

## **BOOK REVIEW: 10 HOT TOPICS**

*Ten Hot Topics*

By Eric Schering

Wewak PNG: Christian Books Melanesia, 2007, 72pp.

This study is intended to address relevant cultural issues in Papua New Guinea. One of the problems in PNG is that, while the Word of God is taught in many Bible Schools, not enough attention is given to applying the Word of God to the current situation in Papua New Guinea. Problems and issues vary from one culture to another. The Word of God is relevant to all cultures, and in all generations.

It is vital that those who teach the Word of God make the connection between the teaching of scripture and the pressing concerns of the day. The Word of God has much to say about topics, such as wife beating, land disputes, sorcery, and many other issues. If we are involved in teaching others the Word of God, but we never make application to the major moral and social issues of our day, we are not being responsible in communicating God's Word.

This study is intended as a resource for pastors, as they proclaim God's Word, as well as for those who teach religious instruction in high schools in PNG. The study can be used by anyone interested in providing instruction on how the Word of God speaks to contemporary issues in PNG.

In this study, the author, Eric Schering, tackles ten of PNG's most pressing social issues. Articles from the *Post-Courier* and *The National* are used to raise the issues of concern. The author then evaluates the issues, from a thoughtful, biblical point of view. Though written thousands of years ago, the Bible is alive and relevant, and speaks directly to our generation. *Ten Hot Topics* is a book for anyone with an interest in the affairs of PNG, and how to deal with them, from a Bible-based perspective.

People, places, and events change all the time. Our newspapers record the details daily. These events raise bigger issues that are enduring. In the book, Schering discusses the following topics:

- Misappropriation of funds;
- Land disputes and land ownership;
- Wife Beating;
- Sorcery and *sanguma*;
- Rape;
- HIV/AIDS;
- Resisting sexual temptation;
- Loving God or loving gold;
- Two who want to get married; and
- Training and disciplining children.

It is vital that we come to grips with these issues, and try to get a handle on the deeper, underlying problems. *Ten Hot Topics* does just that by bringing a biblical worldview into the public sector. It will serve as a valuable resource for those who are keen to see Christianity have a cultural impact in Papua New Guinea.

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Papua New Guinea.