

**Ministry & Theology in Global Perspective: Contemporary Challenges for the Church**

Don A. Pittman, Ruben L.F. Habito, Terry C. Muck, eds.  
Grand Rapids, MI: Wm.B. Eerdmans, 1996.  
524 pp., Paperback

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*Reviewed by J. Nelson Jennings,  
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Certain works demand a prominent and accessible place in any theological library. *Ministry & Theology in Global Perspective: Contemporary Challenges for the Church* belongs to that category. More than a sit-down read, it is a reference work that speaks to a wide range of issues in our globalized context for Christian ministry. Pittman, Habito and Muck themselves represent a spectrum covering mainline Protestantism, Roman Catholicism and Evangelicalism. As editors, they have assembled an even broader group of contributors who represent all continents, both early (e.g., Justin Martyr and Augustine) and more recent periods of Christian history, as well as various religious perspectives. Such a range is in accord with the comprehensive coverage the editors have attempted to provide for readers interested in ministering in relevant ways heading into the twenty-first century.

After a stimulating introduction describing "The Global Context for Ministry," the first part of the book seeks to work "Toward a Christian Theology of Religions." The bulk of Part I is a compilation of readings from well-known writers representing "Pre-Twentieth-Century Christian Views," "Contemporary Roman Catholic and Eastern Orthodox Views" and "Contemporary Protestant Views." To have in one volume such a varied lineup of household names on this vital subject is helpful to anyone seeking to formulate his own views on world religions.

Part II then takes the reader through a set of questions and issues dealing with "Mission and Ministry." The essence, reason, subject, object, location, method, and enemies of mission are considered in various forms by such figures as Pope John Paul II, Lamin Sanneh and David Bosch. The book's third part explores ministry in relation to "dialogue," moving in turn through "The Why and How of Dialogue," "Fruits of Dialogue," and the "Tasks for Interreligious Cooperation." The index for subjects and names, as well as one for scriptural references, will facilitate use of the book on an ongoing basis for particular concerns and topics.

We all live in an increasingly globalized world. Even so, many of us in the Christian faith still find it difficult, on the one hand, to grapple with the new challenges brought on by globalization and, on the other hand, to benefit from the worldwide forum for dealing with those new challenges in innovative ways. This volume compiled by Pittman, Habito and Muck should prove to be a valuable tool for helping us overcome stubborn provincialism, as well as for enabling us to draw on the wealth of resources available for the furthering of Christian ministry.

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**Salvationist Samurai: Gunpei Yamamuro and the Rise of the Salvation Army in Japan**

R. David Rightmire  
Lanham, Maryland: Scarecrow Press,  
1997, 166 pp.

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*Reviewed by Patrice Van Hyle,  
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R. David Rightmire, recognized as a major interpreter of Salvation Army history and theology, received his Ph.D in historical