

# B Baker Academic

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P. O. Box 6287 • Grand Rapids, MI 49516-6287

4 October 2006

Dr. Paul G. Hiebert  
Trinity Evangelical Divinity School  
2065 Half Day Rd.  
Deerfield, IL 60015

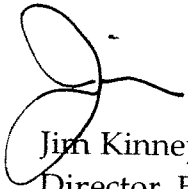
Dear Paul:

Thank you for your letter of September 19. I'm sorry to hear of your diagnosis. I hope the treatment goes well and is bearable.

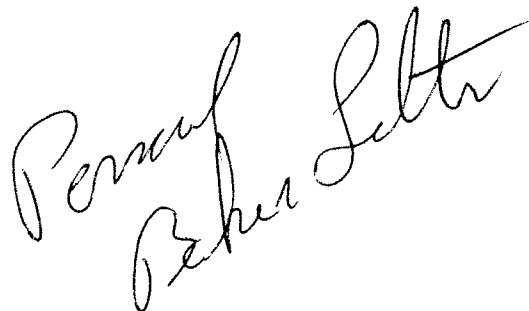
Your writing plans are very encouraging to me. We will be happy to receive *Transforming Worldviews* and the collection of essays in due course. We will look at each project with a careful and critical eye. We are quite keen to continue publishing your writing and will work with you to that end.

Thank you for keeping me up to date.

Sincerely,



Jim Kinney  
Director, Baker Academic  
jkinney@bakerbooks.com  
800-679-1957, x. 122



# B Baker Academic

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P. O. Box 6287 • Grand Rapids, MI 49516-6287

5 May 2005

Dr. Paul G. Hiebert  
Trinity Evangelical Divinity School  
2065 Half Day Rd.  
Deerfield, IL 60015

Dear Paul:

Thank you for your letter of April 27 and the accompanying outline for *The Gospel in Human Contexts*. It seems like a book we would be quite keen to publish. I will take the idea to our publishing board for approval. After doing so (and assuming all goes well), I'll be able to give you our firm commitment to publish the volume.

In the meantime, it would be helpful for me to have your current draft of the volume in hand. Please send that when you are able. How long do you think it will take you to finish refining the entire manuscript? Would you finish this volume before you finish *Transforming Worldviews*?

I look forward to hearing from you in due course.

Sincerely,



Jim Kinney  
Director, Baker Academic  
jkinney@bakerbooks.com  
800-679-1957, x. 122

## **Proposal for a Book**

Title: *Missional Theology: Incarnating the Gospel in human Contexts*

Author: Paul G. Hiebert

Audience: seminarians, missionaries and missionary candidates. Used as a text in missions courses and by missionaries and pastors in general study.

Purpose: This book focuses on doing Missional Theology as a third way of doing theology, parallel to Systematic Theology and Biblical Theology. Systematics and Biblical Theology focus on the study of Scripture. Missional Theology draws on these, but it also exegetes human contexts and seeks to build the bridge between Scripture in its contexts, and contemporary humans in their contexts. Its methodology is drawn on philosophy (Systematics) and historiography (Biblical Theology) but adds the methods of modern case law to apply abstract truths (Constitution, Laws) in real specific human cases. Because Missional Theology adds the exegesis of humans in their contexts, its primary focus is on the theories and methods used by the human sciences, particularly anthropology and sociology, and how these can be used to do theological reflection in real particular human situations. It seeks to bridge the gap between abstract theology (Systematic and Biblical) and everyday life, and between exegeting Scripture and applying it today in human contexts through the exegesis of contemporary human realities.

The first two chapters outline Missional Theology and its relationship to Missiology as a discipline. The second two trace our changing perceptions of other cultures, and humans, and the issues raised by Otherness. Chapters five and six examine anthropological theories in the exegesis of humans and their sociocultural contexts. Chapter seven proposes a wholistic, non-reductionist model for the study of humans and their contexts. Chapter eight outlines the key methods anthropologists and sociologists use in the study of humans and their contexts. Chapter nine charts the growing role of missionaries as mediators between cultures in the emergence of a globalizing world.

Chapters ten and eleven are optional. They use the model developed in the book and apply it to two areas of specific importance in our day: the nature of signs, and the nature of rituals and myths in the incarnation of the Gospel in human cultures. They are chosen because these are two areas of particular misunderstanding between modern missionaries and the young churches emerging around the world in Africa, Latin America and Asia.

