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# One Christ – Many Witnesses

## Regnum Edinburgh Centenary Series

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It began in 2009 with a volume on *Mission Then and Now* – a collection of essays on mission in the past and today, edited by David A. Kerr and Kenneth Ross. Kenneth Ross was a major driver and inspiration from the very outset; it was him who first called a group together in Edinburgh in 2008 to plan the entire Edinburgh 2010 event and he continued to inspire and contribute; an example is two small books on *New Directions for Church in Mission* and *Fresh Perspectives on Christian Mission*.<sup>1</sup>

The series grew out of the celebration of the Edinburgh 1910 World Missionary Conference. The foundational resources from and a major legacy of this conference were the findings of eight think-tanks or ‘commissions’. These findings can today be found on the shelves of all mission libraries around the world. The centennial project in 2010 therefore used a similar model and set in motion international and cross-confessional study groups on nine themes identified as being key to mission in the 21st century. Reports from these study groups were compiled in one of the first volumes in the Regnum Edinburgh Centenary Series under the title *Edinburgh 2010: Witnessing to Christ Today*. The reports were then discussed in the major centennial event in Edinburgh 2010 that brought together people from all corners of the church universal. The

report from this event has been published under the title *Edinburgh 2010: Mission Today and Tomorrow*.

Thirty-two other volumes in the series eventually became available (see [www.ocms.ac.uk/regnum](http://www.ocms.ac.uk/regnum)). The publications reflect the ethos of Edinburgh 2010 and were intended to make a significant contribution to ongoing studies in mission and world Christianity.<sup>2</sup> The material published in this series uniquely reflects a diverse range of views and positions across regions, churches, and other differences. The series editors hoped in this way to encourage conversation between Christians in many countries and collaboration in mission. The volumes are intended for study and reflection in both church and academy. To make access as wide as possible, all are available for download from the website and copies of the series are being placed free of charge in thirty major libraries of mission and theology around the world.

Most of the titles relate to the nine study themes of Edinburgh 2010 (including foundations for mission, Christian mission among other faiths, mission spirituality and authentic discipleship, and mission and post-modernities) while other titles explore missiological thinking within the major confessions (Roman Catholic, Orthodox, Anglican, Pentecostal, Evangelical, Lutheran, etc.). In addition,

there are volumes on key issues in mission, such as mission and the next generation, mission at and from the margins, mission and diaspora, Bible in mission, mission and reconciliation, evangelism and diakonia in context, and perspectives on mission from different regions of the world (such as Latin America, Eastern Europe, Africa and Korea). The series also includes volumes reflecting on major 2010 events in Tokyo and Cape Town.<sup>3</sup>

The Regnum Edinburgh Centenary Series was brought to completion in the spring of 2017. Thirty-five volumes have been published in the most wide-ranging series on mission and world Christianity in our century.

A major concern has been to make the series more widely available. Today it can be ordered from Regnum or Amazon. For researchers, this arrangement is useful if one knows the article one wants, and which book it is in. However, searches should be done on each volume separately. We have therefore considered ways to make the volumes more useful for study and reflection in both church and academy, particularly in the global South. As a result, we have converted the entire series to ePub and Mobi files (Kindle). Such an arrangement will not only improve the readability but, even more, the access to searching all the books. Thus students, teachers and researchers may access the entire series and search for topics, persons, and events throughout the 35 volumes.

Nevertheless, at 35 volumes this major series on mission and world Christianity may be overwhelming for some. So, in two new compendium volumes, we have selected key articles from the series as a taster and introduction to the entire series. We will also be translating these into other languages, including Chinese. This

two-volume compendium will be more accessible to mission practitioners and students, especially. It will help them to find their way into the riches of the rest of the series.

Our original intention was to publish 3-4 volumes as a follow-up of the 2010 Edinburgh conference, but our conservative plans were soon overtaken by a flurry of proposals from the Edinburgh 2010 commissions and from others. As the proposals and wishes continued to surprise us by their quality, relevance and imagination, we decided to follow up and to search for editors and funding.

Large established publishers are used to committing themselves to long series of books – in the theological world, it is fairly commonplace for a publisher to commit itself to a Bible commentary series, for example, which may span most or all of the canon. However, when a small independent publisher, used to putting out four or five titles per year, agreed to take on the Edinburgh 2010 series, they did not have a complete picture of what was involved, or what it would become, but the then OCMS director, Dr. Wonsuk Ma, took the challenge.

At a symposium in September 2015 we celebrated the achievement and impending completion of the series. Papers and lectures were delivered and reviews on the series were offered – all of which has later been published in a special issue of the OCMS journal *Transformation*.<sup>4</sup> The first volume was, as I said, commissioned, and appeared in 2009.

