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An Interview with Miriam Adeney, Author of *Kingdom Without Borders*

What motivated you to write *Kingdom Without Borders*?

- *Because if we care about God's world, we need to know what's happening in it.
- *Because more than three billion people don't know Jesus as Lord. Most have never heard a reasonable explanation of the good news. And Jesus said, "Make disciples of all nations."
- *Because more than a billion people eke out a living on less than two dollars a day. They get hungry and sick. Their children die. Jesus said, "Love your neighbor." In an era of globalization those neighbors are global.
- *Because ecological disaster, violence, water and oil shortages, diseases, and economic downturns threaten us all. For our own security, we need to learn how to relate to other peoples.
- *Because we can make mistakes and waste money and personnel in inappropriate mission and relief and development activities.
- *Because Jesus' people are in every country, and we need to partner humbly with them (John 17). This book has no quick fixes, no triumphalism, but emphasizes listening, learning, crying, praising and working together.
- *Because we need user-friendly, easily-accessible information.

Where did you get all the stories of Christians throughout the world?

God gave me a sense of curiosity, and that has taken me from Morocco to Mali, from Peru to Russia, from and from Malaysia to Brazil.

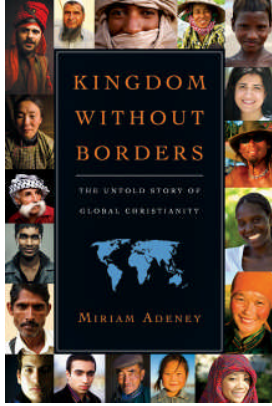
How has your own faith been influenced by Christians in other parts of the world?

Like many people today, the Old Testament prophet Daniel was a pawn in a global system. But God gave him a vision of an everlasting kingdom that would never be destroyed. Living out of that vision, he made significant contributions to the systems of this world.

Kingdom Without Borders opens with Daniel. It closes with the apostle John, who was an exile on a prison island, a victim of power but also a visionary whose dreams would help

Q&A

AUTHOR INTERVIEW



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shape history.

Today there are men and women on all the continents who live in that same everlasting kingdom. I've had the privilege of meeting them. I know the differences their lives make. How does this affect my faith? It renews my hope. Morning by morning, it gets me out of bed.

Some people believe the spread of Christianity throughout the globe moves civilization backward. Do you disagree?

Western Christianity is not the ideal. There is no such thing as a Christian culture or civilization. All cultures have virtues and faults. And even the best virtues may become idols.

The gospel does not come to perfect people. It is in the middle of our imperfections, our ignorance, our selfishness, and our sin that the gospel arrives to every people. The good news is that God made people in every culture in his image. Jesus died and rose to liberate people in every culture. The Holy Spirit empowers people in every culture.

Christians in every culture are called to apply this to their own context, with love and holiness and justice and a lot of humility. Wherever we start, Christian faith calls us to set off on a pilgrimage, a journey, to learn as we go what it means to know God and love our neighbors. Every society desperately needs people like this, people who love their heritage but also are willing to speak truth to its faults.

What story particularly stands out for you?

This is almost impossible to say. All the stories move me deeply. But if I have to choose, it would be stories from the InterVarsity Christian Fellowship in the Philippines because these shaped my life. When I was fresh out of grad school, I joined the Philippine IVCF staff. Between typhoons and revolutions I learned on the job about hospitality, poverty, justice, partying and perseverance. I'll never be the same.