BOOKS I HAVE WRITTEN: MISSION AGENCIES IN CRISIS?

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It's somewhat difficult to review your own book!
Category: Observations

It's hard for me to be objective about this book. Partly, because I invested a lot of time in producing it and am rather proud of the result, but also because my inbuilt insecurities give me all sorts of anxieties about seeing my work in print.

I am incredibly grateful to six mission agency leaders who allowed themselves to be interviewed as part of my research and then gave me permission to publish my (not always flattering) conclusions in book form. The commitment that they show to the wider mission community is exemplary.

The book is a medium format paperback of just over 200 pages. It is an edited PhD thesis, so the writing is academic with a fair smattering of footnotes and lots of references. To be honest, there are not a lot of jokes. The paperback costs Â£12 and the Kindle version Â£6.66 (a rather worrying number, in the context). You can probably buy it from the publishers, Regnum, but their website is offline at the time I'm writing this. Otherwise, Amazon will get you a copy.

It seems rather odd trying to review my own book, so rather than do that, I'll give the recommendations from the inside cover. Hopefully, that will give you an idea of what is going on.

> *Eddie Arthur, is, in my opinion, one of the foremost missiologists in the UK and this book will cement his reputation as such. He combines and unambiguous commitment to the cause of Christ and the mission of His church with an unwaveringly critical eye which he casts over the UK mission scene. His conclusions will be unsettling and provocative to many - but this book is essential reading for all engaged in overseas mission today.*
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> *Dr. WJ Paul Baillie Chief Executive, Mission Africa*

> *This volume will prove indispensable for anyone concerned with the future effectiveness of the British mission agency as a vehicle for the UK church's involvement in worl mission, In providing a penetrating analysis of six British mission agencies, Eddie Arthur paves the way for readers to reflect more broadly about the nature of mission and the future of the western mission movement in a time when the global landscape of church and mission has seen huge demographic changes. Not everyone will agree with Arthur's analysis and recommendations, but mission agencies need a voice like his - asking crucial questions that if engaged with, will help us recognise the urgency for change and to discern our role in an emerging new paradigm for mission in the context of World Christianity.*

Peter Rowan, PhD. Co-National Director, OMF (UK)

Eddie Arthur has produced a timely and constructive analysis of the current crisis with the UK's missions sector. The trends he notes are currently being accelerated by the Covid-19 pandemic. This book, based on careful and original research, not only analyses the current crises, but will help mission agency and church leaders catch a glimpse of the fresh directions we need to adopt if we in the UK want to maintain an active role in the future of global mission.

John Baxter-Brown, CEO, Global Connections

Through careful reflection on recent missiological thinking and critical analysis of interviews with several mission agency leaders, Eddie Arthur has made an important contribution to our understanding of the extent to which mission agencies have responded to recent thinking in mission studies, and how they might yet respond in future. This book will, I hope, become a key resource for everyone who shares a commitment to mission practice rooted in robust theological and missiological research.

Dr. Alistair I. Wilson. Lecturer in Mission and NT. Edinburgh Theological Seminary