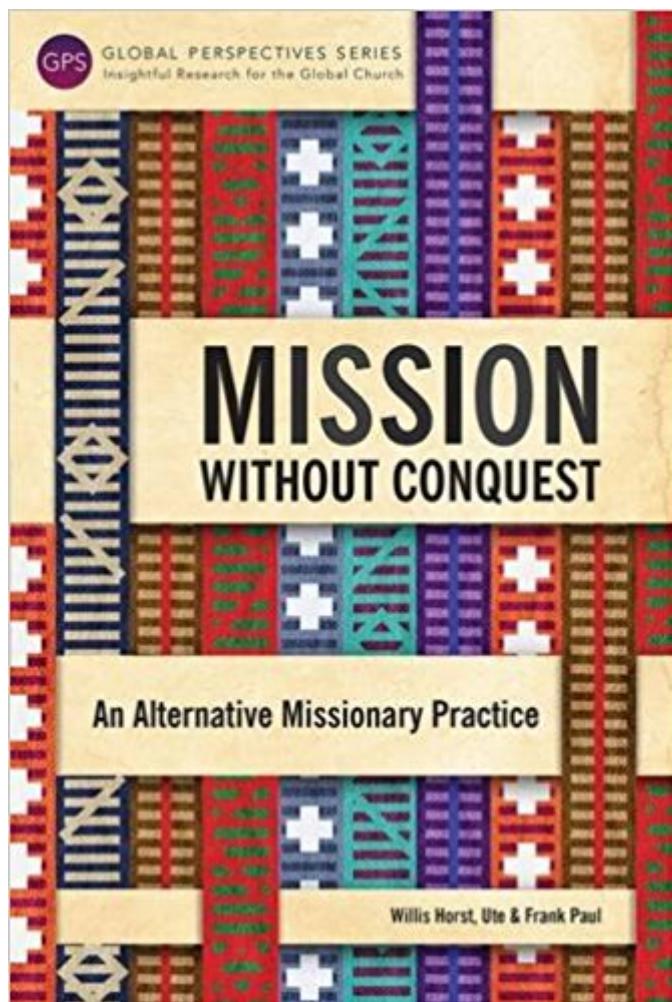


The book was found

Mission Without Conquest: An Alternative Missionary Practice (Global Perspective Series)



Synopsis

Almost sixty years ago, the Mennonite missionary team working in the Argentine Chaco decided to look for ways to be effective in their ministry while being faithful to Jesus' lifestyle and teaching. They left behind paternalistic models and "conquering" methods and were liberated from the mindset of forming a denominational church. As a result, they found an alternative missionary style of walking alongside those they worked with, giving priority to the integrity of the local people. "Mission Without Conquest" is a historical narrative of how the Toba Qom people of the Argentine Chaco followed Jesus' way from the time of their conversion until the formation of an autochthonous church. This book embodies a new way to approach the church's missionary task - a way that makes the mission of Jesus Christ the paradigm for Christian mission until his return.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

This volume edited by Willis and Frank and Ute Paul contains contributions from various key contributors to Mennonite mission amongst the Indians of the Argentinean Chaco. Much of the contents have already been available in Spanish and German. This book makes it available in English. Mennonite mission in the Argentine Chaco has become renowned for a switch in policy they made in the 1950s turning them from conquering to accompaniment. Horst gives us a theoretical foundation for much that comes later. Drawing on 39 years of experience and extensive

reading, he works through foundational principles for encouraging the growth of an autochthonous church. He describes Christ as "the completion and perfection of traditional spirituality" (p136). It is rare for me to find an account that speaks directly to my own practical experience on reaching indigenous African churches. The Paul's long chapter however is exactly that. Frank uses fascinating snippets from his diary to illustrate the actuality of a missionary life that reaches and engages at grassroots level. The church has become the only refuge in which the Toba Oorn can nowadays feel at home, he tells us. Mennonite missionaries refuse to make decisions on behalf of national Christians. Learning the indigenous language is necessary and proves fruitful. Use of the same should be encouraged, and is being encouraged in local schools. Mission should not be in any way conquest. It should be encouraging people who are already setting their own course, Paul tells us. Buckwalter takes us back to the beginnings. Mennonite missionaries to the Chaco initially considered that learning local languages would be a waste of time given the priority of Westernising Indian people as quickly and effectively as possible.

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