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Tommy Douglas: the road to Jerusalem

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will challenge the long held "pre-critical blue-print" approach so familiar in the past.

Of particular interest to Roman Catholics (though not exclusively to them) will be the tracing of the development of the Church at Rome and its character throughout its early life as a predominantly Jewish-Christian community. Matthew's delineation of the symbolic Petrine role is discussed in the context of the Antiochene community but, the author concludes, "There is no evidence that any one individual in the mid-80s actually functioned in this Petrine role for the universal church either at Antioch or anywhere else" (156).

One disappointment to this reviewer was the treatment of women in the text. On the one hand, the author presents us with much of the recent research on women as disciples, leaders of house-churches, widows, deacons (avoiding the trap of labelling them "deaconesses"), missionaries, co-workers, apostles, etc. The predominantly negative views of the Pastorals are discussed contextually. Nevertheless in a work based on so many conjectures and hypotheses, it is disappointing that the hypothetical reconstructions of feminist biblical scholars are not integrated as consistently as those of their male counterparts.

The volume concludes with a very helpful summary of seven major themes, including Unity and Diversity, the Local Church, The Role and Ministry of Women and Judaism and Christianity. The bibliography is sufficiently brief and specific to be of help to the students and other non-biblical specialists who will find this book extremely helpful.

This book is timely and exciting. It repeats the reflections of Karl Rahner and Walter Buhlmann on the coming of the "third age" of the church and comments: "we cannot use the New Testament or the early church to support or justify Christian division. Diversity within a basic unity, yes; division, no" (198). The author concludes with the hope that pervades the whole volume: "The diversity in the early church and the New Testament writings may be telling us that in that unity there may well be room for greater diversity than was once thought possible" (198).

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Tommy Douglas: The Road to Jerusalem

Thomas H. McLeod and Ian McLeod

Edmonton: Hurtig Publishers, 1987

xiv + 341 pp. \$24.95

Tommy Douglas, Baptist preacher and first socialist premier of Canada, is a life waiting for a definitive biography. This recent one, by a father-and-son team, will fill that gap for a number of years to come. The timeliness

of it cannot be contested, given its appearance barely a year after Douglas' death. The senior McLeod knew and loved Tommy Douglas personally and worked with him since the early days of campaigning in Weyburn, Saskatchewan. McLeod's ties with Douglas continued during the early years of the trail-blazing CCF government in Saskatchewan. The book's postscript describes these personal ties and their impact upon its writing. In spite of this personal affection for Douglas by the authors, the book never degenerates to uncritical accolades, nor does it fall into "syrupy" sentimentality. It is exceedingly balanced and most forthright about Douglas' foibles and failures. Tommy Douglas' life is treated with thoroughness and detail from his boyhood influences within Scottish radicalism and religiosity to his last public outing at the parliamentary barber shop a few weeks before his death. Events and ideas are described, in the most minute detail; virtually no stone is left unturned. The McLeods have taken full advantage of their contacts. A quick examination of the footnotes is proof positive of the thoroughness of their research. The use of newspapers, archives, private papers and interviews of people great and small who knew Douglas are indicative of why this book paints so thorough a picture of the man and his times. Also to the book's credit is its broad and rich portrayal of the political, economic, social and religious context of his life. Douglas' college days, the inner life of the CCF, the town of Weyburn, the opposition parties (both federal and provincial), Canada's political life, his Scottish forebears and many other influences on his life are fleshed out in greater detail. Especially valuable are the biographical details of other important politicians of the Douglas years, such as M.J. Coldwell, J.S. Woodsworth, George Williams, David Lewis, Ed Broadbent and others. Finally, extensive quoted material in the book allows Tommy Douglas to speak for himself.

In spite of these fine qualities the book has a couple of shortcomings. Its very thoroughness, on occasion, drowns the reader in details. Especially, toward the end of the work, one can feel bogged down, as events move so ponderously forward. Interest can wane in this sea of detail. Also, the book is far too silent on Douglas' private life. One senses that he had a rich family life with Irma and his two daughters, but there is a deadness to the material given to the reader in these matters. Of course, authors must make their choices, and their emphases may clash with this or that reader's wishes. In the last analysis, whatever its few shortcomings, the McLeods' book on Tommy Douglas is a most valuable work and will likely hold the field for some time as the definitive biography of one of Canada's greatest practical visionaries.

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