

commended for continuing to update this resource which helps us to understand more clearly past and present religious movements.

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Atlas of Global Christianity, ed. by Todd M. Johnson and Kenneth R. Ross. Edinburgh University Press, 2009. Pp. xix + 361. ISBN 978-0-7486-3267-0. Hardcover. US\$250.00.

It is not that often you get to write the words, "Landmark," "Seminal" or "Masterpiece" related to the publishing of a new reference book. But these and more superlatives could be used to describe the unprecedented volume I have the privilege to review. I was attending a SEANET Conference on Buddhism in Chiang Mai, Thailand when Todd M. Johnson, one of the editors, introduced this invaluable reference.

Todd M. Johnson is Director of the Center for the Study of Global Christianity at Gordon-Cromwell Theological Seminary and his publications include the *World Christian Encyclopedia* (2nd edition) and *World Christian Trends*. The other editor, Kenneth R. Ross, is Council Secretary of the Church of Scotland World Mission Council and since 2001 has chaired the Towards 2010 Scottish Council focused on preparations for the centenary of the Edinburgh 1920 World Missionary Conference.

The basic foundation of the atlas was to trace the ebb and flow of Christianity during the last 100 years, from the landmark Edinburgh Conference in 1910 to the present. Within this volume of time, the editors have succinctly traced the fascinating role Christianity has played in relation to other religions and global issues. It is the first scholarly atlas to show the shift of twentieth century Christianity to the Global South and the first to map Christianity on the provincial level.

The book is divided into five parts. Each topic occupies facing pages and thus it is very easy to quickly grasp an overview of a large amount of information. The first section begins with a very excellent introduction in the changes of the major world religions from 1910 to 2010 (pp. 2-45). The current socio-economic and health factors provide a good introduction, before all the major "religions" from the Agnostics to the Zoroastrians are presented.

Each religion is similarly studied with an introduction, top ten list, the religion by country from 1910 to 2010, the percentage change over time, the major traditions, religion by continents, and Christian adherence and growth using the United Nations regions. This first section ends with an insightful and fascinating discussion of Religious Diversity, Growth and

Freedom and a discussion of what world religions might look like in 2050, based on the current trends.

The next section is Global Christianity and tries to present how Christianity has moved and changed during the last century. It attempts to convey the distribution and dynamics of Christianity, along with thematic maps that outline the major Christian traditions, such as the Anglicans, Marginals, Orthodox, Protestant, Roman Catholic, Evangelicals and Pentecostals.

Section three shows Christianity by the six major United Nations regions across four pages which includes a historical essay, maps, graphs, tables and charts. This information allows the Atlas to focus on specific areas that the researcher might want to focus on, such as how Christianity has grown in China over the last one-hundred years.

Section four views the world by languages, peoples and cities. This part looks at peoples and languages in both a religious and regional context. For instance, a researcher might want to know just where Muslims as a group are residing as a people of faith. On the other hand, you could see just how Muslims compare to other groups within a continent or region. There is also an excellent presentation to all those interested in urban ministry of how Christianity has penetrated the great cities of the world.

Section five focuses on Christian mission by analyzing data on missionary finance, translation, media and other forms of evangelization. There is extremely helpful information on personal contact between Christians and non-Christians, along with the relative responsiveness of certain regions to the Christian message.

The breath of coverage, the organization of the material and the attractive graphical content would be more than enough to highly recommend this book. But there is much more. In addition to the printed material there is an outstanding CD that is included which makes available all the maps and graphics shown in the book. In keeping with the high quality of the work, the CD is one of the best interactive resources I have ever used. It is searchable, easy to navigate and any chart or map can be saved as a file and then used in a powerpoint or other presentation. The contents of the CD can be copied to your own computer and works flawlessly with both PC and Mac environments.

I do not think you have to read between the lines to feel my enthusiasm for this book. Apparently others think the same way. At the end of his presentation, Dr. Johnson offered to sell several of the newly published books for half price. I was able to purchase the last one and as I walked away I heard him express surprise that all the books had gone so quickly. It was no surprise to me and no doubt many others who will

find this brand new reference atlas a true treasure trove of mission knowledge.

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Miller, Patrick D. *The Ten Commandments: Interpretation: Resources for the Use of Scripture in the Church*. Louisville: Westminster John Know Press, 2009. Pp. xv + 477. ISBN:978-0-664-23055-5. Alk. Paper. \$39.95.

The Ten Commandments is a new book in the Interpretation commentary series written by Patrick D. Miller, the professor of Old Testament Theology at Princeton Theological Seminary. He is the editor of *Theology Today* and coeditor of the Interpretation Commentary series and the Westminster Bible Companion series.

As the author himself acknowledges, this book grew out of the course of Old Testament ethics which he taught in a seminary for a number of years, but it is not a textbook on ethics. The main goal that the author pursues is to reveal the meaning and essence of each of the Ten Commandments.

The methodology that the author uses is worth to be mentioned. Miller does not consider just the text of the Commandments, but he analyzes the Commandments from different angles such as (1) analysis of the texts (Exodus and Deuteronomy's variant and difference between them); (2) trajectory of the Commandment analyzing how each Commandment is expanded and explained in other biblical passages; (3) stories of the Commandments illustrating the meaning of the Commandments (e.g. the killing of Naboth by Ahab and Jezebel – the illustration on the theme of the 6th Commandment; Ruth's care about Naomi – the vivid explanation what it means to honor the parents); (4) formulation of the Commandment in the opposite way (if the Commandment is given in a negative way, e.g. "You shall not..." the author tries to understand how this precept could sound positively and vice versa). This approach to the exposition of the Commandments helps to avoid to fall into the trap of eisegesis or implementation of foreign ideas to the meaning of the Commandments.

The author's explanation of the third commandment includes a helpful illustration of his method. At first he mentions several translations, which reflect different understandings of the Commandment. Then, the author diligently studies the meaning of the text of the third commandment especially the meaning of the phrase "in vain." Following this analysis, Miller tries to understand how this commandment is explained within other