

# Delve Deeper into "The Tailenders"

A film by Adele Horne

This multi-media resource list, compiled by Penny Talbert of the Ephrata Public Library in partnership with the American Library Association, provides a range of perspectives on the issues raised by the upcoming P.O.V. documentary "The Tailenders" that premieres on July 25<sup>th</sup>, 2006 at 10 p.m. on PBS (check local listings at [www.pbs.org/pov/](http://www.pbs.org/pov/)).

Global Recordings Network, founded in Los Angeles in 1939, has produced audio versions of Bible stories in over 5,500 languages, and aims to record in every language on earth. They distribute the recordings, along with ultra-low-tech hand-wind players, in isolated regions and among displaced migrant workers. GRN calls their target audience "the tailenders" because they are the last to be reached by worldwide evangelism. Filmed in the Solomon Islands, Mexico, India and the United States, "The Tailenders" is an unusual filmic essay that examines the missionaries' strategic use of media and the intersection of missionary activity and global capitalism.

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## ADULT NONFICTION

**Borgmann, Albert. *Power Failure: Christianity in the Culture of Technology*. Grand Rapids, MI: Brazos Press, 2003.** An evaluation of the increasing use of technology in religions and its impending consequences. For a review of the book go to: [www.acton.org/publicat/randl/review.php?id=487](http://www.acton.org/publicat/randl/review.php?id=487)

**Davis, Erik. *TechGnosis: Myth, Magic and Mysticism in the Age of Information*. New York: Harmony Books, 1998.** Davis looks at our attitudes about technology and how that relates to our spiritual aspirations.

**Detweiler, Craig and Barry Taylor. *A Matrix of Meanings: Finding God in Pop Culture (Engaging Culture)*. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Academic, 2003.** Examines the place of evangelism in pop culture. Examinations include advertising

and the role of celebrities in modern-day evangelism.

**Deutscher, Guy. *The Unfolding of Language: An Evolutionary Tour of Mankind's Greatest Invention*. New York: Metropolitan Books, 2005.** Deutscher, a University of Leiden specialist in Semitic languages, takes an intriguing look at both the human need to create order and our desire to communicate through words and meaning.

**Fitch, David. *The Great Giveaway: Reclaiming the Mission of the Church from Big Business, Parachurch Organizations, Psychotherapy, Consumer Capitalism and Other Modern Maladies*. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Books, 2006.** Fitch, a senior pastor for the Life on the Vine Christian community, looks at evangelicals and how they try to "package Christianity." Reclaiming the mission of the church is his answer, and he gives practical advice on how to do this.

**Gutierrez, David, ed. *Between Two Worlds: Mexican Immigrants in the United States*. Lanham, MD: SR Books, 1977.** Examines the public idea that Mexican immigrants are responsible for the social, political and economic problems associated with immigration. This anthology is a great way to begin to understand the complexities of the immigration issue.

**Landes, David. *The Wealth and Poverty of Nations: Why Some Are So Rich and Some So Poor*. New York: W.W. Norton Company, 1999.** Looks at how and why wealth is distributed among particular countries. Further, Landes examines cultural values and how the industrial revolution has contributed to the vast divide between countries and their progress.

**Lieberman, Anatoly, ed. *N.S. Trubetzkoy: Studies in General Linguistics and Language Structure (Sound and Meaning)*. Trans. Marvin Taylor and Anatoly Lieberman. Durham, NC: Duke University Press, 2001.** One of the most visionary names in the science of phonology,

Trubetzkoy's work has never before been presented in English. Lieberman also includes correspondence in this collection of Trubetzkoy's ideas about phonology.

**McWhorter, John. *The Power of Babel: A Natural History of Language*. New York: Times Books/Henry Holt, 2003.** McWhorter considers ways that languages change and examines the evolution of language through dialect.

**Mitchell, Don. *The Lie of the Land: Migrant Workers and the California Landscape*. Minneapolis: University of Minnesota Press, 1996.** Takes a critical look at pre-World War II California and the migrant workers that built California's landscape.

**Newman, Jay. *Religion and Technology*. Westport, CT: Praeger Publishers, 1997.** Newman discusses the relationship between religion and technology and explores the idea that both may be part of the other.

**Noble, David. *Forces of Production: A Social History Of Industrial Automation*. New York: Knopf, 1984.** Explores the metal-working industry and the automation that occurred to modernize industry. Nobles asserts that this automation was a societal process, and he discusses the forces that propelled this type of advancement and their consequences on business and society.

**Noble, David. *The Religion of Technology: The Divinity of Man and the Spirit of Invention*. New York: A.A. Knopf, 1997.** Noble argues that instead of technology advancing to meet human need, a more important goal is to transcend it. This book is a thorough examination of Christianity and technology.

**Ostler, Nicholas. *Empires of the World: A Language History of the World*. New York: HarperCollins, 2005.** Ostler's accessible study of language looks at language communities and how they evolve and sometimes die out. Further, he uses historical

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information to examine how languages thrive or perish.

**Sassen, Saskia. *Globalization and Its Discontents: Essays on the New Mobility of People and Money*. New York: New Press, 1998.** Sassen presents a look at how globalization affects migration, and how global cities depend upon low-wage workers to keep infrastructure running smoothly.

**Sen, Amartya. *Development as Freedom*. New York: Knopf, 1999.** Sen, winner of the 1998 Nobel Prize for Economics, examines issues of the developing world, including poverty, mortality and illiteracy, and how these factors affect the development of countries such as India and China.

**Stark, Rodney. *One True God: Historical Consequences of Monotheism*. Princeton, NJ: Princeton University Press, 2003.** A primer on religion, explaining why people choose a faith, the differences (and sometime similarities) between monotheism and polytheism and historical information about a variety of religions.

