**Francis Ferradez** and **Jose Variekasseril**, eds., ***Mission: A Service of Love*** (Essays in honour of George Kottuppallil SDB), Shillong: Vendrame Institute Publications, 1998, pages viii + 392, ISBN: 81-85408-00-22.

*Mission: A Service of Love* is an edited work. The book is a collection of thirty-seven scholarly articles, with the themes that are so bound up with the person and life of George Kottuppallil, a member of the Pontifical Commission for the Cultural Heritage of the Church. Being a historian, Kottuppallil has a deep consciousness of history that made him deeply dedicated to the cause of the Church, precisely to stand for the cause of the people in their contexts. The book is a tribute to his person and achievements, especially to his dedication to the contextualisation of the theological training and priestly formation in India. The various articles of the book look into the important disciplines of Christian formation, namely theology in response to the contextual issues, missiology and catechesis, inculturation and contextualisation, history and sociology. There are a few articles on Salesian charisma while others are reminiscences on George Kottuppallil, mostly by his close friends.

In the Indian context meaningful proclamation of Good News is possible only through dialogue. Dialogue presupposes a correct understanding of the church and the good news and realization of church as the kingdom of God for love and service. The word ‘mission’ is a wide and broad concept. In the background of the emergence of a new world and a new humanity, the church understands her new challenges in the mission of evangelisation. The colonial idea of ‘exclusivism’ in the concept of mission has given way to ‘inclusivism’. So, she calls the present time as a period of New Evangelisation. These above said views of Paul Puthanangady introduce a critical and creative view in the entire concept of mission. The main thrust of his article is an invitation, to shift from institutionalised church centeredness to kingdom centeredness. Kingdom of God is a wider reality; it is a new world in which the love of God is translated into human love, which in its turn becomes the norm of life. The invitation of Puthanangady for a new evangelisation of the church hints at a confusion, novel trends and tensions that prevail in the church regarding mission and the need of bequeathing a spirit of genuine openness and dialogue.

“*New Orientations in Ecclesiology in Asia*,” by Sebastian Karotemprel, looks into mission from an ecclesial perspective. Mission is a new way of being in the church. After a scriptural and historical survey on this concept, Karotemprel says that a new way of proclamation of the Gospel is a new way of being the church, namely, church as a faith community, church as *koinonia*, *ashram* community, dialogical community, kingdom of God, etc.

There are other articles that look at the concept of mission from scriptural dimensions, mission as reconciliation and peace, consecrated life and mission, mission among dalits, contetxtualized theology, empowering women after the model of Mary, etc.

*Mission: A Service of Love*, thus, beautifully sums up the life and person of George Kottuppallill, in relation to the mission and life of the church in India as a whole. Well-studied, deeply reflected and innovative articles of scholars make this book an important resource for theological studies in India.

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