

WWC Publications, 1996 — Gospels and cultures pamphlets 7-12:

- * Israel Selvanayagam — Tamilnadu, (Gospel and Cultures Pamphlet 7), 54 pages. Price: US \$ 5.50
- * Ambrose Moyo — Zimbabwe, (Gospel and Cultures Pamphlet 8), 49 pages. Price: US \$ 5.50
- * John Pobee — West Africa, (Gospel and Cultures Pamphlet 9), 52 pages. Price US \$ 5.50
- * Lewin L Williams — The Caribbean, (Gospel and Cultures Pamphlet 10), Price US \$ 3.95
- * Donald E Meek — The Scottish Highlands, (Gospel and Cultures Pamphlet 11), 69 pages. Price: US \$ 3.50
- * Allan K Davidson — Aotearoa New Zealand, (Gospel and Cultures Pamphlet 12), 63 pages. Price: US \$ 5.50

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Reviewer: Gafie van Wyk

In these six pamphlets, from the series 'Gospel and cultures', authors from a diversity of cultural contexts describe and reflect on what it has meant for the gospel to be proclaimed and lived out within the setting of different cultures, thus pointing to both the richness and challenges of these encounters. The cultures discussed in the six pamphlets on hand are those of the South Indian state of Tamilnadu, Zimbabwe, West Africa, The Caribbean, the Scottish Highlands and New Zealand. Other titles in the series include The First Nations of Canada, Romania, Wales, Panjab and Secularized Europe. The first volume in the series is a pamphlet entitled *An Ongoing Discussion in the Ecumenical Movement*.

The question 'How is the one gospel related to the many cultures of the world?' is the focus of all these pamphlets published by the World Council of Churches. While the cultural roots of many societies are rich and varied, they share the reality of having had not only the gospel, but with it also European culture imposed on them. The proses of the indigenisation of the gospel in different societies lead to tensions because of the radical and sometimes destructive forms of the disengagement of society from earlier cultural patterns. In many cases the tensions remain because of the continuing appeal of pre colonial religious patterns. On the one hand the focus of these six pamphlets is on these tensions. On the other hand the studies also confront the reader with the realities of secularism in the different communities and seek new ways to proclaim the gospel in the realities of the present.

Culture is not static. It is always changing. The church always faces the growth, decline and rejection of cultures in the changing world of today. How is it possible to proclaim the gospel in an ever-changing world so that it expresses itself in an authentically indigenous way and yet be biblical, apostolic and catholic? In this regard the pamphlets call for dialogical openness not only between the church and societies but also between the past, present and future.

Boekbesprekings / Book Reviews

Each pamphlet has a different point of departure depending on the subject it covers, but all the authors plead for dialogical openness. Each of the pamphlets contains a rich source of information on a specific culture. I can recommend the pamphlets to anyone who is interested in the gospel-culture dialogue. Because of the different backgrounds of the authors of the pamphlets, they make for very interesting reading. Although some of the contributions presume some theological and ecumenical background, the pamphlets are nevertheless also accessible to a wider audience.
