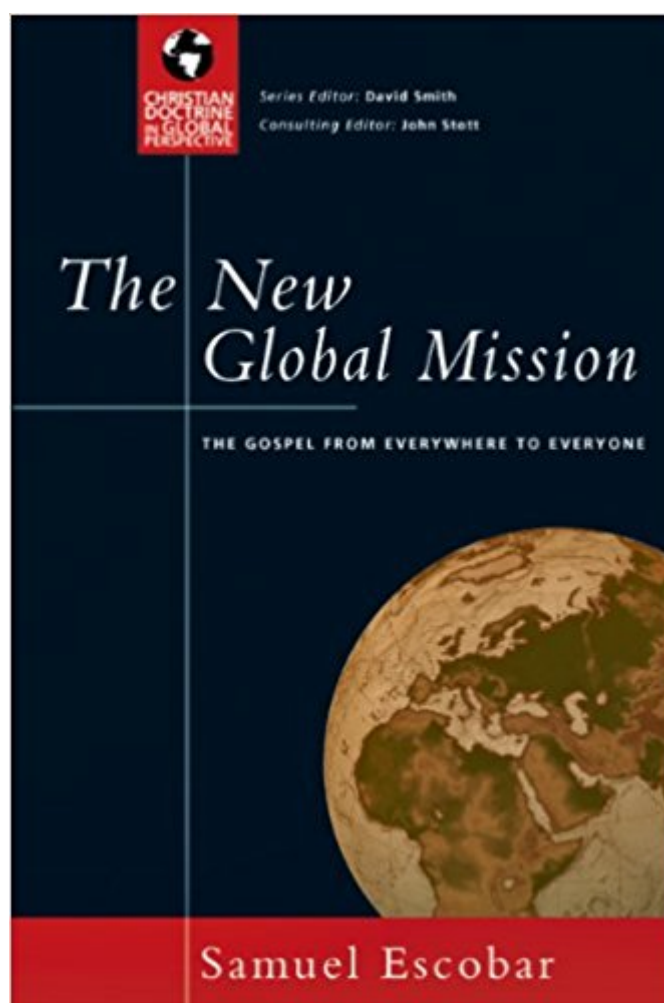


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# The New Global Mission: The Gospel From Everywhere To Everyone (Christian Doctrine In Global Perspective)



## Synopsis

Christian mission is no longer a matter of missionaries from the West going to the rest of the world. Rather, the growth of Christianity in Latin America, Africa and parts of Asia is eclipsing that of the Western church. In the third millennium of the Christian era, Christian mission is truly global, with missionaries from all places going to all peoples. Veteran missiologist Samuel Escobar presents this introduction to Christian mission today. He explores the new realities of our globalized world and assesses the context of a changing mission field that is simultaneously secular and syncretistic. He also sets forth a thoroughly biblical theology of missions, considering how God the Father, Son and Holy Spirit are at work around the world, with implications for how Christians are to go about the task of global mission.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

"This book is must reading for all those who would lead Christ's church in this new millennium. Two-thirds of all Christians now live in Asia, Africa and Latin America. This means that the church's mission is now a truly global enterprise, as Escobar shows. Samuel Escobar, the dean of Latin American Protestant Evangelical missiologists, gives us here an insightful, careful, concise and passionate overview of the complex and constantly changing reality facing us all in the church's mission today. Escobar demonstrates a clear and compelling missionary commitment to the missional goal that, in the words of Donald McGavran, 'women and men become disciples of Jesus

Christ and responsible members of Christ's Church.' The book's insightful trinitarian organization is capped off by a very helpful review of selected works by mission thinkers of the past fifty years." (Charles Van Engen, Professor of Biblical Theology of Mission, Fuller Theological Seminary, and former missionary to Mexico)"In a truly global perspective, this passionate and yet well-reasoned and eminently readable plea for a holistic mission is a must-read for all who care about the kingdom of God and the transformation of the kingdoms of this world. Writing with knowledge and sensitivity reflective of his worldwide experience, Escobar combines the high idealism of the biblical vision with a sober assessment of political, social, religious and cultural realities of our time. Delightful and challenging at the same time!" (Peter Kuzmic, Distinguished Professor of World Missions and European Studies, Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary, and Founding President of the Evangelical Theological Seminary in Osijek, Croatia)"The twenty-first century is the century of global Christianity. In this century, we are increasingly aware of the fact that the growth of the Christian faith around the world is the result of obedience in mission on the part of previous generations of Christians. Since God expects all Christians to be about advancing his rule in the world, mission today must become the responsibility of the global church. The New Global Mission, written by a person who knows mission from multiple perspectives, is a masterful articulation of the need for mission to be the joyous duty of Christians from everywhere. It is especially useful as a tool for education about mission in diverse Christian settings." (Tite TiÃfÂ©nou, Academic Dean and Professor, Theology of Mission, Trinity Evangelical Divinity School, Deerfield, Illinois)

Samuel Escobar, a native of Peru and a leading Latin American theologian, was one of the key participants in the International Congress on World Evangelization at Lausanne, Switzerland, in 1974. He currently serves as professor of missiology at Palmer Theological Seminary in Wynnewood, Pennsylvania, and as theological consultant for the Board of International Ministries in Valencia, Spain. He is also president of the United Bible Societies and past president of the International Fellowship of Evangelical Students. His books include The New Global Mission.

