THE BIBLE AND MISSION

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Category: Observations

If you read Kouyanet (which presumably you do), you should read this short post and then go away and download the pdf of Bible and Mission which has just been made available by Regnum books, the official imprint of the Oxford Centre for Mission Studies. This volume is part of a series of books which have emerged from the 2010 Edinburgh missionary conference, which are progressively being made available as free downloads (I wish someone had told me this before I spent an arm and a leg buying the first few!). I'll append the contents at the foot of this post, so you can get an idea of what is in store for you. However, before that, here are some thoughts:

- This is a reference book; one to pick up and consult when you want to look at a particular topic. You are unlikely to read it through (unless, like me, you were commissioned to write a review).
- The scope of the book is breathtaking. There are essays written from the perspective of the major Christian confessions and looking at a wide variety of geographical and religious contexts. You will find something new here, however well informed you are.
- That being said, the book is broad rather than deep. There is no space in the short essays to really expand on any particular topic.
- There are some surprising omissions; there is no engagement with the Jesus' film despite its very prominent role in the spread of indigenous Scriptures. Indeed, the treatment of non-written Scripture is rather perfunctory.
- The section on the Bible and Mission in Islamic Context is the most disappointing and appears to have been written without very littleÂ reference to current issues and controversies concerning the Bible and the Islamic world.

Despite these weaknesses, this is a very welcome addition to the growing literature on the Bible and Mission and Regnum are to be congratulated for making it freely available.

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