
A REVIEW OF

A Dictionary of Asian Christianity

Robert C. Donahue

This dictionary is something of a landmark in publishing. This is perhaps the one most significant volume detailing the broad scope of the history, churches, movements, institutions, and personalities of Asian Christianity ever published. There is no other book quite like this one with as much breadth of information. Editor Scott W. Sunquist and associate editors, David Wu Chu Sing and John Chew Hiang Chea are to be commended for this great achievement and milestone.

The dictionary has been more than ten years in preparation. More than 500 Asian scholars have contributed to it plus a number of others who are not Asian but who have contributed significantly to work in the Asian church. Our own Academic Dean, Dr. Floyd T. Cunningham, is a contributor.

It is not a dictionary in the ordinary sense, nor is it an encyclopedia. It is uniquely positioned between the two. It gives a “thick description” of items listed, but not an exhaustive treatment. However, one can study a topic in its cultural context with leading references to inter-connecting information about politics, setting, personalities, movements, institutions, and so forth. It is a wonderful book for study of the broader scope of Asian Christianity in its context.

The editor foresees other possible companion volumes. One of these could deal with the multiplicity of Bible colleges and seminaries that have arisen in Asian. He also invites contributions on various topics related to Asian Christianity for a future updated volume.

The editors and publisher are to be commended for the contribution this book makes to our understanding of Asian Christianity. This

is perhaps the beginning of a historiography for the Asian Church. This volume is highly recommended for anyone who wants to understand Asian Christianity better. It is must reading for leaders across our churches in Asia. This dictionary should be on the shelves of all of our theological schools in the region.