



Explorations in Asian Christianity: History, Theology, and Mission

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Christianity Began in Asia, but Is Christianity Asian?

Scott Sunquist, professor and dean at the School of Intercultural Studies at Fuller Theological Seminary, has contributed to IVP Academic's Missiological Engagements series with a new volume addressing the development of Christianity in Asia, both historically and in more recent years.

Sunquist has long been recognized as an expert on the history of the Christian faith in Asia. *Explorations in Asian Christianity* gathers his key writings on the topic and organizes them into four main categories: surveys that look at Asian Christianity in broad perspective, historical investigations that look at how Christianity shapes our understanding of history and historiography, missiological studies that look closely at issues of place, and finally, essays on theological education.

"Christianity is from Asia, but only recently has it been developing as an Asian religion, rather than in Asia as a western religion," Sunquist said. "It is important to understand this history and why now, only after nineteen-and-a-half centuries, indigenous forms are growing, and why Christianity is growing unevenly."

Throughout the book, Sunquist addresses the issue of why Christianity has not historically been seen as an Asian religion. Whereas Christianity in the West received royal support, Asian Christianity has led a more nomadic and exilic existence. Today it is the least Christianized region of the world.

"For those unfamiliar with Asian Christianity, this collection of essays serves as an excellent introduction," said Simon Chan, former Earnest Lau Professor of Systematic Theology at Trinity Theological College in Singapore. "It covers a range of topics, from an overview of the history of Christianity in Asia to specific contextual issues such as ecumenism and migration. The essays are judiciously chosen; some offer a bird's-eye view while others give us a real feel of life on the ground. Overall, Sunquist makes the reader acutely aware of the complexity of Asian Christianity and the challenges it poses. It's a must-read for Christians aspiring to enter the borderlands of mission in Asia."

As a part of the Missiological Engagements series, *Explorations in Asian Christianity* reflects cutting-edge trends, research, and innovations in the field that will be of relevance to theorists and practitioners in churches, academic domains, mission organizations, and NGOs, among other arenas. Among the series' guiding questions are the following: What are the major opportunities and challenges for Christian mission in the twenty-first century? How does the missionary impulse of the gospel reframe theology and hermeneutics within a

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BOOK DETAILS

global and intercultural context? What kind of missiological thinking ought to be retrieved and reappropriated for a dynamic global Christianity? What innovations in the theology and practice of mission are needed for a renewed and revitalized Christian witness in a postmodern, postcolonial, postsecular and post-Christian world?

In addition to this latest volume, Sunquist is the editor of *A Dictionary of Asian Christianity*, coauthor of *A History of the World Christian Movement, Volume I* and *Volume II*, and coeditor of a volume of *A History of Presbyterian Missions, 1944-2006*, with his daughter. More recently, he is the author of an introduction to the study of mission, *Understanding Christian Mission: Participation in Suffering and Glory*, and a history of twentieth-century global Christianity, *The Unexpected Christian Century: The Reversal and Transformation of Global Christianity, 1900-2000*.