

BOOK REVIEW OF:
***BARBARA MACGOWAN COOPER, EVANGELICAL CHRISTIANS IN THE
MUSLIM SAHEL (INDIANAPOLIS, 2006)***

By Duane Alexander Miller¹

In this volume Cooper has provided us with a valuable study of the history of the SIM evangelical missionary work in Niger. Chapters are devoted to different challenges and issues surrounding the mission and she examines sensitive questions like the relationship between the missionaries and the locals, the status of health-care missions in an evangelical milieu where evangelism and conversion are most valued, and gender relations. The author does a good job highlighting the curious in-between status of the SIM-born missions today; these have been around much longer than the new crop of Pentecostal churches, but are still treated with suspicion by many of the Muslims, especially those who have been deeply affected by Islamist reform movements emanating from the Gulf.

There are occasional errors, like when she embarrassingly refers to Campus Crusade for Christ as 'Campus Crusades'. She could really cut back at times on her own theological musings, something for which she is not trained. When she engages in critiquing SIM's theology it sounds, well, a little fundamentalist - just the kind of fundamentalism you find on the left, and not the right.

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