Length:

The estimated length of the short version is 320-340 double spaced typed pages. The estimated length of the long version is 380-400 double spaced typed pages.

# MISSIONAL THEOLOGY: Incarnating the Gospel in Human Contexts

## Table of Contents

Chapters	Est. No.of Pages
Introduction	
<u><i>Theoretical Foundations</i></u>	
1. Missiology as a discipline	20
2. Missional theology	30 *
3. Changing perceptions of the gospel in human context	25 *
4. Changing images of others and otherness	45 *
5. Exegeting humans: early anthropological models	50 *
6. Exegeting humans: contemporary anthropological models	50 *
7. A Systems approach to exegeting humans	40 *
8. Research methods for exegeting human	30 *
9. Missionary as Mediator of Global Theologizing	30 *
	<hr/>
	300
<u><i>Critical Issues in Missional Theology [optional]</i></u>	
10. Semiotics: the nature of signs and symbols	30
11. Nonparametric communication: the nature of rituals and myths	30
	<hr/>
	360
<u><i>Bibliography</i></u>	
<u><i>Index</i></u>	

## **Proposal for a Book**

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Length:

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Juno e-mail printed Fri, 22 Sep 2006 10:12:11 , page 1

From: =?ks\_c\_5601-1987?B?ua6788O2?= <ssmoon@krim.org>  
To: "Paul G Hiebert" <phiebert@juno.com>  
Date: Tue, 19 Sep 2006 11:00:52 +0900  
Subject: FW: Foreword for Folk religion book

-----Original Message-----

From: 'Steve Moon' [mailto:ssmoon@krim.org]  
Sent: Monday, September 18, 2006 5:05 PM  
To: 'Paul G Hiebert'  
Subject: Foreword for Folk religion book

Dear Dr. Hiebert,

I trust you are well in Lord. It was good to see you last time. How did the kimotherapy go?

I almost finished translating the folk religion book into Korean. It would be a good encouragement to our Korean readers if you could write a foreword or preface to the Korean edition. Could you find time to work on it?

I have almost finished reading your manuscript of the new book on worldview. I will finish reading it and send you my critique on it sooner or later. But so far I just wholeheartedly agree with you on the important points. I simply want to express my gratitude to you for writing on such an important issue. Anyway I will email you my response next time.

Thanks and blessings!

Yours sincerely,

Steve Moon  
Director,  
Korea Research Institute for Missions

**“Primal Religions”  
Global Dictionary  
IVCF Press**

Juno e-mail printed Sun, 21 May 2006 20:10:10 , page 1

From: "Joel Scandrett" <jscandrett@ivpress.com>  
To: phiebert@tiu.edu  
Date: Wed, 26 Apr 2006 13:39:32 -0500  
Subject: Dictionary of Global Theology?

Dear Paul:

Greetings from InterVarsity Press! I trust this email finds you well. I am overseeing Dan Reid's projects while he is away on sabbatical.

I'm writing to inquire about your article on "Primary Religions" for the Global Dictionary of Theology. To date, I have yet to receive your Contributor Response Sheet, which will both confirm your intention to write the article and provide the information we need in order to issue you a contract.

I have attached your Contributor Response Sheet to this email. If you would please fill it out and return it to me (also as an email attachment) as soon as possible, I will then be able to issue you a contract.

Thanks for your attention to this matter! If, for some reason, you have decided not to write the article, please inform me (or the editors) as soon as possible.

Yours,

Joel Scandrett

---

Joel A. Scandrett, Ph.D.  
Associate Editor  
IVP Academic  
InterVarsity Press  
430 Plaza Drive  
Westmont, IL 60559  
630-734-4032 phone  
630-734-4200 fax  
www.ivpress.com  
jscandrett@ivpress.com



