



**Title:** The Narrow Road to Success  
**Author:** Manuel Borda  
**Category:** Religion  
**Price:** £12.99 / 16,40 Euro / \$20.95  
**Pages:** 412  
**ISBN:** 978 1 84748 229 7

Athena Press  
Queen's House, 2 Holly Road,  
Twickenham TW1 4EG,  
United Kingdom

The novel has Paul Goodison as the principal actor who has found an astonishing way of leading his life. Born as the eldest of three brothers, he had a hard childhood. Very soon, he finds out that the four gospels relating to the teaching and life of Jesus Christ open a way for him to move forward and succeed. He tries to practice the way of life expounded in the gospels even in his career as a manager.

The book describes Goodison's life in a very abstract, nearly close to a diary, manner. Constant obstacles in a new business challenge, difficult colleagues and a stalker at work are problems with which he has to tackle. But he never loses faith in those four little books.

Those who are not familiar with the gospels may find the novel difficult to follow as no quotations or footnotes are available to explain exactly from where the references are taken. A list of references at the book ending would have made the book more easy to understand for those readers who want to get deeper in the story. The book itself is officially called a religious book. The story is fictitious and it attempts to complement the real economic and management principles with gospel principles.

Goodison's actions are in many cases driven or influenced by gospels. Two short quotations will show the line of thought: (Page 368) *It was doubtful whether the representatives [of the company] had formulated all their strategies together to achieve their ends. It appeared, however, that they had prepared all details giving the impression that they had connived a plan. If that was the case, it was not surprising. Such a situation occurred in Jesus' time as well. The chief priests and the elders of the people had assembled in Caiapha's palace to hatch a plot against Jesus and eliminate him. Not all Sanhedrin members knew of the meeting; only those diametrically opposed to Jesus seemed to be informed; and the assembly had reached a conclusion to condemn Jesus to death. Hugh Mount, as chairman, had to attend all the sessions. He complained to Paul that the meetings were really tough; they necessitated complete attention...*

(Page 409) *'That's the way it should be,' added Paul. 'Christ's teaching is all about love and respect. As businessmen, we compete but this does not mean we hate one another. More than that, competition helps us to look for ways to improve our companies.'*

In the book, besides the story revolving around Paul Goodison's life, there are many economic perspectives, but the basic idea of the author Manuel Borda seems to show that gospels can play a vital role in life. It comes slowly and consistently to the reader – when reading the story.

Borda studied economics at the State University of Binghamton, New York, and the University of Malta and was later on a Member of Parliament, made a career in civil service, the private sector and public corporations and contributed articles to Maltese newspapers.

Manuel Borda shows in his book that a business environment and Christianity can complement each other. It is an interesting book, but not easy for Non-Christians or those not familiar with the gospels. On the other hand, it is a book which helps readers to understand how Catholic managers might behave in their careers and normal course of life. 93 percent of Maltese belong to the catholic faith – and even people affiliated to other religions can thus understand their cultural background when they are dealing with them. An intractable book – but worth the time reading it. (*Horst-Joachim Hoffmann*)