#### ABOUT THIS BOOK

In recent years religion has received a good deal of attention in the discourse on globalization. Christianity in its Pentecostal-charismatic, evangelical and fundamentalist forms, seems to have thrived in the globalizing climate.

There is overwhelming world-wide evidence that Pentecostalcharismatic, evangelical-fundamentalist and a number of marginal Protestant groups have experienced rapid growth. In the Pacific region this has led to a re-shaping of the religious landscape in the different Pacific Island nations. The changes in religious affiliation have also led to an unpre-cedented diversity of Christian denominations in the region.



Signature

The information presented in this book is based on research carried out over the past four years in fourteen island nations of the region. It attempts to give an accurate account of changes to religious affiliation in the Pacific Islands over the past 50 years. The authors examine the reasons for the ongoing re-shaping of Christianity in the Pacific Islands and provide background information about the newer religious

groups, as well as the mainline denominations and para-church organizations. They explore the extent to which globalization processes have contributed to the rapid growth and proliferation of a variety of Pentecostal-charismatic-evangelical-

#### SPECIAL FEATURES

- · 56 tables & graphs
- 15 detailed Maps
- 24 full colored photo pages
- Comprehensive bibliography and index

fundamentalist and other new religious groups in the region.

Globalization and the Re-Shaping of Christianity in the Pacific is the most systematic account available of contemporary developments of Christianity in the Pacific Islands. The book will be enlightening not only to students and academics, but also to policy-makers, and all those interested in the profound effects of modernization processes on individuals and societies in the Pacific Islands.

The editor of Globalization and the Re-Shaping of Christianity in the Pacific, Manfred Ernst, is the Director for Projects and Research at the Pacific Theological College in Suva, Fiji Islands.

## The research behind Globalization and the Re-Shaping of Chrisitanity in the Pacific

Going beyond a mere description of what is labelled 'The Reshaping of Christianity in the Pacific Islands', answers are offered to the questions that sparked off the research project, namely:

- What is the relationship (if any) between globalization and changes in religious affiliation?
- Why do people join new religious groups, often breaking away from families, relatives, communities, and traditional ways of life, causing personal and community pain and conflict?
- Why are the historic mainline churches in a long term state
  of decline and apparently unable to re-adjust their
  structures, programmes and activities to the challenges of
  a rapidly changing social environment?
- The increasing number of people joining new religious groups are forming a conservative social movement, which, in some Pacific island nations, already displays features of the New Religious Right or the so-called Moral Majority in the USA. What are the economic, political and cultural implications for the Pacific region?

As a response to these challenges, the research proposes for the historic mainline churches a new visionary model of being church, with reference to the rediscovery and reformulation of ecumenical co-operation in all areas of work and a strong move towards a theoretical and practical theology that places the marginalized, disadvantaged, oppressed and the poor in its centre.

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# Globalization and the Re-Shaping of Christianity in the Pacific Islands

### College Principal, The Pacific Theological From Rev Dr Feleterika Nokise,

navigate our way forward. timely contribution to our efforts to chart and of our journey into the 21st century, this book is a theological training institutions. In the initial stages resource for all ecumenical organ-izations and stand today's religious landscape. It is an essential book is a must for all who genuinely desire to underand the ecumenical movement in our region. The and necessary research carried out for our churches Shaping of Christianity in the Pacific is an important and world organizations. Globalization and the Reequally shared by overseas partners, mission boards organizations of Dr Ernst's book, a senti-ment the Pacific Church community and ecume-nical There has been considerable anticipation by

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