
This anthology of 15 distinct contributions centered on Christology arises from the womb of Asia and represents the work of a wide range of contemporary indigenous theologians. It is edited by R. S. Sugirtharajah, a Sri Lankan theologian and lecturer in third-world theology at Selly Oak Colleges in Birmingham, England. Its goal is to build upon the Western understanding of Jesus by employing Asian cultural symbols, thought patterns and interpretative resources; this approach seeks to assist Asians in experiencing the full impact of Jesus' personality and teaching and in discovering Jesus' original face — his Asian face.

After a brief "Prologue and Perspective," Sugirtharajah gathers the individual pieces into two sections: "Jesus Amid Other Asian Ways, Truths and Lights" (I) and "Newly Emerging Profiles of Jesus Amid Asia's Poverty and Religious Plurality" (II). The editor sketches an author-by-author synopsis of all contributions; these are clearly and precisely presented. This reviewer found the additional "relevant literature" helpful; it contains references to material that was probably considered for this book but had to be excluded due to space limitations.

Sugirtharajah writes enthusiastically about the task of Asian interpreters in "bringing the vision of Jesus to the masses of Asia" (x). The contributors to this volume that have best achieved this goal are Amaladoss, Malik, and Pieris in Part One and Kappen, Koyama, and Song in Part Two. Sugirtharajah's own epilogue, "Reconceiving Jesus: Some Continuing Concerns," is a good summary of Christological questions of particular relevance in Asia. An index would have been a welcomed addition to this volume.

Asian Faces of Jesus complements two other Orbis titles: Faces of Jesus in Africa (Schreiter) and Faces of Jesus: Latin America Christologies (Bonino). This trilogy of anthologies of Christology has fostered the discourse needed for all peoples to see their own face and contextual aspirations in the unique face of Jesus the Christ.

James H. Kroeger, M.M.


In this collection of 25 scholarly essays, which is also a festschrift
honoring Arthur F. Glasser, representatives of Catholicism and both conciliar and evangelical Protestantism reflect on basic issues in mission and evangelization. After an introduction to the person and work of Glasser, one finds six thematic sections: biblical foundations, theological reflections, ecumenical relationships, evangelical concerns, missiological issues, and contextual considerations. Each of the 25 essays aims at summing up the state of a particular mission question, usually in 8-10 pages.

The expressed purpose of this volume is “to gather some of the best thinking on theology of mission available to the Christian church today” (xiii). Its authors are “a Who’s Who of mission scholars and practitioners” (xi). Its intent is to become “a standard handbook on mission theology for its decade” (xi). Yes, the material presented and the authors are of high quality; the book garnered the distinction of being one of the “fifteen outstanding books of 1993 for mission studies” (International Bulletin of Missionary Research). However, because of the variance in the quality and depth of individual essays, it may not achieve the status of “standard handbook on mission theology” as was noted in the book’s Foreword.

Two key themes (Kingdom and Trinity) are effective integrating elements of this rich collection. The introduction to Glasser’s life and thought, an exhaustive bibliography of his works, and a final synthesis of Glasser’s theology of mission are well executed. An alphabetical list of the works cited in all essays (31 pages) and the indexes (24 pages) are masterfully arranged — a scholar’s delight!

This reviewer found six essays by G. Anderson, D. Bosch, R. Covell, M. Motte, W. Shenk, and T. Stransky exceptionally enlightening. This book is to be enthusiastically recommended to “teachers and students of missiology, mission practitioners, and mission-oriented pastors of churches all over the world” (xiii).

James H. Kroeger, M.M.