Includes bibliographical references. | Summary: “Reflections rooted in the biblical tradition, tied to pressing modern concerns, inviting Christians and others to individual and communal introspection”— Provided by publisher.

Identifiers: LCCN 2022007665 (print) | LCCN 2022007666 (ebook) |

ISBN 9781626984974 (trade paperback) | ISBN 9781608339594 (epub)

Subjects: LCSH: Church renewal. | Christianity and culture.

Classification: LCC BV600.3 .R623 2022 (print) | LCC BV600.3 (ebook) | DDC 262.001/7—dc23/eng/20220601

LC record available at <https://lccn.loc.gov/2022007665>

LC ebook record available at <https://lccn.loc.gov/2022007666>

Contents

<i>Preface</i>	1
1. Tear Down Those Walls	5
2. The Subversive Karma of God	14
3. Let's Talk about Inner Reformation	21
4. The Jesus You Never Knew	35
5. Love Kindness	45
6. Playing Favorites	53
7. The Fourth Man in the Fire	62
8. Rhythms of Abundance	72
9. The Battle Within	82
10. The End of the World as We Know It	89
11. The Shame Paradox	97
12. God of the Ordinary	105

13. The Call of God	111
14. Divided We Fall.	121
15. Diving into Doubt.	126
16. Dry Bones	132
17. Holy Wars and Hypocrisy	141
18. Truth Doesn't Need Defending	150
19. A Light in Our Darkness.	158
<i>Acknowledgments</i>	165
<i>Notes</i>	167
<i>About the Author</i>	169