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The Religion/Spirituality Shelf

Encountering World Religions: A Christian Introduction

Irving Hexham

Zondervan Academic

c/o Zondervan Publishing House

5300 Patterson Avenue, S.E., Grand Rapids, MI 49530

9780310588603, \$16.99, PB, 224pp, www.amazon.com

The diversity of the world's religions has come to the West, but believers are often ill-equipped for any kind of serious engagement with non-Christians. In the pages of *Encountering World Religions: A Christian Introduction*, professor and author Irving Hexham introduces all the world's major religious traditions in a brief and understandable way as seen from a Christian perspective.

Professor Hexham outlines key beliefs and practices in each religion, while also providing guidance on how to think critically about them from the standpoint of Christian theology. African, yogic, and Abrahamic traditions are all covered. Accessible and clear, *Encountering World Religions* will provide formal and lay students alike with a useful Christian introduction to the major faiths of our world.

Critique: Exceptionally informed and informative, thoroughly 'reader friendly' in organization and presentation, "Encountering World Religions: A Christian Introduction" is an ideal choice for the non-specialist general reader wanting a succinct summary overview of the major religions celebrated around the world in terms of their own Christian beliefs. While highly recommended for church, community, and academic library collections, it should be noted for personal reading lists that *Encountering World Religions: A Christian Introduction* is also available in a digital book format (Kindle, \$9.99).

Editorial Note: Irving Hexham is the Professor of Religious Studies at the University of Calgary and the Adjunct Professor of World Christianity at Liverpool Hope University. He has published twenty-seven academic books, including *The Concise Dictionary of Religion*, *Understanding Cults and New Religions*, and *Religion and Economic Thought*, plus eighty major academic

articles and chapters in books, numerous popular articles, and book reviews. Recently he completed a report for the United Nations' refugee agency on religious conflict in Africa and another for the Canadian Government's Department of Canadian Heritage on Religious Publications in Canada. In 2008, he was honored at the historic Humboldt University in Berlin with a Festschrift, *Border Crossings: Explorations of an Interdisciplinary Historian* (Stuttgart: Franz Steiner Verlag).

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