**Global Dictionary of Theology  
Contributor Response Sheet**

Name: <b>Paul Hiebert</b>			
Professional Position:			
Social Security No. (if in USA) or Taxpayer I.D. (if in Canada)			
Citizenship:			
Residential Address:		Office Address:	
Send correspondence to (check one):    Home            Work			
Send payments to (check one):    Home            Work			
HOME:		OFFICE:	
Phone:		Phone:	
Fax:		Fax:	
E-mail:		E-mail:	
The editors request that you contribute the following article(s) to the <i>GDT</i> :			
Article(s)	Word Length	Payment	Deadline
<b>Primal Religions</b>	<b>4,500 words</b>	<b>\$225.00</b>	<b>December 31, 2006</b>
Please indicate whether or not the above assignment is acceptable: Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> . If more than one article is listed above and you do not feel you can contribute them all, please cross out the article(s) you feel you cannot contribute.			
If you must decline the full assignment and are nevertheless interested in participating in the <i>GDT</i> , please indicate below areas of interest and expertise in which you might contribute (see the list of articles in the Guidelines).			
If you would appreciate further clarification from the editors regarding the coverage of the article(s), please note the article below and any particular questions you might have.			
If the suggested deadline(s) will not work for you, please suggest alternate deadline(s) not later than June 30, 2006.			
Please <u>keep one copy</u> of this sheet for your own records and return one copy to <a href="mailto:dreid@ivpress.com">dreid@ivpress.com</a> or: Daniel G. Reid InterVarsity Press			

 INTERVARSITY PRESS

June 16, 2006

Paul Hiebert  
3524 Old Mill Road  
Highland Park, IL 60035

Dear Prof. Hiebert:

Enclosed is an agreement for your contribution to the *Global Dictionary of Theology*, edited by William Dyrness, Veli-Matti Kärkkäinen, Simon Chan, Nzash Lumeya and Juan Francisco Martinez. An instruction sheet (Procedure for Signing Agreement and Schedule A) has been enclosed to guide you through the process of signing and returning it.

Should you have any questions about the agreement, your assignment or the project in general, please contact me directly.

Thank you for lending your expertise to this project.

Sincerely,



Taryn Bullis  
Editorial Assistant  
e-mail: [tbullis@ivpress.com](mailto:tbullis@ivpress.com)  
phone: 1-630-734-4035

gd  
Enc.

 IVP Books

 IVP Academic

 IVP Connect

## AGREEMENT

Agreement made this 16th day of June, 2006, between Paul Hiebert (hereinafter called the Contributor) whose residence is 3524 Old Mill Road, Highland Park, IL 60035, whose citizenship is US, whose social security number (or taxpayer identification number) is 513-32-7049 and InterVarsity Christian Fellowship/USA, an Illinois not-for-profit religious corporation (hereinafter called the Publisher), whose principal place of business is located at 6400 Schroeder Road, Madison, WI 53711.

1. The Contributor hereby agrees to create the article(s) listed (hereinafter called the Work) on Schedule A (hereto attached and made part of this Agreement) for the literary work provisionally entitled Global Dictionary of Theology (hereinafter called the *Dictionary*). Each article shall consist of the approximate number of words specified on Schedule A and shall be created for the fee(s) specified therein. The Work is a work made for hire. The Contributor hereby grants and assigns to the Publisher during the full term of copyright all rights to the Work, together with all subsidiary or supplemental rights appertaining to the Work for the full term of the copyright in all media and all languages throughout the universe.
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3. The Contributor agrees to deliver to the Publisher a complete typewritten script of the Work not later than the date agreed to in writing by both parties in correspondence between them concerning the Work. If the script is not satisfactory to the Publisher in form, content and length, or if the script shall not have been delivered within three (3) months after the aforementioned agreed-upon date, the Publisher may, at its option, terminate this Agreement by notice in writing posted or delivered to the Contributor.
4. The Publisher shall have the exclusive right and power to register the copyright of the Work in the name of the Publisher, and elsewhere as the Publisher may elect.
5. The Publisher shall have the right to edit, modify or adapt the Work or to combine any part thereof with any other work as it may deem fit. A hard copy of the copyedited Work shall be supplied to the Contributor for review. The Contributor agrees to return any corrections to the Publisher within thirty (30) days of receiving the copy. If the Contributor does not respond within thirty (30) days of receiving the copy, the Publisher may assume that the Contributor has no corrections to offer.
6. The Publisher shall pay to the contributor or his duly authorized representatives the fee referred to in Schedule A. Payment shall be due when, in the sole judgment of the Publisher, the Work is satisfactory in form, content and length.
7. The Publisher agrees to present to the Contributor one (1) free copy of the regular edition of the *Dictionary*.
8. The Publisher shall have the sole and exclusive right to publish, license, use, adapt, the Work and otherwise exploit the secondary and subsidiary rights to the Work in whole or in part throughout the territories granted above in Paragraph 1, including without limitation: periodical rights; volume rights (including but not limited to rights for book, large-print, deluxe, illustrated, condensed, abridged, textbook, anthology, compilation or other publication); book club rights; rights for motion picture, film, live theater, free, cable and pay television and radio; public reading; audio rights (tape, record, CD or any other audio recording and reproduction technologies now known or hereafter devised); video rights (tape, laser disk recordings or other video recording and reproduction technologies now known or hereafter devised); rights for products, by-products, services, facilities, merchandise and other commodities of every nature or description, whether now in existence or hereafter devised (including but not limited to photographs, illustrations, drawings, posters and other artwork, toys, novelties, games [box, computer, electronic or other format], wearing apparel, foods, beverages, household goods, cosmetics, jewelry, toiletries and similar items, which may refer to or embody the Work); rights for electronic data entry, storage, processing, transmission, retrieval, display and output systems of all kinds whether now known or hereafter invented, including but not limited to mechanical, electronic or other technologies such as microprocessors and computers of all kinds; rights for information storage and processing systems in the form of CD-ROM and other compact disk media, digital media, interactive media, and/or multimedia; and/or the transmission, display output, direct-to-disk transfer, photoreproduction, photocopy, print-on-demand or otherwise, and

