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Shreve's "Partnership theology in creative access regions" (book review)

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Book Reviews



Shreve, K. (2017). *Partnership theology in creative access regions*. Langham Global Library. 190 pp. \$21.99. ISBN 9781783681082

Partnership Theology in Creative Access Regions, published by Langham Global Library, is author Kenneth Shreve's dissertation. Shreve, who holds both a Masters of Divinity and a Doctorate in Intercultural Studies, is described as having worked in the 10/40 window for over 30 years in a creative access region and specifically in partnerships. For security reasons, the specific region and organizations are not named. As the title indicates, Shreve's purpose is to demonstrate that theology is the basis for all partnership activities and must be the driving force which fuels evangelism.

As a dissertation, *Partnership Theology* begins with the standard format of background study and literature review, followed by research design and methodology. At this point, Shreve spends five chapters focusing on partnership theology through a Trinitarian framework. Attention is given to the Trinity as a whole, each individual member of the Trinity, and the church. After thoroughly describing each of these topics, Shreve turns to his survey results and conclusion which demonstrate his knowledge and understanding of creative access regions. The survey questions, included in the appendix, contain a mixture of questions related to theological beliefs and partnership activities combined with questions inquiring as to how theological beliefs inform the partnership practices of survey respondents.

While a definite nod to missions and evangelism is given, theology rather than missiology or partnerships is the primary focus of this book. The five chapters in which Shreve delves into the theological concepts could easily be used as the basis of a course or series of classes. While reading these chapters, one can easily forget that missions or creative access regions are a part of the book. In fact, the chapter on partnership and the church provides the most information about the specific creative access region which is being studied. The extensive footnotes and bibliography contain numerous seminal works in the areas of theology and missions.

Partnership Theology in Creative Access Regions is recommended for libraries supporting programs in theology and intercultural studies. Readers seeking information on how to develop partnerships or how to minister in creative access regions need to look elsewhere for that information. However, readers will find Shreve's study an excellent reminder of why theology is the cornerstone of both missions and partnerships.

Reviewer

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