

against Christianity, and may in fact inaugurate a more open discussion about religion in general among Chinese in the future. Such profound insights touch upon the very nature of the Christian faith, and bear significance for all Christians, as well as nonbelievers, to rethink their relationship with Christianity. Altogether the book provides a valuable window for understanding Chinese Christianity.

Liang Chuanshan

Adventist International Institute of Advanced Studies, PHILIPPINES

Connecting with Muslims: A Guide to Communicating Effectively, by Fouad Masri. Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 2014. 171 pp. + 19 pp. appendices + 8 pp. further reading + 4 pp. index. ISBN 978-0-8308-4420-3. Softcover, US\$12.30.

Connecting with Muslims: A Guide to Communicating Effectively is a very practical, down-to-earth and very engaging book. Instead of putting up a wall of misunderstanding, Christians can actually build a bridge by which their Muslim "friends can cross over from misunderstanding to truth" and from "fear to faith" (p. 24). The book's basic thesis is that our role in the Great Commission is not to convert Muslims but to become ambassadors of Jesus. As ambassadors, Masri urges Christians to love, to pray for, and to offer the gospel to Muslims without using a confrontational or argumentative approach. The author shares some basic apologetic approaches to Muslim objections, not from an academic standpoint but from decades of personal interaction with Muslims.

The author divides the twelve chapters into two parts. Part one (chs. 1-4) deals with practical ways to start a conversation with a Muslim. The author cites several experiences that underscored the importance of showing respect and patience even in the face of ridicule and argumentativeness on the part of the Muslim. He explains how to converse with Muslims in such a way that they feel *compelled* to keep on talking with us!

Part two (chs. 5-12) deals with seven critical and very common questions about Jesus and the Christian faith. These include: the identity and prophethood of Muhammad; the reliability of the Bible; the person, death, and resurrection of Jesus; the identity of the one who was crucified on the cross; the Trinity; the atonement; and the Gospel of Barnabas. To all of these, the author gives a culturally sensitive and convincing explanation.

Connecting with Muslims is a useful book on apologetics and bridge building in Muslim ministry. The arguments are historically and biblically sound. The book holds Islam with respect yet it is not hindered by an adherence to a mere *friendship evangelism* philosophy. In fact, the book argues that the "no evangelism" approach that is common among Muslim ministry practitioners is unbiblical. Incidentally, while the author urges us to offer Jesus to every Muslim we have the opportunity to converse with; he is not obsessed with making them converts of any single denomination.

The strength of this book is in the numerous examples and true-to-life illustrations. The emphasis on getting a Muslim to read the New Testament is biblically and missiologically sound. Also, the discussion on the seven critical Muslim objections is very informative and practical.

From the point of view of pure academicians, one weakness of this book is the mostly anecdotal method used by the author to bring out missiological principles. However, as the author explained, this book is for ordinary, everyday Christians with Muslim neighbors, co-workers, acquaintances or friends whom they would like to reach. A second drawback would seem to be from the point of view of those interested in quick baptisms. *Connecting with Muslims* is certainly not the book for them. It is a book about getting Muslims to read the story of Jesus that they might surrender themselves to Him—and for some, that's a journey of twenty years!

This book certainly deserves to be on the shelf of every Christian who is interested in knowing how to communicate effectively with Muslims.

Abner P. Dizon

Adventist International Institute of Advanced Studies, PHILIPPINES

God Has Spoken: A History of Christian Theology, by Gerald Bray. Wheaton, IL: Crossway, 2014. 1225 pp. + 8 pp. chronological list of persons + 3 pp. chronological list of events + 21 pp. general index + 4 pp. Scripture index. ISBN 978-1-4335-2694-7. Hardcover US\$55.00

Since the nineteenth century, theologians have studied the development of Christian doctrines and beliefs. While at first this approach to theology and history was deemed suspicious, since people believed their doctrines and beliefs were exactly the same as those taught by Jesus and the apostles and therefore had not developed through the centuries, today it is