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9. Any written legal notice required under any of the provisions of this Agreement shall be deemed to have been properly served by delivery in person or by mailing the same to the parties hereto at the addresses set forth above except as the addresses may be changed by notice in writing, except that all correspondence shall be at:

InterVarsity Press  
430 E. Plaza Drive  
Westmont, IL 60559, USA

or at such address as requested by the Publisher.

10. This Agreement shall not be binding upon the Publisher or the Contributor unless it is signed by both parties and delivered to the Publisher within a period of sixty (60) days from the date of this Agreement.

11. This Agreement shall be binding upon and inure to the benefit of the parties hereto, their heirs, personal representatives, successors and assigns.

12. Any controversy or claim arising from or relating to this Agreement or its breach that cannot be resolved between the parties to their satisfaction shall be submitted to arbitration, mediation or reconciliation according to the then prevailing rules of the Christian Conciliation Service, and judgment on the award rendered may be entered in any court having jurisdiction.

13. Regardless of the place of its physical execution, this Agreement shall be interpreted under the laws of the State of Illinois and of the United States of America.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF the parties hereto have duly executed this Agreement the day and the year first written above

In the presence of

Stacey Weber by [Signature] 6/19/06  
Witness Publisher Date

\_\_\_\_\_ by \_\_\_\_\_  
Witness Contributor Date

**Schedule A**

Title of Dictionary: *Global Dictionary of Theology*

Contributor: Paul Hiebert

Subject of Article(s)	No. Words	Payment
Primal Religions	4,500	\$225.00

Initials: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Dear Paul,

This email is to let you know that we still have not received your returned contract, or an email letting us know that you accept the terms of the contract we sent you. We need these acknowledgments so we can proceed with putting the encyclopedia together.

All you need to do to confirm your acceptance of the terms of the contract is to send me a reply email at [scott@berkshirepublishing.com](mailto:scott@berkshirepublishing.com) letting me know you accept. If you have lost your contract, or need another copy for your records, I can email one. Again, we need these to move the publication ahead.

If you have sent your response already, simply send me an email to let me know that so I can take you off the list, and you won't have to see any of these types emails again.

Thank you in advance for your quick responses.

Best Regards,  
Scott

Dear Dr. Hiebert,

Greetings from the DSAC project desk!

We are awaiting your articles on:

FOLK RELIGION (400 WORDS)(SOUTH ASIA)  
SYNCRETISM (300 WORDS)IND  
DREAMS AND VISIONS (250 WORDS) SOUTH ASIA

As we are in the final stages of the DSAC, we need your articles **immediately**.  
Also please find the attached formal reminder for articles expected.

We would like to hear from you at the earliest.

With Regards,

Ms. Lanusenla Longchar  
Project Asst.

### Procedure for Signing Agreement and Schedule A

To the extent that it has been supplied to us, we have filled in the information called for in the enclosed agreement. If information is missing, please supply it in the space provided.

