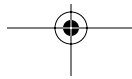




PREFACE

This book has been a long time in the making. It reflects a journey that began some thirty years ago when as a seminary student I was first exposed to the importance of contextualizing the gospel by a great missionary and mentor, Dr. Paul Orjala. It continued during my doctoral studies at the University of Aberdeen as I probed the issue of Paul as a contextual theologian under the able guidance of Professor I. Howard Marshall. In more recent years, I have shared the journey with many fellow travelers—especially students and colleagues at Asia-Pacific Nazarene Theological Seminary in the Philippines and at European Nazarene College in Schaffhausen, Switzerland, my current context of ministry. We have explored together what it means to sing the old gospel in new keys. Without their interaction, encouragement and prayers, this book could not have been written. To these travel companions I express my deepest thanks.

I am grateful to a number of colleagues and friends who have read and reacted to parts of the book in various stages of its development, including Phil Towner, Clinton Arnold, I. Howard Marshall, John Hall and Joel Scott. Thanks are especially due to John Nielson and Ayo Adewuya, who have graciously given of their time and insight to read and comment on the entire manuscript in draft form. In addition, I am indebted to Daniel Reid at InterVarsity Press for his patience, confidence and valuable suggestions throughout the preparation of this book. I could not have asked for a more helpful overseer of this project. I owe thanks as well to the editors of *Missiology: An International Review* for permission to use, in a revised form, material that first appeared in the article “Contextualizing the Gospel in Athens: Paul’s Areopagus Address as a Paradigm for Missionary Communication,” *Missiology* 30 (2002): 199-214. I also want to express appreciation to the library staff at Mount Vernon Nazarene University and to





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