Yohannan's "Revolution in World Missions: One Man's Mission to Change a Generation" (Book Review)

Stanford Terhune

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example, in her examination of Christology she juxtaposes the ideas of traditional thinkers like Cyril of Alexandria with the theology of current Ghanaian theologian Mercy Amba Oduyoye. The result is a rich blend of distinctive perspectives that offer fresh insights into traditional Christian themes.

Jones organizes her work according to the traditional topics of systematic theology (Theological Prolegomena, Revelation and Scripture, the Doctrine of God, Creation and Providence, Theological Anthropology, Christology, Soteriology, Pneumatology, Ecclesiology, and Eschatology). College underclassmen are the primary intended audience, and because of its concise summaries and accessible explanations of complex doctrines the work will be a useful textbook for them in many future Introduction to Christian Doctrine courses. It is a recommended addition to the collections of all libraries that support such areas of study.

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**Revolution in World Missions: One Man’s Mission to Change a Generation,**


*Reviewed by Stanford Terhune, North Canton, Ohio*

The last of six sons of a Christian mother, K. P. Yohannan was born in Kerala, India, in 1950, and grew up to become the founder and international director of the Gospel for Asia mission. This book is his personal story of how a shy boy was changed by Jesus Christ into a dynamic missionary speaker and leader to raise up an army of indigenous missionaries whose goal is to preach the gospel to two billion people in India and other Asian countries. Beginning as a street evangelist at age 16, he worked with teams of missionaries in northern India. He came to understand that thousands of indigenous missionaries must go into thousands of unreached local villages, convert the residents, and create disciples and local churches. Gospel for Asia missionaries receive three years of Bible school training, and suffer from deprivation and persecution to save millions from hell by bringing them to trust in Jesus Christ before they die.

Yohannan met his German wife while they were doing missionary work together. He was led by God to attend Criswell Bible Institute in Dallas, and begin Gospel for Asia in Carrollton, Texas. He was shocked at how extravagant American Christians were, spending millions of dollars on church buildings and providing themselves with comfortable lifestyles while millions of Asians were dying without hearing the gospel. He urges Americans to send $30 per month to help fund indigenous missionaries for $120–240 per month rather than spend over $40,000 per year to
send one American missionary. This revolutionary idea works because 1) indigenous missionaries often understand the culture, customs and lifestyle as well as the language; 2) the most effective communication occurs between peers; and 3) it is a wise investment of our resources because the national missionary works more economically than foreign missionaries can (p. 149). Yohannan relates many miracles and stories of the effectiveness of Gospel for Asia missionaries. This book will cause many Americans to see a need to reorient their missionary priorities.

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Reviewed by Lisa Cutford-Anderson, Learning Resource Coordinator and Professor in Old Testament, Alberta Bible College, Calgary, AB, Canada

Gardner’s Seeds of Transcendence completely fulfills her stated purpose. She desired to provide an easily accessible work that enhances readers’ understanding of the Pentateuch by providing information on the plants mentioned in the Hebrew Bible. While written at the popular level, this book provides sufficient detail to make it an invaluable tool for botanists and religious scholars alike. As a speaker, author, and gardener returning to her Jewish roots, she realized the plants mentioned in the Hebrew Bible must have been included for a reason: the original, ancient Near Eastern audience would have known these plants and honed in on their significance. It is her wish that both believers and non-believers will be provoked to a deeper study of the Bible by reading her words. It is her ultimate goal that her readers become seeds of transcendence themselves, “generations who [pass] on God’s blessing and promise of a nation” (xxii).

Her work follows the Sabbath readings of the Torah. Each chapter has two sections: one provides the plant’s context in Scripture, and the second discusses the plant in detail including its rich symbolism for the original audience. She includes extensively researched and documented findings in both botany and religion. Helpful tools include maps of the Holy Land; a directory of biblical plant gardens in the United States and Israel; botany and Judaism websites; cross-referenced glossaries of Hebrew, Latin and common plant names; and two extensive indices. As such, this book is enjoyable as a quick read for enjoyment and information, or can be utilized as a quick-reference tool. For those interested in enriching their knowledge of botany or Scripture – or both – this book is a must-read! It is highly recommended as a reference tool for Old Testament scholars, especially those focusing on the Pentateuch.