

American Society of Missiology Series, No. 15

MISSIONS AND MONEY

**Affluence as a
Missionary Problem...
Revisited**

Revised and Expanded Edition

Jonathan J. Bonk

ORBIS  BOOKS
Maryknoll, New York 10545

Founded in 1970, Orbis Books endeavors to publish works that enlighten the mind, nourish the spirit, and challenge the conscience. The publishing arm of the Maryknoll Fathers and Brothers, Orbis seeks to explore the global dimensions of the Christian faith and mission, to invite dialogue with diverse cultures and religious traditions, and to serve the cause of reconciliation and peace. The books published reflect the views of their authors and do not represent the official position of the Maryknoll Society. To learn more about Maryknoll and Orbis Books, please visit our website at www.maryknoll.com.

Text of book proper and arrangement of all materials copyright © 1991 and 2006 by Jonathan J. Bonk. “The Righteous Rich in the Old Testament” copyright © 2006 by Christopher J. H. Wright. “New Testament *Koinonía* and Wealth” and “Wealth in the Subapostolic Church” copyright © 2006 by Justo L. González.

Published by Orbis Books, Maryknoll, New York, U.S.A.

Unless otherwise indicated, Scripture quotations are taken from the Holy Bible, NEW INTERNATIONAL VERSION®. Copyright © 1973, 1978, 1984 International Bible Society. All rights reserved throughout the world.

All rights reserved. No part of this publication may be reproduced or transmitted in any form or by any means, electronic or mechanical, including photocopying, recording, or any information storage or retrieval system, without prior permission in writing from the publisher. For permissions write to Orbis Books, P.O. Box 308, Maryknoll, NY 10545-0308, U.S.A.

Manufactured in the United States of America

Library of Congress Cataloging-in-Publication Data

Bonk, Jon, 1945-

Missions and money : affluence as a missionary problem revisited / Jonathan J. Bonk. – Rev. and expanded ed.

p. cm. – (American Society of Missiology series ; no. 15)

Includes bibliographical references and index.

ISBN-13: 978-1-57075-650-4 (pbk.)

ISBN-10: 1-57075-650-3

1. Missions – Theory. 2. Wealth – Religious aspects – Christianity.
3. Christianity and culture. 4. East and West. 5. Missions. I. Title.

BV2063.B63 2006

266'.0231722 – dc22

2006026286

Contents

<i>Preface to the ASM Series</i>	ix
<i>Foreword: Missions and Foreign Money</i> <i>Walbert Bühlmann, O.F.M., Cap.</i>	xi
<i>Foreword: An African Viewpoint on Wealthy Missionaries</i> <i>Zablon Nthamburi</i>	xvii
<i>Introduction to the Revised Edition</i>	xxi
<i>Introduction to the First Edition</i>	xxvii

Part I **THE CONTEXT OF** **WESTERN MISSIONARY AFFLUENCE** 1

<i>1. The Fact and the Extent of Western Missionary Affluence</i>	3
<i>2. The Historical and Cultural Context of Missionary Affluence</i>	17
<i>3. The Rationale for Missionary Affluence</i>	37
Economic Arguments	39
Domestic Rationale	43
Social Justification	45
Strategic Validations	47

Part II **CONSEQUENCES OF** **WESTERN MISSIONARY AFFLUENCE** 51

<i>4. Relational Costs of Missionary Affluence</i>	53
Affluence and Missionary Insulation	53
Affluence and Missionary Isolation	55
Affluence and Social Gulf	57
Economic Disparity and the Illusion of Superiority	58
Affluence and Relational Mistrust	60
Affluence, Envy, and Hostility	64
<i>5. Communicatory and Strategic Consequences of Missionary Affluence</i>	69
Communicatory Costs of Missionary Affluence	70
Strategic Costs of Missionary Affluence	79

6. <i>Theological, Ethical, and Biblical Considerations on Missionary Affluence</i>	89
Theological and Ethical Considerations	90
An Outline of Biblical Teaching on Wealth and Poverty	98
Conclusion	156
Part III	
THE CHALLENGE OF	
WESTERN MISSIONARY AFFLUENCE	
	157
7. <i>Toward a Missiology of the Righteous Rich</i>	159
Setting the Direction	164
A Place to Begin: Toward a Missiology of the “Righteous Rich”	165
Practical Steps	172
Back to Our Foundation: Theological Moorings	182
Part IV	
FAITH AND WEALTH IN THE HEBREW SCRIPTURES	
AND THE EARLY CHURCH	
	189
8. <i>The Righteous Rich in the Old Testament</i>	
<i>Christopher J. H. Wright</i>	191
A Canonical Survey	192
A Thematic Summary	199
9. <i>New Testament Koinonía and Wealth</i>	
<i>Justo L. González</i>	203
The Setting	204
From the Jesus Movement to the First Urban Churches	207
The Growth of the Urban Communities	211
The Meaning of <i>Koinonía</i>	212
The Later Books of the New Testament	220
10. <i>Wealth in the Subapostolic Church</i>	223
<i>Justo L. González</i>	
The <i>Didache</i>	223
Pseudo-Barnabas	226
<i>Epistle to Diognetus</i>	227
Hermas	228
Other Apostolic Fathers	232
The Apologists	234
<i>Select Bibliography</i>	237
<i>Index</i>	261