

## BOOK REVIEWS

*Bangkok 73*, by Peter Beyerhaus. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1974. 192 pages. \$3.95.

This book deals with the vital issues raised by the World Mission Conference held at Bangkok, Thailand, in January 1973, under the auspices of the World Council of Churches. The author is one of Germany's leading theologians and is Professor of Missiology at Tübingen University. He was present at the Uppsala General Assembly of the WCC in 1968 and at the Bangkok Conference in 1973. He is co-author of the important "Frankfurt Declaration" on Missions.

The objective of the author is to give readers information and theological interpretation about the World Conference in Bangkok that can equip them to see more clearly their own biblically-grounded responsibility for the spread of the Gospel in all the world. The book consists of two major parts. The first part offers a comprehensive and reflective description of Dr. Beyerhaus's impressions of the World Conference. Here the author seeks to establish his first major thesis, namely, that the organizers of the conference were conducting an experiment in group dynamics with a view to manipulating the theological thinking of the participants. The second part of the book provides documentation for the author's second thesis—that Bangkok's understanding of salvation and missions was not the biblical one but rather a syncretistic and social-political one; and further, where the Bible was apparently used, Christian assertions were ideologically undermined.

*Bangkok 73* is written from an evangelical theological perspective, attempts to be fair in its judgments, and is well documented in its conclusions. Missiologists and students who are concerned about the growing polarization between "evangelicals" and "ecumenicals" will find this book a very helpful volume to guide them in their thinking.

John T. Seamands