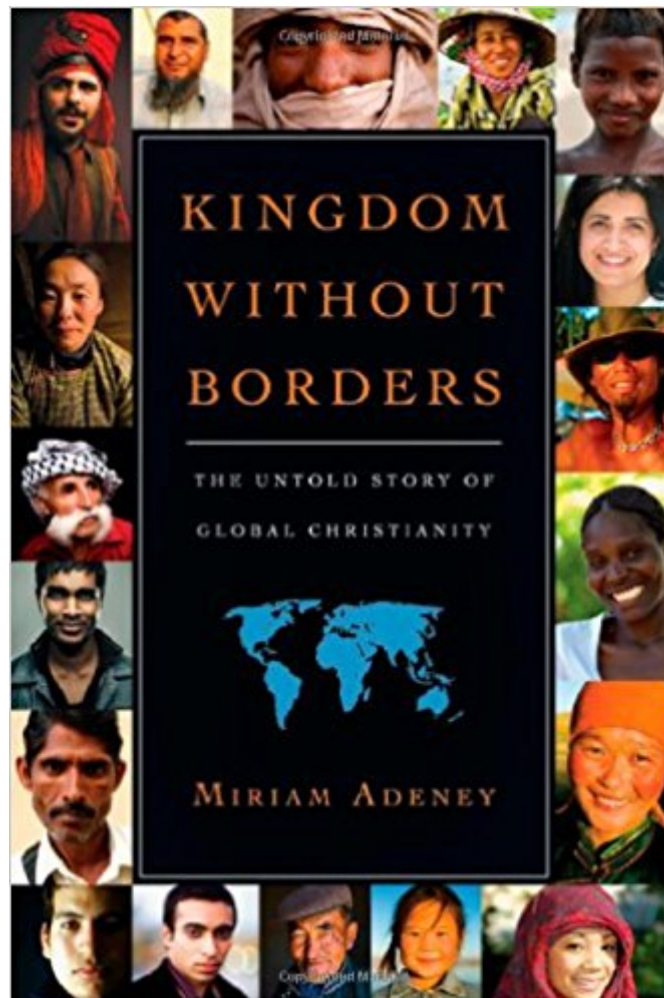


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Kingdom Without Borders: The Untold Story Of Global Christianity



Synopsis

The twenty-first century has opened with a rapidly changing map of Christianity. While its influence is waning in some of its traditional Western strongholds, it is growing at a phenomenal pace in the global South. And yet this story has largely eluded the corporate news brokers of the West. Layered as it is with countless personal and corporate stories of remarkable faith and witness, it nevertheless lies ghostlike behind the newsprint and webpages of our print media, outside the camera's vision on the network evening news. Miriam Adeney has lived, traveled and ministered widely. She has walked with Christians in and from the far reaches of the globe. As she pulls back the veil on real Christians--their faith, their hardships, their triumphs and, yes, their failures--an inspiring and challenging story of a kingdom that knows no borders takes shape. This is a book that coaxes us out of our comfortable lives. It beckons us to expand our vision and experience of the possibilities and promise of a faith that continues to shape lives, communities and nations.

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Customer Reviews

Anthropologists don't often write books that wrap around their own lives, yet the newest book by Seattle Pacific University professor Adeney stops short of memoir and opts instead for a visceral call to Christians worldwide to engage in something bigger than their own culture and church. Adeney's travel and teaching have taken her to many countries, and she weaves stories from African countries, China and primarily Hindu and Muslim countries with piercing insights into the heart of global cultures. Her work can be read by adherents of any religion as a primer to a new

view of world Christianity. She acknowledges that Jesus' teaching and discipleship can grow within Hindu, Muslim and Buddhist cultures without missionary methods that bring cultural baggage that can detract from the gospel. She instances a Korean missionary group in Afghanistan that practiced methods of evangelism known to provoke angry responses; they were taken hostage. Best practices for particular cultures can prevent such disasters. Not primarily a book about American Christians and what they should do, this is a humble and complex anthem to the diverse kingdom of Christ found in worldwide cultures. (Dec.) Copyright © Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved.

"For the uninitiated as well as the budding scholar, *Kingdom Without Borders* is the ideal introduction to contemporary world Christianity and highly recommended for college courses and church classes on the subject." (Roger E. Hedlund, *Dharma Deepika*, January–June 2011)"Drawing upon personal encounters and published accounts, [Adeney] employs her notable gift of storytelling to narrate the ordinary but extraordinary lives of Christians around the world. . . . Her work creatively weaves together real-life experiences with reflections on the major missiological issues they illustrate. . . . Essential reading for anyone seeking to understand and participate in God's kingdom in the world today." (Diane Stinton, *International Bulletin of Missionary Research*, October 2010)"Adeney's stories should open the eyes of many Western Christians. Though stories of Western missionaries are interspersed throughout, the book remains a tribute to indigenous Christian movements. Each story that Adeney relays reveals a God who is not representative of borders. Perhaps it's the stories told by Adeney that will help North Americans see more clearly how the old story of the gospel plays out in new contexts." (Soong Chan Rah, author of *The Next Evangelicalism*, *Christianity Today*, April 2010)"This is not a statistically heavy book, nor a dry country-by-country ledger of church growth accounting. Rather, Adeney introduces the reader to the simple yet powerful faith stories of representative Christians in Thailand, Afghanistan, Rwanda, Bangladesh, Columbia, and many more nations. This is a deeply personal book: a testimony to the faithfulness of God in the lives of his people around the globe." (Murray Decker, *EMQ*, April 2010)"[Adeney's] stories of global Christian witness renew believers' faith and trust in God and reinforce that God's Kingdom truly is without borders." (Christian News Northwest, June 2010)"This book is a fresh view of the answers to the question, 'What is God doing in the world today?' You will be inspired by these testimonies, many of them are almost unbelievable." (Jan Arkills, *The Lamplighter*)"A humble and complex anthem to the diverse kingdom of Christ found in worldwide cultures." (*Publishers Weekly*, October 12, 2009)"*Kingdom Without Borders* invites us into a

