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A People of His Name: A Church- Based Missions Strategy

Wayne A. Detzler
Sacred Heart University

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inspiration may render his theological judgment suspect; his homiletical fervor, however, is contagious and educative.

Although pages 123-154 were upside-down in my review copy, Burghardt's work merits high marks for its imaginative insight—indeed, decidedly higher marks than many right-side-up homiletics texts.

Larry E. Dixon
Northeastern Bible College, Essex Fells, NJ

A People for His Name: A Church-Based Missions Strategy. By Paul A. Beals. Grand Rapids: Baker, 1987, 234 pp., n.p.

As the title indicates, Beals seeks to relate missions to the local church, and he does this with commendable consistency. The first section of the book presents the Biblical basis for missions. Beals not only underlines the emphasis on church planting but also presents a helpful discussion of missions within the context of the receiving culture.

The largest section of the book relates missions to the sending church in the homeland. One of the most needed emphases in missions is the role of the church in selecting and sending missionaries. He here agrees with M. Griffiths, *Who Really Sends the Missionary?* (Chicago: Moody, 1974). In the light of the shifting values of currencies, Beals also devotes a good deal of space to discussing the financial support of missionaries. This he couples with reference to the personal, prayer and advisory support that churches owe their missionaries. His book is a helpful handbook for the church missions committee, whose role is explored at some length.

From a discussion of the role of the local church, Beals turns to evaluate the missionary sending agencies. He presents a helpful schematic of the various associations of missions agencies. His real contribution, however, is seen in describing in some detail the role of the sending agency in accountability to both the sending and the receiving church.

Beals next turns to a summary of missions strategy. It is a fine overview, one that avoids some of the fads that flourish in this field. His emphasis falls upon the accountability a missionary must have, and this emphasis is sorely needed.

Another section of the book focuses on the theological training college. Beals not only engages in a discussion of curricular matters but also shows the strategic roles of administrators and faculty in fostering missionary commitment. The final section centers on two theological issues pertaining to missions: (1) the role of the Holy Spirit in motivating and directing mission, and (2) eschatology and its role in mission.

The book includes fine indices of Scripture references, topics and bibliographical sources. It would be hard to overrate this book as a text for teaching introduction to mission. Its organization is fresh and new, and it is a valuable addition to the available literature.

In utilizing the book as a teaching tool, one could make good use of the numerous figures, chapter summaries and excellent documentation. The strong Biblical content and the relatively plain writing would make this a suitable text for any level of higher education.

Wayne A. Detzler
Calvary Baptist Church, Meriden, CT