#### 1. Execute both copies of the Agreement and Schedule A:

- ▶ Read the Agreement. (Please note that whatever changes are made during copyediting will be submitted to you for consideration prior to publication. You will be expected to proofread your contribution.)
- ▶ Enter/check your address.
- ▶ Enter/check your citizenship.
- ▶ Enter/check your Social Security or Taxpayer Identification number (if you are a U.S. or Canadian citizen).
- ▶ Note that the publisher has already signed both copies of the agreement. You should:
  - ▶ Sign the Agreement on the line marked "contributor."
  - ▶ Have a witness sign on the line marked "witness."
  - ▶ Enter date of signature on the line marked "date."
  - ▶ Place your initials in the margin beside any corrections you make in the information we have already provided.
  - ▶ If the list of articles is not correct, please cross out the subject name of any assignment you have declined to write or that does not represent the agreement you have made with the *Dictionary* editors.
  - ▶ Place your initials and the current date in the spaces provided on Schedule A.

#### 2. Return Agreement and Schedule A:

- ▶ **Return** one copy of the Agreement and one copy of Schedule A to:

Taryn Bullis  
InterVarsity Press  
P.O. Box 1400  
Downers Grove, IL 60515-1426  
U.S.A.

- ▶ **Retain** one copy of the Agreement and one copy of Schedule A for your files.

\*\*\*

- ▶ If you have made arrangements with the *Dictionary* editor(s) to write articles not represented on Schedule A, please follow the above procedures and then let us know which articles have not been accounted for on Schedule A. We will initiate a supplementary Schedule A listing the additional article(s).



## AGREEMENT

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2. The Contributor represents that he or she is the sole proprietor of the Work and that to the best of his or her knowledge it does not contain any libelous, scandalous or obscene matter and does not violate the civil rights of any person or persons, does not infringe any existing copyright and has not heretofore been published. The Contributor shall hold harmless and indemnify the Publisher from any claims, demands or recovery finally sustained by reason of any violation of copyright or other property or personal right; provided, however, that the Publisher shall with all reasonable promptness notify the Contributor of any claim or suit which may involve the warranties of the Contributor hereunder; and the Contributor agrees fully to cooperate in the defense thereof.
3. The Contributor agrees to deliver to the Publisher a complete typewritten script of the Work not later than the date agreed to in writing by both parties in correspondence between them concerning the Work. If the script is not satisfactory to the Publisher in form, content and length, or if the script shall not have been delivered within three (3) months after the aforementioned agreed-upon date, the Publisher may, at its option, terminate this Agreement by notice in writing posted or delivered to the Contributor.
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7. The Publisher agrees to present to the Contributor one (1) free copy of the regular edition of the *Dictionary*.
8. The Publisher shall have the sole and exclusive right to publish, license, use, adapt, the Work and otherwise exploit the secondary and subsidiary rights to the Work in whole or in part throughout the territories granted above in Paragraph 1, including without limitation: periodical rights; volume rights (including but not limited to rights for book, large-print, deluxe, illustrated, condensed, abridged, textbook, anthology, compilation or other publication); book club rights; rights for motion picture, film, live theater, free, cable and pay television and radio; public reading; audio rights (tape, record, CD or any other audio recording and reproduction technologies now known or hereafter devised); video rights (tape, laser disk recordings or other video recording and reproduction technologies now known or hereafter devised); rights for products, by-products, services, facilities, merchandise and other commodities of every nature or description, whether now in existence or hereafter devised (including but not limited to photographs, illustrations, drawings, posters and other artwork, toys, novelties, games [box, computer, electronic or other format], wearing apparel, foods, beverages, household goods, cosmetics, jewelry, toiletries and similar items, which may refer to or embody the Work); rights for electronic data entry, storage, processing, transmission, retrieval, display and output systems of all kinds whether now known or hereafter invented, including but not limited to mechanical, electronic or other technologies such as microprocessors and computers of all kinds; rights for information storage and processing systems in the form of CD-ROM and other compact disk media, digital media, interactive media, and/or multimedia; and/or the transmission, display output, direct-to-disk transfer, photoreproduction, photocopy, print-on-demand or otherwise, and



