

Globalization and the Re-Shaping of Christianity in the Pacific Islands

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Excerpt from Foreword

There has been considerable anticipation by the Pacific Church community and ecumenical organisations of Dr Ernst's book. It is a sentiment equally shared by overseas partners, mission boards and world organisations. This in itself is clear evidence of its importance and the first indicator of its assured status as one of the most important and needed piece of research done for our churches and the ecumenical movement in our region. The book is a must for all who genuinely desire to understand why our religious landscape looks the way it is today. It is an essential resource for all ecumenical organisations and theological training institutions. Given that we are still in the initial stages of our journey in the 21st century, this book is a timely contribution in our efforts to chart and navigate our way forward.

Analysis

Going beyond a mere description of what is labelled 'The Re-shaping of Christianity in the Pacific Islands', answers are offered to the questions that sparked off the research project, namely:

- What is the relationship (if any) between globalization and changes in religious affiliation?
- Why do people join new religious groups and bear the consequences of sometimes breaking away from families, relatives, communities and traditional ways of life, thereby causing pain and conflict?
- Why are the historic mainline churches in a long term state of decline and apparently unable to re-adjust their structures, programmes and activities to the challenges of a rapidly changing social environment?
- What are the implications on economics, politics and culture if more and more people join new religious groups and so form a conservative social movement, which in some islands already displays features of the New Religious Right or the so-called Moral Majority in the USA?

Finally, the research has tried to develop for the historic mainline churches an outline of how they could respond to the manifold challenges of globalization. In this context the possibilities for a new visionary model of being church are explored, with reference to the rediscovery and reformulation of ecumenical co-operation in all areas of work and a firm move towards a theology (in both theory and practice) that places the marginalized, disadvantaged, oppressed and poor in the centre.

'Fiji' in Globalization and the Re-shaping of Christianity in the Pacific Islands. As a whole, the book is a reference book about contemporary religious movements across the Pacific. The section on Fiji offers a background on Fiji to new researchers and a guide to a number of Christian churches operating in Fiji before more.Â "WHY do Pacific Islanders want to become journalists? In spite of often tense relationships between governments and the media in the region, and poor pay and working conditions, growing numbers of young Pacific Islanders are choosing a more. "WHY do Pacific Islanders want to become journalists? Offering insight into the major changes that are taking place in the context of increasing globalization in Pacific Island societies, the authors seek to "ground" globalization in concrete real life cases of communities that are dealing with specific processes of globalization and formulating their own responses in their own cultural terms. The case studies presented r Offering insight into the major changes that are taking place in the context of increasing globalization in Pacific Island societies, the authors seek to "ground" globalization in concrete real life cases of Pacific Islands: From Charismatic Global Culture to the Reshaping of Local Cultural Identities 81 Yannick Fer 4 Valuing Spiritual Intimacy: Convergences and Counterpoints of Christianity in an Economy of Yolngu Performance 102 Fiona Magowan. Part 2 Christian Renewal and the Transformation of Persons Comments to Part 2 129 Diane Austin-Broos.