

Book Reviews

Dr. Sebastian Kizhakkeyil (ed), “Sakshikalakuvin” (“Be My Witnesses”, *Studies on Mission*), Mount St. Thomas, Kakkannad, December 2011, pp 594.

The book “*Sakshikalakuvin*” is the Malayalam version of the book *Be My Witnesses, Studies on Mission*, edited by Dr. Sebastian Kizhakkeyil. The Malayalam version contains three more articles than in the English version. The editor, himself a biblical scholar and missiologist, has done a commendable job in beautifully compiling and editing twenty one articles written by biblical scholars and missiologists into a well-knit book. The book, besides, has the 'Foreword' written by His Beatitude Mar George Alencherry, the Major Archbishop of the Syro-Malabar Church.

The editor has given a very powerful ‘Introduction’ to the book which makes the reading of the various articles contextualized and oriented.

This book published in December 2011 in the context of the Syro-Malabar Mission Year 2011-2012 has aptly taken up for its title the motto of the Mission Year, i.e. “Be my witnesses to the ends of the earth” (Acts 1: 8).

The book has four parts. The first part containing three articles describes the biblical foundation of mission while the second part with nine articles presents the main Church documents on mission from the time of Vatican II. The third part contains seven articles on the history of global mission with a special emphasis on the apostolate of St. Thomas and the missionary endeavors of the Syro-Malabar Church. The fourth part has two articles, one on the ‘Sacraments of Initiation and Evangelization’ and the other on ‘Therese of Lisieux, Patroness of Mission’.

The book can be rightly recommended as a source book on ‘mission’ to missionaries, students of missiology as well as to all priests, religious, and lay persons who wish to learn more on the ‘*ad gentes*’ mission of the Church, especially of the Syro-Malabar Church. The editor in his 'Introduction' gives the motive of the book as “to make the Church actively missionary and to transform all its members into zealous missionaries bearing witness to Christ”. This book with a beautiful cover design depicting the universal character of Jesus’ mission is a challenge and a call to all Christians to become true ‘witnesses of Christ’.

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