**Schedule A**

Title of Dictionary: *Global Dictionary of Theology*

Contributor: Paul Hiebert

Subject of Article(s)	No. Words	Payment
Primal Religions	4,500	\$225.00

Initials: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

# **Epistemology Project**

John and Mindy Hirst

c

**John and Mindy Hirst**

**719-260-5659**

**[jonhirst@generousmind.com](mailto:jonhirst@generousmind.com)**

**[Volney.james@stl.org](mailto:Volney.james@stl.org)**

**6415 Pemberton Way**

**Colorado Springs, CO 80919**

**Pater Noster Press: book on critical realism**

# Dictionary article

Dear Paul Hiebert,

Jonathan Bonk contacted me and indicated that you accepted the article "Anthropology" for the upcoming Encyclopedia of Missions and Missionaries. Thank you for your positive response; we are pleased to have you join the project! Jonathan indicated the article should be between 2500-3000 words. For more detailed information on the project including scope statements, author guidelines, and sample articles, please visit the project website: <http://www.berkshirepublishing.com/brw/pjdescr.asp?projID=44>

Please let me know if you are unable to access the project website and I will be happy to email you the information. The current article due date is the end of May, but why don't I assign a June 7 deadline to give an extra few days on the end. I will be sending a contract which will outline those details and many more. I look forward to working with you on this exciting project! Please contact me should you have any additional questions or require additional information.

With best wishes, Cassie

Cassie Lynch, Project Coordinator

**Berkshire Publishing Group**

☎ +1 413 528 0206

✉ [cassie@berkshirepublishing.com](mailto:cassie@berkshirepublishing.com)

Blog: [www.berkshirepublishing.com/blog](http://www.berkshirepublishing.com/blog)

-----  
"It takes a splendid little Berkshire publishing house to do what a major international trade publisher should have done long ago: make available in concise, readable form, *Patterns of Global Terrorism 1985-2005*, the indispensable State Department reports that experts, scholars and engaged citizens have consulted for decades." Benjamin R. Barber, author of *Jihad vs. McWorld*, Kekst Professor of Civil Society, University of Maryland. <http://www.patternsofglobalterrorism.com>

-----  
"A masterful title that weaves together social, scientific, anthropological, and geographical influences on world history, the [*Berkshire Encyclopedia of World History*] will be the benchmark against which future history encyclopedias are compared... [and] belongs on the shelves of all high-school, public, and academic libraries. In short: buy it. Now." *Booklist*, January 2005. <http://www.berkshireworldhistory.com>

# Encyclopedia of Missions and Missionaries

**Editor:** Jonathan Bonk

**Published by** Routledge (Forthcoming in 2006). First Edition, 1 volume.  
Part of the Religion and Society series.



## Berkshire Home

## Author Home

## Project Description

Description  
Editors  
Editorial Board  
Categories  
Info on BPG  
Contact Info

## Basic Guidelines

Writing Your Article  
Organizing Your Article  
Formatting Your Article  
Further Reading (Bibliography)  
Sidebars and Illustrations  
Plagiarism  
Coauthors

## Scope Statements

Summaries of how entries should be focused, based on general editorial categories

## Sample Articles

For good or for ill, scarcely any society on earth has been unaffected by Christian missions and missionaries. This volume focuses on central themes in the missionary enterprise and is fully interdisciplinary with contributions from missiology, history, religious studies, anthropology, and other fields of inquiry.

This encyclopedia is intended to neither replace nor replicate any of the numerous missiological dictionaries, encyclopedias, and gazetteers that have been produced in the major European languages over the past two centuries. These, by and large, are geared to specialists or insiders with an active interest in and commitment to Christian mission. The purpose of this volume, then, is to provide non-specialists with an overview of a phenomenon without which any attempt to understand, interpret, or assess the major social, economic, and political movements of the past two millennia are inadequate, if not futile. This goal is achieved by means of a series of about 160 articles, written by reputable scholars representing several key disciplines whose scholarly foci naturally intersect with Christian missionary history, theory, and practice.

The articles cover the following general subject categories:

**Geographical History**—diachronic overviews of Christian mission within continents and regions. Each article touches upon political, social, ecclesiastical, economic, developmental aspects of Christian mission, beginning with the earliest missionary efforts of the ancient church, and continuing to the missionary expression of Christianity today.

**Ecclesiastical History**—surveys of the missionary history of the major ecclesiastical traditions including Roman Catholic, Orthodox, Protestant, Radical Reformation, and Pentecostal/Charismatic.

**Mission and Religions**—the interaction of and influence of Christian mission on non-Christian religions including Judaism, Buddhism, Hinduism, Islam, Indigenous Religions and Secular Alternatives to Religion.

