

7-1-1983

## The Sending of God

Wayne A. Holst

Follow this and additional works at: <http://scholars.wlu.ca/consensus>

---

### Recommended Citation

Holst, Wayne A. (1983) "The Sending of God," *Consensus*: Vol. 9 : Iss. 3 , Article 5.

Available at: <http://scholars.wlu.ca/consensus/vol9/iss3/5>

This Book Reviews is brought to you for free and open access by Scholars Commons @ Laurier. It has been accepted for inclusion in Consensus by an authorized editor of Scholars Commons @ Laurier. For more information, please contact [scholarscommons@wlu.ca](mailto:scholarscommons@wlu.ca).

creative suggestions to aid the pastoral counselor in a ministry of personal confession and absolution with the counselee.

There is something attractive about a new emphasis on private confession and absolution. It is a powerful resource in the ministry pastors have with those gripped by sin and guilt. Koehler rhetorically poses the question well: "Does the church have an uneasy grasp of its true treasure?" The honest answer, of course, is yes—at least at present.

There is a difference between mere counseling and *pastoral* counseling. Koehler moves us ahead, at least one step, in the ministry of 'leading the counselee to a new and sustained life in Jesus Christ'.

Wayne A. Holst

### THE SENDING OF GOD

ROLAND E. MILLER

Printed by Concord Canada,  
Calgary, 1980, 147 pp.

*The Sending of God* comprises four of the author's papers on a variety of mission themes. Miller deals with the biblical basis of mission; the Gospel and the church's mission task; a theology of mission to native Canadians and projections on the future of missions.

There is an obvious dearth of creative writing on Canadian mission issues. Equally lamentable is the fact that few Canadian Lutherans have the background to write in this genre. One can therefore rejoice in the appearance of this volume. While it is printed in this country it focuses on both global and national themes.

William Hordern makes a significant point in the Foreword. He implies that a greater focus on our missionary task might serve to draw attention away from many of our insularities and parochialisms. This could lead us to a greater degree of Lutheran consensus than presently exists. That is a hopeful statement!

A biblically-based and Gospel-centred theology of mission is essential to any responsible encounter with this primary task of the church. In general, Miller writes with clarity and care. His "missions tomorrow" material is marked by some rather important commentary on the difference between mission and missions as the central focus of the church. For too long, he says, the church's emphasis on mission (an umbrella phrase to cover all that it does) has blunted the impact and much potential support for a rich plethora of mission activity.

The author believes that the creative linkage between evangelization and social justice in missionary activity is now very necessary and beginning to happen.

For me, the most significant essay of the foursome is the one dealing with mission to our native Canadian brothers and sisters. "A relevant theology of mission must be rooted in the soil of a particular people" says the author. (p. 70) We must affirm the

cultural roots and spirituality of a people long oppressed as a result of our sins and failures as a white race.

Miller continues, "... Our forms of communication and our underlying attitudes about native people have made Jesus a virtual alien to native Canadians." (p. 77)

"We must begin to exhibit a sensitive regard for the positive values of this culture ... while avoiding the pitfalls of romanticizing about native culture". (p. 78) We need to begin to hear the "heart language" of these people. (p. 88)

Some pages of the volume strike this reviewer as being somewhat laborious. On the whole, however, the material is well developed and responsibly presented.

It should be required reading for all Lutherans concerned about the church's missionary task in this land and beyond.

Wayne A. Holst

# The Good Samaritan Society

(A LUTHERAN SOCIAL SERVICE ORGANIZATION)

BOX 8190, STATION "F" T6H 5A2  
TEL. 436-0806

4TH FLOOR, 4225 - 107 STREET  
EDMONTON, ALBERTA

## Community Social Service Projects Owned and Operated by the Society:

GOOD SAMARITAN AUXILIARY  
HOSPITAL  
9649 - 71st Avenue

GOOD SAMARITAN NURSING HOME  
(Mt. Pleasant)  
10530 - 56th Avenue

GOOD SAMARITAN PINEVIEW  
RESIDENCE  
8770 - 165th Street

GOOD SAMARITAN NURSING HOME  
(Southgate)  
4225 - 107th Street

GOOD SAMARITAN MANOR  
10355 - 83rd Avenue

GOOD SAMARITAN NURSING HOME  
Stony Plain, Alberta

*"The Good Samaritan Cared — so do we"*