magnificent tapestry of the glory of God alive in the peoples and nations of our world. Miriam Adeney weaves the dominant designs of God's global mission with and through countless stories of people and friends. We meet sisters and brothers in Christ in contexts of joy and profound sadness; in China, Latin America, the Islamic and the Buddhist worlds; in the arts and persecution, in the Word and the Spirit. I cannot recommend any book higher than *Kingdom Without Borders* as the introduction to worshiping the God on mission." (William D. Taylor, Global Ambassador, World Evangelical Alliance, and coauthor of *Global Mission Handbook*) "Miriam Adeney has once again written a powerful and accessible book on a topic of profound importance. Readers will be humbled and inspired by what they find in these pages--testimonies that show how the gospel is changing lives all over the world." (Dana L. Robert, Truman Collins Professor of World Christianity and History of Mission, Boston University School of Theology) "A delightful and accessible introduction to global missions--God's foreign policy among the nations. A masterful storyteller, Miriam introduces us to her multicultural family, from Cesar in the Philippines to Ruth in Rwanda, in this flyover perspective on the move of the Spirit through the peoples of our world. Bible teaching, economic theory, comparative religions or insights on intercultural communication provide lively connecting tissue you will not find in dry missions texts. It is a bold call to serve vulnerably, sharing in suffering until Christ's resurrection power is released among all peoples!" (Steve Hoke, vice president of people development, Church Resource Ministries) "Kingdom Without Borders is a fresh look at the question, What is God doing in the world? In this book, Miriam Adeney again combines the work of a scholar with the skill of a writer. She draws us into the story of the global Christian family, while introducing us to the trends and theological conversations so vital to our understanding. Between Adeney's mastery of storytelling and the profound insights she reports, the reader gains a greater appreciation for God's greatness. This creative combination of voices from many sources is an important contribution to the growing conversation surrounding globalization." (Doug McConnell, dean, School of Intercultural Studies, Fuller Theological Seminary) "Miriam Adeney takes us on a richly illustrated journey in order to teach us how to (re)think globally while loving and acting locally. Moving with creative ease between narrative and dialogue, she tells fascinating stories with a sensitive crosscultural touch, crossing all given and imposed borders and barriers with passion that inspires." (Dr. Peter Kuzmic, Eva B. and Paul E. Toms Distinguished Professor of World Missions and European Studies, Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary) "The fact of the vibrancy and growth of the church around the world is one many of us have come to learn in the past few decades. Like no other account I've read, Miriam Adeney compellingly weaves individual stories from every nook and cranny of the globe into a tapestry that reflects God's burden and passion for every person and

community. She takes what others report as data and brings it to us through the lives of the people who have been transformed by encountering the living Christ, and ultimately paints a masterpiece of God at work across our planet. Reading the journeys of brokenness, trauma, pain, hope, sacrifice, joy and redemption will change your perspective on how God is at work--and just maybe your life." (Scott Moreau, professor of intercultural studies, Wheaton College, and editor of Evangelical Missions Quarterly)

Research and scholarship are clearly Adeney's strengths, but *Kingdom Without Borders* is far more than a factual recounting of Christianity around the globe. What could simply fall flat as a contemporary update on religion blooms into something more through Adeney's moving stories and unforgettable characters. *Kingdom Without Borders* gives us a taste for what God is doing in China, Latin America, the Middle East, India, and Africa, and the ways in which his Spirit is communicating with humanity--as well as the practical and economic realities that followers of Christ face in their corners of the world. By the end of this book, you will be realizing along with Adeney that "the worldwide church is built from a thousand thousand communities of grace, one story at a time." This book will graft you into that complex and beautiful global church, reshaping how you perceive God's love for people and His work among them.

American Christians tend to see the global church as a reflection of the American church. This book will dispel that idea. The church is alive and well around the globe. I recommend this book for every Christian who wants to see what God is doing in our world today.

Even tempered writing brings to light the vast array of ways God expresses himself through his diverse children.

Great read!

chock-full of stories of God active in his people around the globe, definitely horizon-expanding

This book gives an anecdotal survey of the Christian world. It is invaluable for its ability to expand one's horizons and encourage one in the faith.

If you think America or the Western world represents christianity, then this book will change your

perspective. God is at work all over the world and the stories here will encourage your heart. Very good read.

Not easily readable because of its research-like nature. I used it because my professor required it for my course. Its a good book but I just couldn't read it with speed.

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