



# Scattering Point: The World in a Mennonite Eye

*Jeff Gundy*

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## **Scattering Point: The World in a Mennonite Eye** Jeff Gundy

Part memoir, part family history, part meditation on history and the present, this work of creative nonfiction allows Jeff Gundy to ask what it should mean to live in the world but not of it, as the traditional Mennonite saying recommends. As *Scattering Point* moves through time and space, it repeatedly questions how a modern, assimilated Mennonite poet and professor might live with some kind of fidelity to his tradition and to the promises and griefs of contemporary life.

*Scattering Point* takes its title from Scattering Point Creek, which has its source on the author's family farm in Illinois. This book explores that place while also ranging widely from it and the Amish and Mennonites who have been associated with the area for nearly the last century. It traverses the Illinois prairie to churches and caves in Europe and incorporates family stories, soil geology, the architecture of cathedrals and churches, reflections on depression, and Mennonite martyrdoms and schisms. *Scattering Point* speaks of the great questions of history and religion, the quiet lives of Amish and Mennonite men and women whose histories are almost forgotten, and of our lives today.

Readers of all backgrounds will see something of themselves in Jeff Gundy who writes, I must admit it: I do love this world and, many, though not all, of the things in it, and whose quest is always for understanding that will allow us to go back into the world more able to undertake the difficult work of loving it as we should. "

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