A MILE WIDE AND AN INCH DEEP

Posted on December 11, 2008 by Eddie

Category: Africa

> *I bristle every time I hear someone make this statement, â€œAfrican Christianity is a mile wide and an inch deep.â€*
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> 1. *So-called â€œChristianityâ€ everywhere could be labeled shallow. I donâ€™t think â€œChristianityâ€ that happens to be located in Africa has a corner on the shallow market.*
> 2. *Examples cited are often comparing apples and oranges - e.g. seminary students in the West to the uneducated churchgoer in Africa.*
> 3. *The underlying assumption is that depth seems to be measured on certain intellectual articulations of â€œsacredâ€ - especially Reformed - theologies. Iâ€™ll take lifestyle Christianity over intellectualized faith any day.*
> 4. *The depth of faith I have seen in many Africans - East and West - puts any other Christianity Iâ€™ve seen to shame - especially the petty Christianity Iâ€™ve seen portrayed by so many â€œdeep theologiansâ€ of the West.*
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> *I sometimes laugh (or cry?) when I hear Americans say that they have come here â€œto help strengthen the faith of the Africans.â€ I think to myself, â€œmy friend, you have no idea. I hope you pay enough attention to let the African saints show you what deep faith really looks like.â€*

Read Ben's whole post here.