**Stark, Rodney. *The Victory of Reason: How Christianity Led to Freedom, Capitalism and Western Success*. New York: Random House, 2005.** In this book, Stark argues that Christianity has advanced developments in technology, capitalism and democracy.

**Terry, John Mark. *Evangelism: A Concise History*. Nashville, TN: Broadman & Holman Publishers, 1998.** Complete with end-of-chapter questions, this history of evangelism and church history is a good primer for anyone interested in an overview of the topic.

**White, Geoffrey. *Identity through History: Living Stories in a Solomon Islands Society*. Cambridge, UK: Cambridge University Press, 2003.** To understand the way the people of Santa Isabel in the Solomon Islands see themselves, one must understand the history behind the people and how it shaped their identity. In this compelling book, White uses various forms of

anthropology, both historical and psychological, to show how a community defines itself.

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## VIDEOS/DOCUMENTARIES

**"End of the Spear." A film by Jim Hanon. Every Tribe Entertainment, 2006. (108 min.)** The story of Mincayani, a Waodani tribesman from the jungles of Ecuador. When five young missionaries, among them Jim Elliot and Nate Saint, are speared to death by the Waodani in 1956, a series of events unfolds to change the lives of not only the slain missionaries' families, but also Mincayani and his people.

**"The Gods Must Be Crazy." A film by Jamie Uys. Sony Pictures, 1980. (109 min.)** A Sho in the Kalahari Desert encounters technology for the first time – in the shape of a Coca Cola bottle – inciting an inter-tribal fight over its "divine" origins and the globalization it represents.

**"Hoover Street Revival." A film by Sophie Fiennes. Tartan Video, 2002. (104 min.)** A documentary about an evangelist Bishop in South Central Los Angeles and gospel music.

**"Hungry for Profit." A film by Robert Richter. Richter Videos, 1986. (86 min.)** A documentary demonstrating the ever-increasing gap between the rich and poor nations of the world as exhibited in the global agribusiness system. Documenting the situations in five different continents, the film shows the transformation of the world's food supply into a global supermarket.

**"Merton: A Film Biography." A film by Paul Wilkes. First Run Features, 2004. (57 min.)** A documentary exploring the life of Thomas Merton, a prolific Catholic author and social critic who was also a member of the Cistercian Order.

**"The Mission." A film by Roland Joffe. Warner Home Video, 1986. (125 min.)** Based on the true story of two Jesuit missionaries who fought the colonial empires of Spain and Portugal to save an

Indian colony from slavery in mid-18<sup>th</sup> century South America.

**"Passion of the Christ." A film by Mel Gibson. 20<sup>th</sup> Century Fox, 2004. (127 min.)** A dramatic interpretation of the events leading up to the demise of Jesus of Nazareth.

**"Saved!" A film by Brian Dannelly. MGM, 2004. (92 min.)** A satirical portrait of a stringently religious Baptist high school and its rebellious students.

**"The Ten Commandments." A film by Cecile DeMille. Paramount, 1956. (220 min.)** An epic filmic account of Moses, from his infancy to the liberation of the Hebrews and his eventual betrayal.

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## WEB SITES

**P.O.V's "The Tailenders"**  
[www.pbs.org/pov/pov2006/tailenders/preview.html](http://www.pbs.org/pov/pov2006/tailenders/preview.html)

Includes an interview with the filmmaker, resources, special features and more.

**Global Recordings Network**  
<http://globalrecordings.net/>  
Also the focus of "The Tailenders," GRN records Bible stories in an effort to reach groups without ample Christian resources.

**Ethnologue: Languages of the World**  
[www.ethnologue.org/](http://www.ethnologue.org/)  
A comprehensive online reference which catalogues 6,912 of the world's known languages.

**Languages by Country**  
[www.infoplease.com/ipa/A0855611.html](http://www.infoplease.com/ipa/A0855611.html)

A comprehensive listing of every language spoken in each country in the world.

**The Linguist List**  
[www.linguistlist.org/](http://www.linguistlist.org/)  
A linguist resource page providing extensive information on language and language analysis.

**Global Issues That Affect Everyone: Causes of Poverty**  
[www.globalissues.org/TradeRelated/Poverty.asp](http://www.globalissues.org/TradeRelated/Poverty.asp)

# Delve Deeper into "The Tailenders"

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A discussion of various economic arguments accounting for global poverty.

## **The World Bank – Policy Research Reports**

<http://econ.worldbank.org/WBSITE/EXTERNAL/EXTDEC/EXTR ESEARCH/EXTPRRS/0,,contentM DK:20227700~pagePK:478097~ piPK:477636~theSitePK:477633 ,00.html>

A series of reports detailing the results of World Bank research on development policy.

## **World Atlas: Maps and Geography of the World**

<http://geography.about.com/library/maps/blindex.htm>

A list of links to global and US maps.

## **American Heritage – Invention and Technology Magazine**

[www.inventionandtechnology.com/](http://www.inventionandtechnology.com/)

A magazine dedicated to innovation in U.S. technology.

## **Recording Technology History**

[www.recording-history.org/](http://www.recording-history.org/)

A website that provides a historical overview of the different cultural and technological aspects of sound recording technology.

## **International Mission Board**

[www.imb.org/core/default.asp](http://www.imb.org/core/default.asp)

As an entity of the Southern Baptist Convention, the IMB seeks to present the gospel of Jesus Christ.

## **The First Migrant Workers**

[www.farmworkers.org/immigrant.html](http://www.farmworkers.org/immigrant.html)

A brief historical account of the first migrant workers.

## **Definitions of Globalization**

[www.infed.org/biblio/defining\\_globalization.htm](http://www.infed.org/biblio/defining_globalization.htm)

A discussion of the theories behind the term "globalization," in addition to a list of links to further resources.