A SHORT HISTORY OF GLOBAL EVANGELICALISM

This book offers an authoritative overview of the history of evangelicalism as a global movement, from its origins in Europe and North America in the first half of the eighteenth century to its present-day dynamic growth in Africa, Asia, Latin America and Oceania. Starting with a definition of the movement within the context of the history of Protestantism, it follows the history of evangelicalism from its early North Atlantic revivals to the great expansion in the Victorian era, through to its fracturing and reorientation in response to the stresses of modernity and total war in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. It describes the movement’s indigenisation and expansion towards becoming a multi-centered and diverse movement at home in the non-Western world that nevertheless retains continuity with its historic roots. The book concludes with an analysis of contemporary worldwide evangelicalism’s current trajectory and the movement’s adaptability to changing historical and geographical circumstances.

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A Short History of Global Evangelicalism

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# Contents

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Figures</th>
<th>page vii</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Tables</td>
<td>ix</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Preface</td>
<td>xi</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Abbreviations</td>
<td>xiii</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

1 Understanding Evangelicalism 1

2 ‘The Surprising Work of God’: Origins to 1790s 25
   The Prehistory of the Evangelical Movement 26
   A Great Awakening? 32
   New Wine and Old Wineskins 36
   The Appeal of Evangelicalism 47

3 Volunteering for the Kingdom: 1790s to 1840s 55
   The Methodist Surge 57
   Reshaping the Traditional Protestant Churches 62
   The Growth of Evangelical Voluntary Societies 70
   Developing a Global Mission 75
   Evaluating the Impact of Evangelicalism 82

4 The Kingdom Enlarged and Contested: 1840s to 1870s 86
   Revival and the Millennium 87
   Things Fly Apart 92
   Holding Things Together 100
   Homo Scientius 105
   Wars and Rumours of Wars 109
   Conclusion 112

5 A New Global Spiritual Unity: 1870s to 1914 117
   Chicago 120
   Keswick 124
   Global Connections 130
   Rethinking Mission Strategies 135
   Conclusion 143
CONTENTS

6 Fighting Wars and Engaging Modernity: 1900s to 1945
   Three Evangelical Appeals
   Revival and Globalisation
   The Great War
   Fundamentalism
   Back to the Frontier
   The Wider World
   The Great Depression
   The Second World War
   Conclusion

7 Towards Global Trans-Denominationalism: 1945 to 1970s
   Contending for the Public Sphere
   Promoting Global Revival
   ‘The Books that will Change the Way People Think’
   Charisma and Indigenisation
   Re-indigenising Evangelicalism in the West
   Cast Your Bread Upon the Waters

8 ‘The Actual Arithmetic’: A Survey of Contemporary
   Global Evangelicalism
   The Transatlantic Axis
   The ‘Other’ West
   The Drift South
   Conclusions

9 Localism and Transnationality: 1970s to 2010
   Evangelical Presence and Influence
   Embracing Plurality
   Chasing Global Revival
   Seeking New Forms: Church 2.0
   Seeking to Connect: Church 3.0
   The End(s) of Evangelicalism?
   Conclusion

10 Conclusion

Further Reading
Index
Figures

8.1 Line Graph of Scatter of Annualized Growth Rates among Evangelical Populations in 179 Countries, 1970–2010  page 222
8.2 Evangelical Distribution by Region  241
8.3 Pentecostal Distribution by Region  241
8.4 Combined Evangelical and Pentecostal Distribution by Region  242
Tables

8.1 Continent vs. Growth Rate Cross-Tabulation for Evangelical Christian Populations in 179 Countries  page 222
8.2 Distribution of Evangelical Communities by Continent (comparative)  240
8.3 Distribution of Evangelical Communities by Continent  240
Preface

This book is the fruit of twenty years of friendship and collaboration in the study of global evangelicalism. As young scholars in the early 1990s, we came together in an informal network with others from all five continents who shared a common awareness of the need to see the contemporary upsurge of evangelicalism both in a worldwide comparative perspective and in a long-term historical one. The resulting conversations, especially at conferences hosted by the Institute for the Study of American Evangelicals at Wheaton College in Illinois and the Centre for the Study of Australian Christianity (CSAC) in Sydney, proved to be exhilarating and formative ones. They bore immediate fruit in the publication by CSAC in 1998 of *A Global Faith: Essays on Evangelicalism and Globalization*.

Since then, with the manifold distractions of busy professional and personal lives, we have had ample cause to ponder the wisdom of Matthew Arnold’s lines:

> And long the way appears, which seem’d so short  
> To the less practised eye of sanguine youth . . . .

Nevertheless, the field has advanced substantially in the intervening years, through much distinguished individual work and two major collaborations funded by the Pew Charitable Trusts: Currents in World Christianity (which incorporated the Evangelicalism and Globalization project) and Evangelical Christianity and Democracy in the Global South. It therefore seemed timely in 2008 when Donald Lewis of Regent College in Vancouver and Andy Beck of Cambridge University Press suggested that we jointly undertake the synthesis offered in the present book.

