1. Record Nr. UNINA9910815247503321 Autore **Engelke Matthew** Titolo God's Agents: Biblical Publicity in Contemporary England / / Matthew Engelke Pubbl/distr/stampa Berkeley, CA:,: University of California Press,, [2013] ©2013 **ISBN** 0-520-95710-5 Descrizione fisica 1 online resource (321 p.) Collana The Anthropology of Christianity;; 15 Disciplina 267/.13 Soggetti Evangelistic work - Great Britain Lingua di pubblicazione Inglese **Formato** Materiale a stampa Livello bibliografico Monografia Note generali Description based upon print version of record. Nota di bibliografia Includes bibliographical references and index. Front matter -- Contents -- A Note to the Reader -- Acknowledgments Nota di contenuto -- Preface -- Introduction -- 1. Angels in Swindon -- 2. The Semiotics of Relevance -- 3. Kingdom and Christendom -- 4. Doing God -- 5. Good Trouble and Good Timing -- 6. Reasonable Religion --Conclusion -- Notes -- References -- Index Sommario/riassunto The British and Foreign Bible Society is one of the most illustrious Christian charities in the United Kingdom. Founded by evangelicals in the early nineteenth century and inspired by developments in printing technology, its goal has always been to make Bibles universally available. Over the past several decades, though, Bible Society has faced a radically different world, especially in its work in England. Where the Society once had a grateful and engaged reading public, it now faces apathy-even antipathy-for its cause. These days, it seems, no one in England wants a Bible, and no one wants other people telling them they should: religion is supposed to be a private matter. Undeterred, these Christians attempt to spark a renewed interest in the Word of God. They've turned away from publishing and toward publicity to "make the Bible heard." God's Agents is a study of how religion goes public in today's world. Based on over three years of anthropological research, Matthew Engelke traces how a small group of socially

committed Christians tackle the challenge of publicity within what they understand to be a largely secular culture. In the process of telling their story, he offers an insightful new way to think about the relationships

between secular and religious formations: our current understanding of religion needs to be complemented by greater attention to the process of generating publicity. Engelke argues that we are witnessing the dynamics of religious publicity, which allows us to see the ways in which conceptual divides such as public/private, religious/secular, and faith/knowledge are challenged and redefined by social actors on the ground.