Six years later, the publisher managed to bring together some significant statistics. At the time of the analysis, 28 volumes in the Edinburgh Centenary Series had been published, with another eight in the pipeline. The statistic reproduced here relate to those 28 volumes... so the final

numbers are considerably higher! The series is comprised of:

- 9,582 pages
- 3,388,465 words
- 17,921,768 characters
- 21,269,199 characters (incl. spaces)
- 62,846 paragraphs
- 333,141 lines

But what does this data actually mean? Well, firstly, if we were to lay all the pages end-to-end from one full set of books that would total over 2 km of paper. With an initial print run of 300 copies of each title, that's 600 km of paper, or the distance from London to Edinburgh... plus a bit! Furthermore, if the whole Bible translated in English is approximately 800,000 words in length, the Regnum Edinburgh series has produced more than four times the length of the entire Bible!

With over 550 separate articles to read, edit, proof, and typeset, the job of producing the series has not only been a task of mammoth proportions, but often a challenge for a small publisher with limited resources. There were articles written for all corners of the globe, and from a variety of ecclesiastical and theological backgrounds – and from those used to writing academic papers (with all its trappings of footnotes and citations), to those with less experience and more used to preaching and speaking a good argument.

For a series that is looking specifically at *world* mission, some statistics regarding international and geographic spread may be interesting. An analysis of the geographic spread of articles according to

continent provides the following figures (the division of continents is always quite arbitrary, and a matter of debate amongst cartographers, not just missiologists!):

1. Africa 62
2. Asia 104
3. North America 121
4. South America 24
5. Europe 220
6. Australasia 22

These numbers represent the articles written by country, using the location of the author at the time of the publication of the article (as could best be determined). This is not necessarily the same as the nationality of the author, nor does it represent the other countries that a specific author may be known for working in.

The kindle-version and the two compendium volumes have brought us to the end. Our desire has been to lift mission in the 21st century and to show that this global and local perspective will be the governing platform for a truly missional church.

Throughout the process, since 2010, I have been the chief editor. Seven years is a long time on one project. Of course, it is gratifying to see all the volumes that have been published, but even more gratifying has been to see that the material is increasingly being used worldwide by students and scholars. Have we in this manner contributed towards a larger conversation on mission globally? *Have we enlarged the paradigms of mission to make it more into 'global Christianity' and more ecumenical?*

## Appendix 1

## REGNUM EDINBURGH CENTENARY SERIES

35 volumes & 2 compendium volumes<sup>5</sup>

1. *Edinburgh 2010 – Mission Then and Now*
2. *Edinburgh 2010 – Witnessing to Christ Today*
3. *Edinburgh 2010 – Mission Today and Tomorrow*
4. *Mission Continues: Global Impulses for the 21st Century*
5. *Holistic Mission: God's Plan for God's People*
6. *The Church Going Global: Mission and Globalization*
7. *Witnessing to Christ in a Pluralistic Age: Christian Mission Among Other Faiths*
8. *Interfaith Relations after One Hundred Years: Christian Mission Among Other Faiths*
9. *Evangelical and Frontier Mission: Perspectives on the Global Progress of the Gospel*
10. *Mission and Postmodernities*
11. *A Learning Missional Church: Reflections from Young Missiologists*
12. *Life-Widening Mission: Global Anglican Perspectives*
13. *Foundations for Mission*
14. *Mission Spirituality and Authentic Discipleship*
15. *A Century of Catholic Mission*
16. *Mission as Ministry of Reconciliation*
17. *Orthodox Perspectives on Mission*
18. *Bible in Mission*
19. *Mission at and from the Margins: Patterns, Protagonists and Perspectives*
20. *Pentecostal Mission and Global Christianity*
21. *Engaging the World: Christian Communities in Contemporary Global Societies*
22. *The Lausanne Movement. A Range of Perspectives*
23. *Global Diasporas and Mission*
24. *Theology, Mission and Child: Global Perspectives*
25. *Called to Unity for the Sake of Mission*
26. *Korean Church, God's Mission, Global Christianity*
27. *Reflecting and Equipping for Christian Mission*
28. *Freedom of Belief and Christian Mission*
29. *Creation Care in Christian Mission*
30. *The Reshaping of Mission in Latin America*
31. *Witnessing to Christ in North-East India*
32. *Evangelism and Diakonia in Context*
33. *Mission and Power: History, Relevance and Perils*
34. *Mission in Central and Eastern Europe: Realities, Perspectives, Trends*
35. *Ecumenical Missiology: Changing Landscapes and New Conceptions of Mission*
  
36. *Regnum Edinburgh Centenary Series: Compendium Volume 1*
37. *Regnum Edinburgh Centenary Series: Compendium Volume 2*

## Appendix 2

**Edinburgh 2010  
COMMON CALL**

As we gather for the centenary of the World Missionary Conference of Edinburgh 1910, we believe the church, as a sign and symbol of the reign of God, is called to witness to Christ today by sharing in God's mission of love through the transforming power of the Holy Spirit.

