

However, this series of articles raises the point that multiculturalism is not a finished product and that education, as a strategy, only promotes it. On the contrary, multiculturalism is a social as well as political process, and education assists in defining and clarifying its socio-political boundaries as well as its symbols. In this respect, multiculturalism is an on-going process.

The articles are thought-provoking and timely in view of Fiji's present situation and in view of the need to map out a more peaceful future for its people. It is particularly important for those passionately concerned about the Fiji situation and its people, and concerned about the issues of social justice, reconciliation and peace.

## Book Review

### The Inheritance of Hope: John Hunt, Apostle of Fiji

*Andrew Thornley*

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Reviewed by Dr. Kambati K. Uram*

If propaganda is a major problem with many stories of religious organisations and individuals, Andrew Thornley's biography of John Hunt is certainly one that beats the norm. With his detailed and enthralling account of the life of John Hunt in *The Inheritance of Hope: John Hunt, Apostle of Fiji*, Andrew Thornley takes the reader on a journey through time back to the nineteenth century, guiding him through the regions of Hertfordshire and Yorkshire to the rugged landscape of Fiji to be with Hunt. This is a feat not always attainable by historians writing biographies. Thornley's own style of writing, informing the reader of almost every subject that was of interest to Hunt, from Methodism to cannibalism, lets the reader live over every scene he canvassed of Hunt.

Although the work is, as Thornley states, an attempt to address the relationship between Gospel and culture, it is really a labour of love for the benefit of indigenous Fijians. It lets them have in their vernacular (the book is in English with a Fijian translation) the story of a man that has contributed immensely to the establishment of peace in the Fiji Islands through his preaching and his translation of the New Testament into Fijian.

Thornley's intriguing aim of tracing the life of John Hunt using written as well as oral materials is more than fulfilled by this detailed and scholarly study. Although the work is not breaking any new ground in the use of oral material in its reconstruction of the past, the work is certainly engaged and informed, embracing both the objectivity of the historical discipline and commitment of a truly Christian historian.

John Hunt is certainly not a very easy man to understand. In him one sees a missionary, a philanthropist, a theologian, a pastor, an administrator, a Bible translator, a good Christian, a father and a husband. Yet in spite of the complexities of the man, through a recreation of the world of Hunt in England and in Fiji, Thornley gives us the man as seen by those very close to him, his family and the Fijians: an apostle. Exploiting the diaries and journals of Hunt, and consulting some of the less familiar materials on Fiji, the book is more than just a biography of John Hunt: it is a story of nineteenth century Fiji, of the impact on Fijian communities and landscapes of foreign nationals, Europeans in the main, and Britons in particular. One is also introduced to aspects of Fijian customs and traditions, and the struggle for power and pre-eminence in Fiji in which Christianity and the missionaries played a very significant role.

From the pen of one who has established himself as an authority on the Wesleyan Mission in Fiji, many Pacific scholars as well as many Fijians will be grateful for this scholarship of Thornley. In *The Inheritance of Hope* one is not only privileged to understand a great 'apostle of Fiji' but one also has the privilege of living over 'each scene with him as he actually advanced through several stages of his life'.