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Phone: (860) 347-6933
Fax: (860) 704-0465
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Religion

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Breaking bread, breaking beats: churches and hip-hop: a basic guide to key issues, by The Cecil Writing Collective. Fortress, 2014. 253p bibl index afp ISBN 9780800699260, \$29.00.

This book is a rare and generative collaboration among academic professionals, artists, and students. Emerging from a team-taught course at Rice University, directed by Anthony Pinn (a theologian and religious studies scholar) and Bernard "Bun B" Freeman (a hip-hop artist), the book offers a basic introduction to some major themes that concern rap music and African American Christianity. Through a series of ten chapters jointly authored by students and instructors, readers encounter crisp discussions of the relevance of religion and hip-hop for conceptualizing major issues such as ethnicity, gender, sexuality, embodiment, poverty, and globalization. The volume emphasizes hip-hop as a cultural form whose massive impact on global cultures has both challenged and resonated with the legacy of black churches. Some essays historicize the black church and hip-hop within the context of racial conflicts and urban transformations that persist to the present. Other chapters elucidate surprising parallels, such as that between prosperity gospel and hip-hop "bling" or heteropatriarchal theology and misogynist rap lyrics. Thorough editing has produced cohesion in both substance and style in a book that should serve as a versatile text for teaching.

—S. A. Johnson, *Northwestern University*

Summing Up: Highly recommended. Lower-division undergraduates and above; general readers.