Dr. Samuel Escobar's book The New Global Mission is a good introduction to the history of missions from a global context, as well as a looking glass focused on the challenges of the near future in global missions. His experiences as a missionary and as an educator provide strong credentials to back up the ideas he presents within this book. Coming from the South America, his perspectives on the effects of prior missionary movements on native populations and their cultures is lent additional weight. After a chapter of introduction to his plan for the book, Escobar quickly gives a

survey of the historical trends and methodologies the Church used in order to spread the gospel starting with the example of Jesus, and finishing with the modern business like methodologies used today. Within this context, Escobar focuses on the organizational directives and structures used by the Church throughout time. This is not a journalistic approach to history; in fact Escobar is at times very critical of different mission philosophies and methodologies. While presenting an overview of the structures and movements behind the missionary movements of history, he also includes the human component, connecting each wave of missionary advancement to the lives of the missionaries and those ministered to. In fact his contention is that all good missions follow the example of Jesus, who was right there getting down into the mud of peoples lives. Escobar's next topic is really the focal point for the whole book. Due to globalization, missionary influence and the ease of communications and global travel, the global church no longer reflects the Christianity of the western world. He then establishes that the western church is in recession and that the "Third World" or southern church is in ascendancy. Furthermore, the western or northern church needs to adapt to the reality that while they may control most of the resources of the world, as well as most of the resources of the church, that the Holy Spirit and Christ have always worked through people, and more commonly through the poorest people. The implications of this reality, will also affect more than just the balance of power in relation to geographic location. Traditional understandings of the interpretation of scripture do not always equate to the interpretations of the third church. He then finishes the book by discussing models for missions in a post-christianity west, where the whole world contributes to sending missionaries from the whole world to the whole world. He also argues that we need to re-evaluate our structures for organizing missions to be more centered on the will of the Holy Spirit. Modeling after the book of Acts, we should first discern what the spirit would have us do, before attempting to save the world. This is not to mean that we wait, suffering social injustice or other sinful things, but that we must understand the spirits purpose and direction before undertaking major missions. I found this book very enjoyable. While not highly theoretical, I did find it intellectually stimulating. While some of the scriptural references were a little on the "proof-text" side, I couldn't complain about most. One reference did bother me though. On page 144, he references the story in Mark 5:1-20 of Jesus driving the evil spirits (called Legion) into a herd of 2000 pigs which then proceeded to run off and drown. He then says, "Consequently the people in that region ask Jesus to leave--a herd of pigs is more valuable than a restored human life." This implies that the reason they wanted Jesus to leave was a fear of fiscal consequences to his continued presence. While that may make sense in a contemporary setting, I find it difficult to believe. While it is a plausible reason, and probably partially to blame, this would demand that this

area be inhabited by gentiles, and not good Jews. Unfortunately, I can't come up with any other rational explanation as to why they would ask him to leave. The text implies that the populace was in awe of Jesus, and not afraid, but they didn't crowd around asking for more miracles. Obviously I need to spend more time wrestling with this portion of text. Overall, I enjoyed reading this book and found it insightful. I now have a greater appreciation for the challenges and opportunities the church faces in the upcoming decades when it comes to missions. I can see that many of our American churches need a new revival. I can only hope that the southern church helps restore us.

Although this book was assigned for a seminary class, I soon fell in love with the author's heart for spreading the gospel. The history is well presented early on and sprinkled throughout. The Trinitarian approach is very obvious. The author does not shy from the areas for improvement in approaches to missions. His Biblical foundation is absolutely solid.

Good read for all Christians... Presents a perspective that we should all consider.

The author is well knowledgeable about this topic and adds his own perspective into the writing quite a bit. It is good for not only missionaries, but also for Christians to read for them to know and understand what is going on in the world due to Christian World Missions. This book is very helpful for one to understand what is going on and maybe even what the next step would be for Christian Missions.

I don't share every aspect of Escobar's perspectives, but he has life experience and the worldview of not only a Christian, but one who is not an American - therefore I learned from him because he sees things that I do not or have not. And even on the things in which we disagree, I can learn by understanding how his views differ from mine and why.

This book has a promising thesis, but it failed to significantly impact me in developing that thesis. It largely seemed to be providing an academic approach to looking at a great deal of issues that I have already been exposed to at length. This book is nearly ten years old, so I will provide it the benefit of the doubt that perhaps many of these issues were newer when it was published, but I felt myself struggling to find new principles or applications. The author provides a number of interesting stories throughout the book, and does a good job of weaving historical research with modern outlook and theological reflection, but I felt like I was left wondering what the application was. This

book makes the excellent point that we as Westerners need to step down from a position of assumed dominance where we expect our theology and perspectives to be universally accepted. The “global South” is growing rapidly, largely with Pentecostalism, and this deserves our attention. We need to begin to recognize that the global South is sending missionaries to the West because we are a very needy mission field. Furthermore, in rapidly changing times such as these, it is essential for Christian missionaries and missiologists to continually re-examine methods, attitudes, and patterns of support for mission. This book is useful for people who are looking at mission with fresh eyes and may need a primer on history and global realities that contribute to the current state of mission work in the world. Particularly if those people have an academic bent, they will find a great deal of value in this book. For this reason, I will likely hang on to this book as a possible giveaway or teaching tool. Because of the systematic way in which the book is organized, it would provide a good outline for teaching on modern global mission.

**MUST READ.**

I loved it because all the information was current.

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