**Jose Varikasseril** and **Mathew Kariapuram, eds., *Be My Witness* (**Essays in Honour of Dr. Sebastian Karotemprel SDB**)**, Shillong: Vendrame Institute Publications, 2001, pages viii + 300, ISBN: 81-85408-00-29.

This book is a collection of essays in honour of Sebastian Karotemprel, on the occasion of his 70th birthday by his collaborators, admirers, well-wishers and friends. The book contains twenty-five essays by different authors, two tributes and a long list of the bibliography of Prof. Karotemprel’s contributions to the world of letters.

 The essays in this book deal with a wide spectrum of topics related to Missiology, Scripture, Ecclesiology, Contextualisation, Sociology, Moral Theology, Liturgy, Catechism, Tribal Theology and Culture. They deal with some of the crucial issues that confront the Church in its endeavour to witness to the Gospel in India and beyond. They also try to help us see beyond the horizons of the present time, location and understanding in ministry and mission.

 Of the twenty five articles, four deal with Scripture; there are another four articles on Ecclesiology, and another four on Missiology, three of them dealing with Sociological aspects; a set of three articles is on contextualisation, two on Liturgy, and yet another two articles on Catechesis; there is one each article on Theology of the Trinity, Tribal Theology and Moral Theology. Almost all these articles try to examine the efforts and struggles of the Indian Church in bearing witness to the Gospel.

 Instead of attempting to review the whole text with so many titles, my present review shall focus only on a few articles that are interesting and closely related to the title of the book. The article titled “Discipleship and Mission in the Fourth Gospel: Philip as a Model Missionary,” by Thomas Aerathedathu vividly presents the Johannine theology of discipleship and Missiology as a Christo-centric and Theo-centric process. Philip is depicted as the model disciple and missionary in the fourth Gospel. The author analyses the nature and role of a true disciple and missionary through the example of Philip. Gerald H. Anderson titles another interesting article “Mission at the Turn of the Twenty First Century.” In the beginning of the article the author attempts to identify the historical sources from which the different Churches have come about and what has happened to them over the past century. Thus, he makes a very interesting retrospect and prospect with details of Christian mission all over the world. He also touches upon briefly the factors and forces, issues and challenges that will challenge and shape the Christian world mission in the 21st century. Finally, he proposes new networks and relationships among churches “marked by mutual respect, shared responsibility, reciprocity, and spiritual partnership with a sharing of personnel and resources, for the advancement of mission given to us by Christ, as partners in the Gospel (Phil 1:5).”

Another appealing essay is titled “Incarnation as Paradigm for Mission in Context” by Mathew Kariapuram. The essay makes a thorough study of the context of the Indian mission and proposes different ways of incarnating the mission in such a context. The general emphasis is on the solidarity with the subaltern people, who constitute the majority population in the country. Recalling the call of the *Redemtoris Missio*, “We are called to bear witness to Christ by taking courageous and prophetic stand in the face of oppressive forces of evil and by using our resources to serve the poorest of the poor (RM 42),” the author challenges the Church in India to make a thorough self-examination as to whether she really witness Christ and his Gospel values in her mission.

 As the book is a collection of articles from a wide spectrum of topics which would cater to the interests of all sorts of readers, it can be highly recommended to students of theology, especially those interested in missiological studies.

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