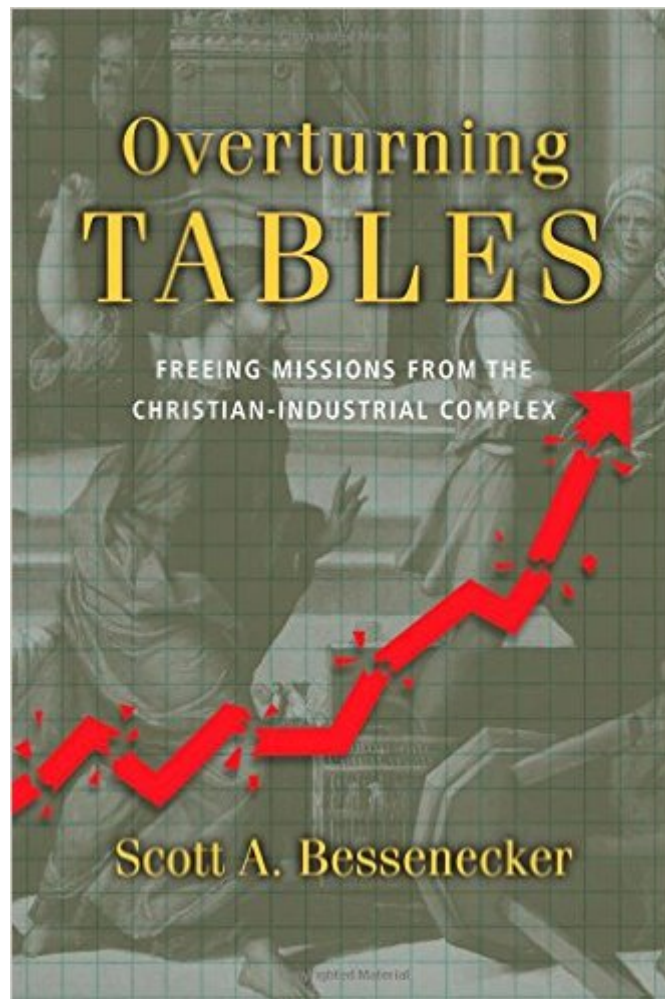


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Overturing Tables: Freeing Missions From The Christian-Industrial Complex



Synopsis

12th Annual Outreach Resource of the Year Recommendation (Cross-Cultural) 2014 Best World Missions Book, from Byron Berger, Hearts and Minds Bookstore We are more than the businesses we have become. Much of Christian ministry has been shaped to operate not according to the witness of the Scriptures, but according to the values of the free market. We adopt metrics of success that have nothing to do with the state of people's souls or the seeding of the earth with the kingdom of God. We have borrowed our paradigms uncritically from the for-profit corporate sector. The mission of the Church is being held back by the business container into which we have placed the gospel. Every year Scott Bessenecker travels the world with thousands of college students, ministering to those in need and learning from the global church about what God is doing in the world. In *Overturning Tables* he shows, through stories and analysis, that the mission of God reaches well beyond the grasp of the free market, and if we are willing to reach as well, we will see God do amazing things, even as the world sees the gospel in its fullest sense.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

This is a very thought-provoking and well-written book! I found the historical connections between European/American corporate structure and the resulting corporate structure of Western missions organisations fascinating and sobering. I also appreciate the author's thorough (but humble) condemnation of Western Christianity's embrace of materialism in its many forms. Perhaps best of

all, I enjoyed the real stories of non-Western Christians doing extraordinary things without the help of big money or pre-existing programs. Bessenecker clearly writes from the perspective of one who wants to see lives changed and God's Kingdom advanced, and his willingness to question the methods of American Evangelical mission is all the more admirable as he works within it (and risks offending those around him). There are just two things that kept me from giving this book 5 stars: 1.) Little-to-no mention was made of bad theology and its harmful effects around the world; 2.) chapter 4 had a dominionist/reconstructionist viewpoint that, in my thinking, made this book weaker. Let me elaborate a bit: 1.) In chapter 3, I was happy to see a critique of the prosperity gospel infiltrating Africa (coming from America); however on page 71 Bessenecker writes "It should not surprise me that the American corporate form of Protestantism should be the fountainhead of prosperity teaching." I found this to be a misunderstanding (or over-simplification) of the actual roots of the prosperity gospel; something I've been studying over the past few years. Tens of millions of people are being deluded by the Word of Faith/prosperity gospel as it gets promulgated by false teaching "missionaries," and bad theology (false teaching) is the real problem.

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