

Foreword

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I READ THIS BOOK WITH admiration and excitement. Rarely have I seen such a wonderful combination of enthusiasm and expertise, passion and reflection. John Dickson writes winsomely and elegantly, drawing his readers into his vision for the future of evangelism. It is one of the best books I have read on evangelism. A new star has clearly risen in Australia.

Why is it so good? I think it is the way in which Dickson inspires the confidence of his readers, explaining the mistakes he made along the way, and how others can learn from them. Many, many readers will identify with his concern about technique-based evangelism courses, which make evangelism into a human skill comparable to car mechanics. Dickson offers his readers something very different—a vision for evangelism, opening up the full riches of the gospel, and allowing its many facets to radiate through every believer, not just the gifted evangelist.

It is a tribute to Dickson's experience as an evangelist and skill as a writer that he manages to combine theoretical reflection and practical advice. Where some authors leave their readers wondering how on earth they are going to apply their ideas, Dickson offers wise advice, clearly based on experience, as to how best to do this.

Promoting the Gospel

His emphasis on the importance of the local church is theologically astute, and immensely practical. Dickson's approach will energize both individuals and churches to promote the gospel, while emphasizing the importance of the church at every level in sustaining the ministry of individual evangelists. His appeal to the worship of the church reminds us that the power of the gospel lies not merely in its words, but in its capacity to transform people's lives.

I warmly recommend this book. I have learned from reading it, and have no doubt that others will as well. It challenged me, encouraged me, and often inspired me. And at my age, that's quite an achievement!

Alister McGrath
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