1. Trusting in the Triune God and with a renewed sense of urgency, we are called to incarnate and proclaim the good news of salvation, of forgiveness of sin, of life in abundance, and of liberation for all poor and oppressed. We are challenged to witness and evangelism in such a way that we are a living demonstration of the love, righteousness, and justice that God intends for the whole world.

2. Remembering Christ's sacrifice on the Cross and his resurrection for the world's salvation, and empowered by the Holy Spirit, we are called to authentic dialogue, respectful engagement, and humble witness among people of other faiths – and no faith – to the uniqueness of Christ. Our approach is marked with bold confidence in the gospel message; it builds friendship, seeks reconciliation and practises hospitality.

3. Knowing the Holy Spirit who blows over the world at will, reconnecting creation and bringing authentic life, we are called to become communities of compassion and healing, where young people are actively participating in mission, and women and men share power and responsibilities fairly, where there is a new zeal for justice, peace and the protection of the environment, and renewed liturgy reflecting the beauties of the Creator and creation.

4. Disturbed by the asymmetries and imbalances of power that divide and trouble us in church and world, we are called to repentance, to critical reflection on systems of power, and to accountable use of power structures. We are called to find practical ways to live as members of One Body in full awareness that God resists the proud, Christ welcomes and empowers the poor and afflicted, and the power of the Holy Spirit is manifested in our vulnerability.

5. Affirming the importance of the biblical foundations of our missional engagement and valuing the witness of the Apostles and martyrs, we are called to rejoice in the expressions of the gospel in many nations all over the world. We celebrate the renewal experienced through movements of migration and mission in all directions, the way all are equipped for mission by the gifts of the Holy Spirit, and God's continual calling of children and young people to further the gospel.

6. Recognising the need to shape a new generation of leaders with authenticity for mission in a world of diversities in the twenty-first century, we are called to work together in new forms of theological education. Because we are all made in the image of God, these will draw on one another's unique charisms, challenge each other to grow in faith and understanding, share resources equitably worldwide, involve the entire human being and the whole family of God, and respect the wisdom of our elders while also fostering the participation of children.

7. Hearing the call of Jesus to make disciples of all people – poor, wealthy, marginalised, ignored, powerful, living with disability, young, and old – we are called as

communities of faith to mission from everywhere to everywhere. In joy we hear the call to receive from one another in our witness by word and action, in streets, fields, offices, homes, and schools, offering reconciliation, showing love, demonstrating grace and speaking out truth.

8. Recalling Christ, the host at the banquet, and committed to that unity for which he lived and prayed, we are called to ongoing co-operation, to deal with controversial issues and to work towards a common vision. We are challenged to welcome one another in our diversity, affirm our membership through baptism in the One Body of Christ, and recognise our need for mutuality, partnership, collaboration and networking in mission, so that the world might believe.

9. Remembering Jesus' way of witness and service, we believe we are called by God to follow this way joyfully, inspired, anointed, sent, and empowered by the Holy Spirit, and nurtured by Christian disciplines in community. As we look to Christ's coming in glory and judgment, we experience his presence with us in the Holy Spirit, and we invite all to join with us as we participate in God's transforming and reconciling mission of love to the whole creation.

*The Edinburgh 2010 Common Call emerged from the Edinburgh 2010 study process and conference to mark the centenary of the World Missionary Conference, Edinburgh 1910. The Common Call was affirmed in the Church of Scotland Assembly Hall in Edinburgh on 6 June 2010 by representatives of world Christianity, including Catholic, Evangelical, Orthodox, Pentecostal, and Protestant churches.*<sup>6</sup>

#### Notes

1. Kenneth R. Ross, *Edinburgh 2010. New Directions for Church in Mission* (Pasadena: William Carey International University Press, 2010); *Edinburgh 2010. Fresh Perspectives on Christian Mission* (Pasadena: William Carey International University Press, 2010).
2. See *Edinburgh 2010 Common Call* in Appendix 2.
3. A full list of the volumes published in the series is found in Appendix 1.
4. *Transformation*, Vol 33 (4), October 2016.
5. For further information, see the full section on the *Regnum Edinburgh Centenary Series* at <http://www.ocms.ac.uk/regnum/>.
6. For further information, see [www.edinburgh2010.org](http://www.edinburgh2010.org).