Introducing New Series: Missiological Engagements

Toward the end of the twentieth century, Lesslie Newbigin offered a penetrating analysis of the challenges of pluralism that confronted a Western culture and society reeling from the dissolution of Christendom. His enormous influence has been felt ever since. Newbigin (1909–1998) was a longtime Church of Scotland missionary to India and later General Secretary of the International Missionary Council and Associate General Secretary of the World Council of Churches.

While reflecting on Newbigin, Graham Hill, author of Global Church, offers insight on the importance of this new work: “As I write this, I’m sitting in a coffee shop in Winson Green, Birmingham, where Lesslie Newbigin pastored after returning from India. Newbigin loved this community, with all its cultural and religious diversity. He was always a pastor. But he was also a scholar who studied cultures theologically and philosophically. In The Gospel and Pluralism Today, Scott W. Sunquist and Amos Yong bring together a remarkable collection of papers that reveal the ongoing value and contribution of Newbigin’s work. But Sunquist and Yong’s book doesn’t stop at Newbigin’s contribution. It builds on Newbigin’s thought, and it explores critical cultural and missionary issues that have emerged in the twenty-first century. In brief, this book is an invaluable addition to missiology and to the study of Newbigin’s pastoral-missionary paradigm.”

This is the first installment in the Missiological Engagements series. The essays in this volume explore three aspects of Newbigin’s legacy. First, they assess the impact of his 1989 book, The Gospel in a Pluralist Society, on Christian mission and evangelism in the West. Second, they critically analyze the nature of Western pluralism in its many dimensions to discern how Christianity can proclaim good news for today. Finally, the contributors discuss the influence of Newbigin’s work on the field of missiology. By looking backward, this volume recommends and advances a vision for Christian witness in the pluralistic world of the twenty-first century.

The Gospel and Pluralism Today

• explores the legacy and relevance of Lesslie Newbigin’s classic work, The Gospel in a Pluralist Society
• includes contributions from leading missiologists and theologians, including William Burrows, John Flett, Veli-Matti Kärkkäinen, Esther Meek and Wilbert Shenk
• resulted from the annual Missiology Lectures at Fuller Seminary’s School of Intercultural Studies

FOR MORE INFORMATION AND TO SCHEDULE AN INTERVIEW CONTACT:
Krista Carnet, broadcast publicity, at 800.843.4587 ext. 4013 or kkcarnet@ivpress.com
Alisse Wissman, print publicity, at 800.843.4587 ext. 4059 or awissman@ivpress.com
ivpress.com/academic