
This volume is a veritable encyclopedia of the most creative leaders in the Christian missionary movement from the late eighteenth century to the present. The book is a collection of seventy-five biographical essays on seventy-eight individuals who have played significant roles in world mission. Each of these essays was originally printed (beginning in 1977) in the International Bulletin of Missionary Research (IBMR).

Mission Legacies is divided into seven thematic sections each containing several biographical entries: Promoters and Interpreters (16), Theologians and Historians (12), Theorists and Strategists (10), Administrators (10), Africa (7), China (7), and Southern Asia (16). Each creative essay averages eight-nine pages and includes both endnotes and significant bibliography. It is well researched, even-handed in presentation, and a helpful insight into the individual. The person emerges as a unique personality; his/her creative contribution to mission is highlighted. Some of the authors personally shared the missionary apostolate with the subject of their essay. With few exceptions, these biographical studies are exceptional pieces.

The introduction of the book notes that chapter assignments were made “in a serendipitous fashion over a period of nearly twenty years” (p. xviii). Each item was commissioned as a free-standing piece for the IBMR. Yet, in a remarkable way, these pieces complement one another; one is struck by the frequency of cross references and common themes. Thirty pages of index material (names, authors, subjects, and places)
enable the reader to investigate commonalities scattered throughout the seventy-five essays.

One result of this informal editorial approach is the under-representation of the number of non-Westerners, women, and Roman Catholics. Regional groupings curiously focus only on Africa, China, and Southern Asia. The editors readily admit these limitations; they note that “Perhaps a future volume will provide additional stories of mission leaders” (p. xviii) — rectifying the imbalance unintentionally present here.

A brief walk through the indices reveals the central mission themes treated in this volume: mission theology, spirituality, social involvement, education, anthropology, ecumenism, history, linguistics, indigenization, government relations, encounters with non-Christians and many more. This is clearly a fine reference tool for anyone interested in the recent history of world mission movements and personalities. While reading the volume, this missionary reviewer sensed he had been privileged to personally meet individuals like William Carey, Francis X. Ford, Henry Venn, and even Pope Pius XI. *Mission Legacies* is an extraordinary and valuable volume.

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These two books symbolize the concern of religious organizations for marginalized peoples all over a planet that is gravely imperilled by a deteriorating macroeconomy. The first is published by the World Council of Churches. The second is an outgrowth of a 1986 document of the Catholic bishops of the United States entitled “Economic Justice for All.”

In the first book, Goudzwaard and de Lange emphasize an “economy of care” as an antidote to the uncaring bureaucratization of macro-economic management. They also propose an “economy of enough” as an antidote to the escalating greed for profits that is never sated.

Their eight hard-hitting chapters will convince readers with solid documentary evidence of the need to renew outdated systems. But they