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Book Review

Portraits of Global Christianity: Research and Reflections in Honor of Todd M. Johnson

Edited by Gina Zurlo

William Carey Publishing, 2023

250 pages

US\$35.99, Paperback

Reviewed by Joe Handley, Ph.D. He is the President of A3 (formerly Asian Access) and a Global Catalyst for Leader Development with the Lausanne Movement. Previously, he served as the lead mission pastor at Rolling Hills Covenant Church and the founding director of the Azusa Pacific University's Office of World Mission.

Gina Zurlo, the editor of this encouraging festschrift, described Todd Johnson as one who "lived global Christianity" (1). It is a fitting tribute to a wonderful man. I have only met Todd a few times over the years, but my team and I have interacted with him several times, and he is just as warm-spirited, insightful, and helpful as he is portrayed by the contributors of this book.

The book truly is a festival of Todd's brilliance and impact over the years. He has touched so many lives; and while I dove into this book expecting data and analysis, I was surprised at how much I was able to learn about Johnson and the way he embodies the hope of Christ in our world today. To me, this was the highlight of the book. I was inspired by his practice of the faith, and his generosity of time. His wisdom and perspectives shine through and through. He and his wife have influenced so many Christ-Followers in our world. Moreover, he interacts with those of other faiths in ways that bring the fragrance and aroma of Jesus.

Beyond Johnson's personal influence, the book also celebrates his impressive contribution to the study of Global Christianity. The last section includes a collection of statistics and charts from his work over the years that is impressive. It includes 42 pages of dense data and materials displaying the latest information on Global Christianity. This collection of data is worth the cost of the book just by itself. While it certainly helps academics of World Christianity, Intercultural Studies, and Mission Studies, it is also an accessible set of information for practitioners who are eager to learn about the religious landscape in our world today.

The book walks through Johnson's research over the years. Those who have worked alongside him, and those who have conducted research from other vantage points, highlight the strengths of his research approach and areas of distinction. These chapters were of keen interest, especially to those who, like me, have relied on such quantitative data over the years. It helps us better understand the data as they each unpack their research point of view.

While this critique is minor, it would have been nice to have had a list of Todd's full publication record in the back of the festschrift to better access the wealth of contributions he has made over the years. Of course, this is probably accessible online today but it would have been nice additional touch.