The endeavour to write a ‘short’ history of such a historically and geographically wide-ranging movement is obviously in tension with any prospect of achieving comprehensive coverage. We bring to the task our particular perspectives and expertise as historians of nineteenth-century Anglo-American evangelicalism (Wolffe) and evangelical and pentecostal networks in the twentieth-century global south (Hutchinson). Our selection of material should be judged in the context of our central aim of tracing the remarkable development of a religious movement with diverse origins in eighteenth-century central Europe, Britain and New England through numerous subsequent mutations to become a major force

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1 ‘Thyris’, lines 141–2.
in the global south in the early twenty-first century. It is inevitable that along the way we have had to bypass or only pause briefly to discuss many issues and topics that have received much more extensive attention from scholars who have studied particular national, denominational and local manifestations of evangelicalism. We hope, however, that our footnotes will suggest useful initial lines of enquiry for those who want to pursue such cases in more depth. We are also aware that Edith Blumhofer is currently writing a companion *Short History of Pentecostalism* and, although our narrative naturally overlaps with hers at various points, we have avoided detailed discussion of movements, notably in Latin America, that more properly belong in her volume.

The same information and communication technologies that have had a profound impact on evangelicalism over the last quarter of a century have greatly facilitated our long-distance collaboration between Britain and Australia. We met once in 2008 to plan the book, but have otherwise communicated by e-mail and Skype. We apportioned the initial drafting of the text between us, but have worked closely together on subsequent revision, and take joint responsibility for the result.

Among the numerous debts we have incurred we would first pay tribute to three inspirational scholars of evangelicalism who were fellow-travellers in the earlier stages of this journey but are now sadly deceased: Ogbu Kalu, George Rawlyk and W.R. (Reg) Ward, pioneers, respectively, of the study of African, Canadian and European evangelicalism. We also acknowledge with gratitude the encouragement, friendship and advice of David Bebbington, Edith Blumhofer, Stewart J. Brown, John Coffey, Larry Eskridge, Paul Freston, David Hempton, Bruce Hindmarsh, J.W. (Hoffie) Hofmeyr, Timothy Larsen, Donald Lewis, Mark Noll, R.V. (Dick) Pierard, Stuart Piggin, Mark Smith, Brian Stanley, Geoffrey R. Treloar, Andrew Walls and John Walsh. Our sometimes challenging bibliographical demands have been ably met by the Open University Library, the British Library, the Library of Congress, the archives of the Billy Graham Center, and the J.R. Flower and Alphacrucis Pentecostal Heritage Centres. Last, but by no means least, we enormously appreciate the readiness of Helen and David, Alfonsa, James, Sonia and Andrew to support and divert respective husbands and fathers amidst the pressures of book authorship.

Milton Keynes, England, and Sydney, Australia
August 2011
Abbreviations


AICC  African Institute of Corporate Citizenship

AKP  Justice and Development Party

AMP  Australian Mutual Provident Society

BAAC  Business Action Against Corruption

BGEA  Billy Graham Evangelistic Association

BL  British Library

C&MA  Christian and Missionary Alliance

CCM  Christian Contemporary Music

CESA  Church of England in South Africa

CICCU  Cambridge Intercollegiate Christian Union

CIM  China Inland Mission

CMF  Christian Medical Fellowship

CMS  Church Missionary Society

CWLF  Christian World Liberation Front


GAFCON  Global Anglican Futures Conference

HCJB Radio  *Hoy Cristo Jesus Benedice* Radio

ICFG  International Church of the Foursquare Gospel

ICMDA  International Christian Medical and Dental Association

IVCF  InterVarsity Christian Fellowship

IVF  Intervarsity Fellowship, when without country ascription, refers to IVF (UK)

IVP  InterVarsity Press

JHU  Jathika Hela Urumaya Party

KICC  Kingsway International Christian Centre

LAM  Latin American Mission

LES  League of Evangelical Students

MMD  Movement for Multiparty Democracy

mss  manuscript

NGO  non-governmental organisation

OAPEC  Organization of Arab Petroleum Exporting Countries

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Abbreviation</th>
<th>Full Form</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
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<td>OICCU</td>
<td>Oxford Intercollegiate Christian Union</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PF</td>
<td>Prison Fellowship</td>
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<tr>
<td>PNG</td>
<td>Papua New Guinea</td>
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<td>ROC</td>
<td>Russian Orthodox Church</td>
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<td>SIM</td>
<td>Sudan Interior Mission</td>
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<td>SSEC</td>
<td>South Seas Evangelical Church</td>
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<td>SVM</td>
<td>Student Volunteer Movement</td>
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<td>TEAR Fund</td>
<td>The Evangelical Alliance Relief Fund</td>
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<td>tss</td>
<td>typescript in the possession of the authors</td>
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<tr>
<td>USA</td>
<td>United States of America</td>
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<tr>
<td>WATC</td>
<td>World Action Team for Christ</td>
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<td>WBU</td>
<td>Wesley Bible Union</td>
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<td>WCD</td>
<td>World Christian Database</td>
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<td>World Evangelization Crusade</td>
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<td>YFC</td>
<td>Youth for Christ</td>
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<tr>
<td>YMCA</td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>