RESOURCING MISSION: PRACTICAL THEOLOGY FOR CHANGING CHURCHES

By Helen Cameron

Reviewed by Darren Cronshaw

An ideal way of learning the art of studying ecclesiology and ethnography is seeing the approach of other practitioners. I appreciate practical theology case study books not just for what my students and I can learn from the issues under analysis, but also what we can learn about the process and methodology of theological reflection and ethnographic investigation.

Helen Cameron is an experienced practical theologian who, when she wrote this book, had been an active church researcher for 18 years. She was the first full-time Director of the Oxford Centre for Ecclesiology and Practical Theology (OCET), and for a decade taught in MA in Consultancy for Ministry and Mission.

In Resourcing Mission, Cameron argues that we need to understand how the church can be reconstituted in a way that integrates the pastoral cycle and the context of the place. She outlines several practical steps that can be taken to bring about change.

In the first chapter, Cameron argues that it is important to understand the context of the church and the community it is in. She identifies several practical steps that can be taken to bring about change.

The second chapter examines the context in which the church is situated, and the characteristics of the community it serves. Cameron argues that the church needs to be more active and engaged in the community, and that this requires a new approach to mission.

The book is divided into four parts: 'church', 'community', 'people', and 'place'. Cameron argues that these are the four key components of mission, and that they need to work together in order to be effective.

In the final chapter, Cameron concludes by summarising the main themes of the book and providing some practical suggestions for churches who want to apply the ideas presented.

This book is an excellent resource for anyone interested in practical theology and mission.

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