confirmed the strong Seventh-day Adventist sense of identity. The means by which this sense of unity and identity has been maintained are Sabbath worship services, Sabbath School Bible lessons and discussions, revival campmeetings, and involvement in evangelistic outreach teams.

All of this and more make this a highly rewarding book to study, and one from which much can be learned regarding both missionary methods and practice. In addition it constitutes a model for the research, location and use of sources, and writing of the much-needed history of the planting and development of the Adventist Church in many places. It is the most carefully researched, extensively documented, and analytical study of the planting and development of the Adventist Church in a single country of which I am aware. It consists of ten chapters which may be divided into three sections—the early beginnings; the multifarious issues involved in the development and extension of the church; and a final analytical section. It contains four maps, quite a few photographs, very extensive footnotes, an extensive classified multi-sectional bibliography, and index.

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The movement of Muslim “guest workers,” refugees, and immigrants to Europe in recent years is a phenomenon that has had extensive repercussions for Europe. Many critics view the growth of the European Muslim community as a potentially dangerous Islamic renaissance, characterised by aggressive fundamentalism. This new climate has unleashed an array of critical debates in the public forum often pertaining to escalating tensions, confrontations, and, in worst cases, serious violence and killings or the fear thereof. As such, the European community has found itself in a position in which it must consider what constitutes the notion of ‘European community’. The legitimacy and nature of democratic rights and social laws, religious liberty, and freedom of the press have all come under question in the wake of a changing European cultural profile. It is from within this context that the book Das Christentum begegnet dem Islam: Eine religiöse Herausforderung (Christianity Encounters Islam: A Religious Challenge) has arisen. The result of extensive research by a
father and son team, the book courageously explores Muslim tradition with particular emphasis on the crucial religious and cultural events encountered by Islam and Christianity throughout their more than 1,400 year history.

Opening with the early pre-Islamic Church fathers’ struggles to define the nature of Christ, the book concludes with a consideration of the often resultless Seventh-day Adventist approaches to Islam and the Islamic context. Das Christentum begegnet dem Islam deals skilfully with the pre-Islamic world, the life of Muhammad, and the development of Islamic theology. Critical issues in Islam such as Jihad, the role of women, and the Hijrah are adequately touched. A considerable portion of the text focuses on the role of Jesus in Islam. Extensive references to the Bible and the Koran provide some fascinating and even surprising interpretations and conclusions.

It is amazing how much information the authors have placed in 120 pages of text, not to overlook the appendices alone which offer another 40 pages of well researched material. There are more facts and knowledge pressed into this booklet compared to other heftier books on the same subjects. The text is enhanced by excellent references to contemporary church history as well as an up-to-date bibliography with German scholarly references to valuable works on Islam and its role in the modern world. Considering the extensive array of subjects that the authors address, a detailed index would have been very useful.

Unfortunately the authors fail to address such prominent foundational elements in Islam as the Five Pillars, the Five Articles of Faith, the Hadith, and Shari’ah law. While it is clear that these sources for Muslim faith, lifestyle, and ethics have been consulted, references, quotations or even paragraphs dealing with these bases for belief and practice would have strengthened some of the arguments.

Any comparison between Muslim and Christian beliefs is always a minefield to enter yet it must be mentioned that the authors successfully examine confrontational issues in a fair and balanced manner. Central to their study is the belief that an improved understanding of Islam as a religion—its beliefs and observable lifestyles—will be a step towards forging a more peaceful co-existence between Christians and Muslims.

This text will no doubt be a valuable resource for both German speaking Seventh-day Adventists and Christians at large facing the growth of Islamic communities in Europe.

It is hoped that Christentum begegnet dem Islam will be translated into English and other languages.

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