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Church Planting in Europe: Connecting to Society, Learning from Experience From Wipf & Stock

Church leaders and those who endeavor to plant new churches in Europe today face tremendous challenges, not least because the church itself is considered by many to be outdated, irrelevant, or even an abusive sect. Drawing on a wealth of experience, *Developing New and Existing Churches in Europe* helps to answer the question of how churches can become more relevant to the societies in which they exist. From biblical and missiological reflections to case studies and practical examples, the book gives insights into many of the key issues that church planters and those concerned with "missionary" renewal of existing churches are grappling with. Special attention is paid to the sociocultural and religious characteristics of Europe, which is marked by secularization, new forms of spirituality, and a unique Christian heritage, asking, what are typical barriers and bridges for the communication of the gospel? The contributors represent a wide variety of backgrounds and contexts across Europe and this is reflected in the breadth of topics covered. The chapters were presented during the Mission in Europe Symposium in Belgium (July 2014), and the highlights of the discussions afterwards are also included. The result is a valuable resource for church leaders, mission practitioners, and theologians alike.



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Editorial Review

Review

"Evert Van de Poll and Joanne Appleton's *Church Planting in Europe* is a timely book on a neglected subject. We find reflections on the biblical foundations, the European context, the church planters, and some case studies. It is recommended reading for theoreticians and practitioners."

--Hannes Wiher, Assistant Professor of Missiology at the Faculté libre de théologie évangélique de Vaux-sur-Seine (Paris), and at the Faculté Jean Calvin at Aix-en-Provence (France).

"A helpful introduction to contemporary thinking and practice among European evangelicals involved in church planting, combining biblical reflection, cultural analysis, and missional resources, illustrated with case studies from different nations."

--Stuart Murray, author of *Church Planting: Laying Foundations*

"This publication gives new insights into the complexity of churches in Europe coping with societies who are based on a pluralistic attitude toward religion. It is a good choice to combine the different perspectives of theology and mission strategies with examples of cultural contextualization and the struggle of practical implementations in different local situations. This book stimulates further discussions on the level of mission organizations, but also in the practice of the personal dialogue."

--Pieter Boersema, Professor of Religious Studies and Missiology, Evangelische Theologische Faculteit, Leuven, Belgium --Wipf and Stock Publishers

About the Author

Evert Van de Poll lives in France, where he is pastor with the French Baptist Federation and involved in church development. He is professor of religious science and missiology at the Evangelical Theological Faculty in Leuven, and a mission consultant teaching in various countries.

Joanne Appleton is a writer and researcher interested in mission and church planting in Europe, and coeditor of *Vista*.

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