

Book Review

**Jacky Lau, Mark Hedinger, and Sadiri Joy Tira, eds.,
*MAP: Missionary, Anthropologist, Professor—
A Festschrift for Dr. Enoch Wan***

Reviewed by Chris Carr

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Introduction

This festschrift volume, *MAP: Missionary, Anthropologist, Professor*, emerges as both an academic tribute and a testimony to the extensive missiological impact of Dr. Enoch Wan. Compiled and edited by a team of former students, ministry partners, and expert missiologists, the book exemplifies excellence in festschrift tradition: a carefully curated collection of essays recognizing not merely the intellectual contributions of Dr. Wan, but also the enduring network of global relationships cultivated through his life and career. The book is as much a window into the evolving field of diaspora missiology as it is a testament to Wan's uniquely integrative scholarly leadership.

Scope and Structure

Like most festschrifts, *MAP* is multifaceted and thematically broad, organized into groups reflecting the disciplinary range of Dr. Wan's influence: Theology & Missiology, Diaspora Missions, the Relational Paradigm, Church Planting, Hybridity & Home, and Orality in Global Mission. The organization is not simply for editorial convenience; it mirrors the interdisciplinary legacy Dr. Wan fostered in his teaching, writing, and advising.

The early chapters situate the reader within the theological landscape of diaspora, creatively leveraging biblical, historical, and personal narratives. Notable essays such as Ria Llanto Martin's "An Introduction to Diaspora Theology as a Form of Scriptural Reflection," as well as Tereso C. Casiño's analysis of creative tension between diaspora missiology and migration theology, stand out for their clarity and depth. Each piece is carefully footnoted, with extensive bibliographies supporting further inquiry.

The subsequent sections reflect on lived practice—diaspora church planting, cross-cultural case studies, and the "relational paradigm" that Dr. Wan championed. These accounts are at once anecdotal and analytical, balancing personal tribute with methodological critique. In particular, the contributions on Chinese and Vietnamese diaspora ministries illustrate Dr. Wan's relational and pragmatic approach to missiology, while also underscoring his remarkable mentorship legacy.

Strengths

Foremost among *MAP*'s strengths is the evident coherence between theory and praxis—a hallmark of Dr. Wan's work and a point of repeated emphasis throughout the book. The editors have selected entries that exemplify a pointedly integrative approach: biblical fidelity, anthropological sensitivity, theological creativity, and practical insight.

The volume is peppered with personal vignettes and tributes, highlighting the truly global impact of Dr. Wan's scholarship and leadership. The inclusion of substantial chapters on orality, relational realism, and intercultural theology, along with an exhaustive bibliography of Dr. Wan's published work, makes *MAP* not only a tribute but a resource for ongoing study.

The stylistic variety—essays, case studies, testimonials, biographical sketches—is another asset, preventing the volume from ever feeling redundant or merely ceremonial. The multi-generational, multicultural cross-section of contributors offers a living testament to the scope of Dr. Wan's influence; *MAP* is a collection that “models” as it informs.

Critical Assessment

While the festschrift format naturally constrains thematic focus in favor of breadth, *MAP* handles this tension with unusual deftness. Each essay, while honoring the central figure, also stands sufficiently alone in argument and research. There are occasional redundancies in recounting Dr. Wan's core contributions—diaspora missiology, relational paradigm, integrative methodology—which could have benefitted from a tighter editorial hand. However, for readers engaged with contemporary missiological scholarship, these repetitions reinforce, rather than detract from, the book's value as a scholarly resource.

Some essays are more accessible than others, and perhaps, given the broad intended audience, a concluding synthesis or section on “future research trajectories” would have been beneficial. Yet the editors' preface and the closing tributes function admirably as both frame and transition.

Personal Reflection

What makes *MAP* especially meaningful is how it demonstrates the ripple effect of Dr. Wan's life across generations, disciplines, and continents. Contributors recount being shaped not only by Dr. Wan's theory but also by his kindness, hospitality, and intentional empowerment of others. As a reader based in Canada, I found the Canadian case studies (such as Vietnamese and Filipino diaspora ministries) particularly relevant and moving.

In April 2025, I had the privilege of meeting Dr. Enoch Wan in person at a Chinese-background mission conference held in the Toronto area, where I reside. This opportunity to interact directly with Dr. Wan and witness his impact on the global missions community is an experience I value highly.

Conclusion

MAP: Missionary, Anthropologist, Professor is a fitting and thoughtful tribute to Dr. Enoch Wan—a scholar whose relational approach has reshaped the contours of evangelical missiology, diaspora studies, and theological education globally. The book's editorial intention is clear: to honor, yes, but also to further conversation and collaboration across cultures and disciplines. This volume marks not only a career but a continuing movement—one in which the “missionary, anthropologist, professor” model is both subject and challenge for a new generation of Christian scholarship. I recommend *MAP* without hesitation to missiologists, theologians, practitioners, and anyone interested in the intersections of migration, global Christianity, and relational ministry.