

Marvin Gilbert, Alan Johnson and Paul W. Lewis, editors, *Missiological Research: Interdisciplinary Foundations, Methods, and Integration* (Pasadena, CA: William Carey Library, 2018). 388 pp. \$13.99 paperback; \$9.99 Kindle.

The editors note that the need for this book arose out of felt needs among doctoral missiological students at the Assemblies of God Theological Seminary (AGTS) in Springfield, Mo. Some of these students lacked background in research methodology and others lacked depth in biblical and theological studies (x). Faculty members also needed a reference guide in helping students choose the appropriate research methodology. Finally, when students started using the first draft of the book and the faculty members started assessing its impact, the editors determined that more was needed. This final volume, with the various chapters written by various AGTS faculty members, including many by the editors themselves, represents the fruit of their labors.

The editors give three suggestions as to how this volume can be used (xviii). First, it gives a partial introduction to the “vast array of missiological research methodologies,” including empirical research methods used in behavioral sciences, to inform the students and faculty members of what is available (xviii). The bibliographies of each article then point to other resources that could be used. Second, this vast array is listed here in one volume, better enabling the student and their advisors to choose which method or methods best fit their research. Third, this volume serves as a reference, allowing the researcher to use it repeatedly for introductions and clarifications, parameters, benefits and limitations of each methodology.

The book is divided into five units, each with its own table of contents of the chapters in that unit. The units are: (1) Foundational Issues in Missiological Research; (2) Theological Research in Missiological Enquiry; (3) Qualitative Research, (4) Quantitative and Mixed Methods Research and (5) Theological and Empirical Integration.

Each unit consists of several chapters. Unit 1 has thirteen chapters entitled, Interdisciplinary Research, Epistemological Frameworks in Qualitative Research, The Four-Phase Model of Missiological Research, The Four-Phase Model in Academic Context [sic], The Library in Interdisciplinary Research: Content and Methodology, Social Sciences Resources For Enriching the Literature Review, Primary and Secondary Sources, Integrative Critical Analysis, Theory Development, Theory in Missiological Research, Ethical Research With Human Subjects and Validity and Reliability.

In Unit 2, the eight chapters are: Introduction to Biblical and Theological Resources, Doing Theology Missiologically, Biblical

Hermeneutics, Biblical Theology, Historical Theology, Systematic Theology, Contextual Theology and Narratives, Narrative and Narrative Theology. Given my penchant for living at the intersection of theology and culture, I really enjoyed this unit.

Unit 3 contains fourteen chapters: The Nature of Data, Qualitative and Quantitative Research, Ethnography, Ritology, Case Studies, Historical Research, Grounded Theory Method, Foundations For Interviewing, Focus Group Interviews, Qualitative Data Analysis, Field Work and Field Notes, Coding in Qualitative Field Research and Memoing [sic] in Qualitative Field Research.

There are twelve chapters in Unit 4: Sampling From a Population, Survey Research, Questionnaire Construction, Statistically Speaking, Inferential Statistics, Hypothesis Testing, Educational Research, Action Research, Program Evaluation, Content Analysis, Q Methodology and Pile Sort Methodology.

Unit 5 has six chapters: Integrating Disciplines, Integration in Writing Up Missiological Research, My Journey in Integration, Integration and the Missionary Life, Valuing the Integration of the Social Sciences in Mission Practice and Missiological Research as Worship. Twenty-five appendices on supporting subjects and a glossary of terms in the back round out the volume.

All the units have incredible value and can be used by mentors and students involved in any conceivable form of missiological research. I identified some that I used in my own research and others that could be used by students that I am currently mentoring. My personal favorite, however, was Unit 5, where the authors remind us that real missiological research cannot be completely done in a vacuum in the rarified and somewhat artificial atmosphere of academia. True missiological research deals with real missionaries involved with real people with real hopes, dreams, struggles and felt needs. Indeed, I completed my own doctoral research many years ago with a greater passion for the lost for whom Christ died because my research revealed a great need in the general public for Christ's redemption. But above all, as DeLonn L. Rance so clearly describes, missiological research is ultimately an act of worship to God (287-94), or, to apply to missiology J.I. Packer's old dictum that "all theology must lead to doxology." All of this is consistent with Jesus' command to love God with all of our hearts and minds (Luke 10:27).

In my opinion, this book delivers on all of what it attempts to accomplish. It is comprehensive, yet easy to follow. All of the suggested ways given by the editors as to how to use this book are workable. While the book is admittedly tailored to the needs of AGTS, it can be easily adaptable for use at any other school. As a missiologist who is not well versed in all the available research options, this book is a treasure trove

of potential research methodologies right at my fingertips. I will certainly keep this on hand. I strongly recommend that others do as well.

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