

POSTSCRIPT

HAVING EXAMINED a variety of living religions, one can better grasp the value of interfaith dialogue. On the basis of this introduction to the ways of thought and paths of life esteemed by millions of people in our contemporary "global village" it is my hope that every reader has broadened his knowledge and strengthened his own personal relationship with God. As we face the challenges and opportunities of His New Age, may we grow in respect for our fellow men and commitment to God's kingdom.

Over a decade ago, Dr. Stephen Neill, an official of the World Council of Churches, was invited to lecture on "The Christian Faith and Other Faiths" in the Anglican cathedral of Melbourne, Australia. As a former missionary and bishop in the Church of South India, Dr. Neill's devotion to the Christian cause had long been clear. Nevertheless, at the end of his first address he urged Christians to approach other faiths with the deepest humility. We must meet non-Christians at their best, exposing ourselves to everything that is most beautiful and convincing about their faiths. Rejoicing in all that they possess of high aspiration, we must be willing to go to school with them because they may have something we have not yet learned. If we really trust in Christ, we can open ourselves without fear to winds from any part of heaven, he said. Our commitment should become ever more intelligent and ever more complete, in order that in the last day nothing worthwhile will be lost when God's kingdom comes on earth.'

By knowing others we can better understand ourselves. By recognizing their idealism and spirituality, we can be inspired to deepen our own love for the God of heart. By working beside them and with them we can at long last realize the purpose of creation.

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<sup>1</sup> S. Neill, *Christian Faith and Other Faiths*. Oxford University Press, London, 1961, pp. 18-19.

# acknowledgements

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