

Book Reviews

Robin Daniel. *Mission Strategies Then and Now: An Introduction to Biblical Missiology*. Lockerbie, UK: Tamarisk Publications / Opal Trust, 2012. Price: £11.00. Reviewed by Rev. Dr. Sid Garland.

Christian missionaries are facing tough challenges from secularism on the one hand and religious fanaticism on the other, from new technologies and new cities, from cultural revivals and new multiculturalism. The author of *Mission Strategies Then and Now* explains that in many areas missionaries are finding it difficult to plant “churches that quickly become self-supporting and able to plant other churches” (p. 10).

The author, with a wealth of missionary experience behind him, has given us a useful tool for the training of the next generation of missionaries. There is much for which he is to be commended:

1. The author asks important questions (p. 11): How did Jesus and his apostles and the early church approach the task of world mission? Can the New Testament give us any guidance in our work of cross-cultural communication? Desiring to take us back to the roots of our faith, the author is full of references to the Bible which is warmly respected as the Word of God.
2. The author takes us back to the life and ministry of Jesus, researching his method of training (by example) and the simplicity of the worship he taught his disciples - demonstrated in the Upper Room (John 13-17) and followed in the early church - teaching, fellowship, breaking of bread and prayers (Acts 2:42).
3. The author has a deep burden for the church to grow and mature and be self-supporting, self-governing and self-propagating. This concern is not new, but the challenge remains fresh in every generation and in every new church planting effort.
4. The author warns against the health and wealth gospel which often goes hand in hand with corruption. He advises that healing was not the priority of Jesus or his disciples and that the lavish lifestyle of many prosperity preachers today goes contrary to the humble self-sacrificing lifestyle of Jesus and his apostles. Daniel advises that “the offer of short-term material benefit may distract a person from long-term spiritual concerns, and even harden his or her heart against the gospel” (p. 181).