

The collection of articles offers a helpful resource for undergraduate introductory courses on interreligious dialogue. The epilogue offers some tips for “how to get moving” in the pursuit of genuine dialogue as well as additional websites and resources for those interested in further exploration of the topic.

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A Concise Encyclopaedia of Christianity in India. Edited by Errol D’Lima, SJ. Pune and Mumbai: Jnana-Deepa Vidyapeeth and St. Pauls, 2014. Pp. xv + 825. \$88.

This volume, under the auspices of the Jnana-Deepa Vidyapeeth in Pune, for decades now the most influential Catholic theological institution of higher learning in India, introduces the reader, for the first time in a single volume, to Indian Christianity’s “historical development, practices and living communities” (viii). All the contributors are Indian. While not intended for the theological expert, a great many of the entries have nonetheless been composed by some of the most authoritative voices in contemporary Indian Christian theology, fortunately presented in easily understandable language while retaining considerable depth. Examples are “Indian Christian Theology” by Michael Amaladoss, “Inter-Religious Dialogue” by Sebastian Painadath, “Christianity and the Indian Renaissance of the Nineteenth Century” by Subhash Anand, “Christianity and Buddhism” by Noel Sheth, “Indian Christian Art” by Jyoti Sahi, and “Christians and Human Rights” by Jacob Kavunkal. Factual accuracy is also given high priority: articles on particular churches are authored only by representatives of those communities. Theological topics central to a more general Christian self-understanding are also included, although they sometimes incorporate only little or nothing at all from the Indian context, e.g. “Salvation,” “Sacraments and Sacramentals,” “Eucharist,” “Spirits (Angels and Devils),” and “Mission Theology.”

Some questions and puzzles remain. The originally intended seven hundred topics of this volume were reduced by more than half, leaving the reader to wonder what was finally omitted and for what reasons. Two glaring omissions are “Revelation” and “Women in the Church.” Also, persons are oddly listed by the first letter of their first name or by the first letter of their title, rather than by their full name. The encyclopedia also lacks a list of the volume’s authors and the articles they composed.

The volume nonetheless contains a wealth of information on a geographical area of Christianity that is too little known.

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