**Academic Disciplines and Research on Missions**—the contributions to the study of missions from anthropology, history, literature, theology, law, and other fields and descriptions of resources, libraries, reference works, journals, oral history, digital resources.

**Missions and the Arts**—the portrayal of and influence of missions in literature, film, art and sculpture, the fine arts, music, and drama.

**Social, Political, Economic and Cultural Impact of Missions**—the role and influence of missions including the impact on slavery, opium, business, refugees, civil wars, racism, and language.

As with the other volumes in the Religion & Society series, the audience for this work is academic, public, and school libraries, mission research centers, and scholars of missions and related topics.

[Back to top of page](#)



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[Back to top of page](#)

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[Back to top of page](#)

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# Feistschrift

George Chavanikkamannil



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**Rev. Dr. Simon Samuel**

Principal

15 January 2006

To

Dear Dr. Paul Hebert

Greetings from New Theological College, Dehradun, India.

I am pleased to write this letter to introduce Luther W New Jr. Theological College, one of the leading Evangelical, Charismatic/ Pentecostal theological Colleges in north India. Rev. George Chavanikkamannil, a graduate of Fuller Theological Seminary, founded this college in 1987. I am sure you will be proud of seeing a graduate of Fuller doing such a marvelous work in the filed of mission and theological education in India.

I write this letter specially to invite you to participate on the occasion of honoring Rev. George Chavanikkamannil who will be celebrating his 60<sup>th</sup> birthday in 2008. We wish to celebrate his life by publishing a Festschrift in his honour. We are inviting articles from well-known national and international scholars in the areas of 'Bible, Mission and Theological Education'. I wish you might contribute an article in the area of your interest. We will be pleased and George will be greatly honoured by your participation in this endeavor. I trust you will do it for the glory of God and in honour of a great servant of God.

We are planning to release the Festschrift in Feb. 2008. You may give us the article in Feb/ March 2007. This I hope will give ample time to you to write.

Please do let me know about the possibility of cooperating with us in this regard.

Yours sincerely,

Simon Samuel

# **Reformed and Armenian Theologies: The Case of a Misplaced Argument**

## **The Case of the Mislaced Argument: Reformed and Armenian Theologies**

Paul G.Hiebert

The past centuries has seen an unending debate between Reformed and Armenian theologians, each claiming their views are biblical and therefore true. Rather than refining the arguments, we need to examine the underlying worldviews of these positions.

### **The Enlightenment**

The coming of the Enlightenment marked a radical worldview change from the Middle Ages. Three aspects of this change are important to this analysis. First, in the Medieval worldview, as in most worldviews around the world, relational sets are more fundamental than intrinsic sets.

Second, God centered vs. Human centered

Third, Greek algorithmic digital logic and GUT. No paradox. Reason the final authority.

Fourth, Enlightenment introduced hierarchy as a central theme. IndoEuropean myth.

Fifth, Enlightenment introduced law and power as the center of the Gospel, not relationships

### **Reexamining the Debate**

Currently, God's sovereignty versus human choice and freedom. Posed this way there is no question, God is sovereign because he is the creator. Any freedom humans have is given by him, and he has the power to limit that freedom.

Reexamine the debate. It is not about God's sovereignty and human freedom, but between God's sovereignty and God's love.

God is sovereign

God is love. This is a relational definition. It is of his very being in the Godhead itself. It is the basis on which he wants to relate to humans. To raise up a bride, incredible as this seems. The o.T. sees Israel constantly committing adultery. Whenever they repented, he took them back (Hosea). - N.T. Christ seeks to win and save the lost.

Love cannot force a spontaneous response. It is unconditional commitment to go for the other. Agape vs eros. God loves those who reject him. He does not need to destroy them, but to stop creating them. Their very existence is testimony to God's love for them.

Sovereignty has to do with God's relationship to creation. He does rule, but that is not an essential nature characteristic within himself. Godhead relates in love, not hierarchy and power.

Tension: live with it.

- limits of human knowledge and reason (Greek digital reasoning versus, topological, concrete functional and other forms of logic) No GUT Godel.

- shift from relational to intrinsic categories in the Enlightenment.

-

### **A Way Forward**

Need to live with humility in our knowledge of God. Infinite minds can never grasp and contain an infinite God. We can only point in finite terms towards his infinite being, and then ours are humanly shaped understandings, and only distant approximations.

Need to live with paradox. God is love, God is sovereign.

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