

Recent Religion - August 2016

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Blk 231, Bain Street  
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The Sumi Baptist Church Mission : Towards the Emerging Socio-Economic Context of Nagaland / Hetoni Swu

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Indian Christianity: An Alternate Reading / Roger E. Hedlund

Christian World Imprints, New Delhi 2016

xxvi, 181 p. ; 22 cm.

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9789351481218

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480 gm.

The book projects the rich heritage of Indian Christianity covering a vast period of first to the twenty-first century. The author has a meticulous projection in detailing the historical scenario by selecting and describing the most significant events, the key figures and developments in the history of the church in India.

An important contribution of this book is that instead of beginning with the so-called 'great traditions'- those of the elite hierarchical, and the professional officialdom of the church, the author looks at the 'little tradition'. This is what he means by the alternate reading. In this book one will find references to sources that reflect expressions 'from below'. This historiography from below pays attention to the empirical data drawn from participants in the drama. It acknowledges the complexity of Indian Christianity and honours the multiple cultural identities of the church in India.

The book is clearly written in a readable style and makes a valuable resource for teachers and students of church history, and for all those who are interested in learning about the Indian Church.

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Asian Christology De-Rooting the Classical and Re-Rooting the Contextual / Jacob Mathew

Christian World Imprints, New Delhi 2016

xxiv, 169 p. ; 22 cm.

Includes bibliography and index

9789351481171

\$ 15.00 / HB

460 gm.

Christianity is a journey of faith and not a destination. It is a journey of knowing Jesus Christ, who is the very substance and core of Christian faith, in a most knowable and coherent way possible. In this context, the Bible provides the basis for this knowledge in the form of facts and guidelines which together form the doctrine of Christ, also called as Christology.

The author here attempts to formulate an Asian Christology in line with the thoughts of Fr. Tissa Balasuriya. Late Fr. Tissa Balasuriya was a leading and also one of the earliest interpreters of Christ from an Asian perspective. Balasuriya was critical to the western, traditional, classical interpretations of Christ that were indifferent and ignorant to the contextual realities of Asia.

This scholarly research provides a lucid picture of how Asians respond and interpret Christ in terms of their context. The author takes Balasuriya's model of interpretation to provide what could be the basic thrust of Asian Christology. In the Asian context, Jesus Christ is divine because he is human and he is human because he is divine. Hence, to make it brief, Christology from below must start with Jesus Christ who is very much from the people and for the people. Indeed, this makes God's incarnation in Christ more meaningful and beautiful. Accordingly, Jesus is not only the son of God, but also had the human face.

The author concludes by saying that Asian Christology towards the 21st century is a Christology 'from below', and that Jesus of Nazareth was at the same time a Historic person, Liberator and Cosmic Christ.

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=228669>

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Revisiting Ecumenical Theological Education in India : With a Special Reference to the Senate of Serampore College / Woba James

Christian World Imprints, New Delhi 2016

xxxii, 290 p. ; 25 cm.

Includes bibliography

9789351481157

\$ 25.00 / HB

770 gm.

This book seriously researches the significance of theological education in the pluralistic context of Asia and particularly India. It vividly recalls the historical development of theological education under different denominations and different periods. In particular detail, it analyses the history of the Senate of Serampore College/University (SSC), its curriculum and its role in fostering ecumenism in India through theological education. It critically exposes the indispensable need of interdependent and networking relationship between theological education and the ministry of the church in order to make our theological education relevant, contextual, transforming and thus meaningful for the people and the context that we are to serve. In connection to that, the book strongly emphasized the need for designing the entire system and structure of our theological education along embracing and ecumenical lines so that it fittingly relates and responds to India's pluralistic context and the many challenging facets that form India's uniqueness as well as its complex nature.

This book is a 'must-have' for all theological teachers, institutions, students, church leaders and laity as well, for wider understanding of the ecumenical theological education in India in general and the SSC system of theological education in particular.

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