

*Mission and Meaning*  
*Essays Presented to Peter*  
*Cotterell*

Edited by

**Antony Billington**

**Tony Lane**

**Max Turner**

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Essays Presented to Peter Cotterell

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## Preface

It is customary in academic circles to celebrate the retirement of a prominent internationally known scholar with a book of essays written by his immediate colleagues and by his more distant friends concerned with the same discipline. Such volumes usually address the research community, and lecturers, sometimes on rather arcane topics. The editors have chosen to offer a different volume.

In the first place, the one to whom this work is presented is no mere academic. That he is a scholar of considerable critical acumen and wide-ranging contribution is beyond doubt. There are not many who can claim to have been a University lecturer in Physics (in Brunel University), a Fellow of the Institute of Linguistics, and a visiting lecturer to Seminaries as far-flung as Addis Ababa, Oslo, Stavanger, Trinity (Deerfield) and Fuller, as well as the Principal of one of Europe's largest theological institutions. In addition Peter Cotterell has served as Specialist Advisor in Religious Studies to the CNA, as external examiner at the School of Oriental and African Studies (University of London), and has supervised to successful completion a number of Masters and doctoral dissertations. A glance at the list of his publications will indicate a range of academic interest that goes even beyond what might be indicated above, to embrace Ethiopian church history, Islam, theodicy and various aspects of missiology. But as we began by saying, Peter Cotterell is no mere academic. He served what many might regard as their more fruitful years – his late twenties to mid forties – in the 'relative obscurity' (from a biased western perspective) of mission work in Ethiopia; from 1984 onwards he has been President of the British Church Growth Association, and from 1989, Vice-President of the UCCF. In short, his academic interests have not been permitted to take over the garden; Peter Cotterell has devoted his best energies to serving God's people in preaching, in pastoral work, and in informed semi-popular works addressing significant areas for the church. Perhaps most notable amongst these latter is his *Mission and Meaninglessness: The Good News in a World of Suffering and*

*Disorder* (London: SPCK, 1990). This work evinces some measure of his wide-ranging scholarship and independent thinking, but also speaks from the depths of the heart, articulating the different forms of the cry of the poor and the oppressed, and pointing to the ways in which it may be answered in Christ. The present volume echoes that work, not merely in its title, but in its concern to address central issues of *Mission and Meaning*. And it is written not to wave him farewell into a relatively obscure retirement (as if that were possible for him!), but to encourage him to seize the benefit of new-found liberty to write further for our profit and our delight.

In another respect too, this volume differs from most such celebratory anthologies. While the custom is to search far and wide for contributions, all the essays herein contained come from Peter Cotterell's immediate colleagues and friends at the London Bible College, including two of his former research students (Keith Ferdinando and Daniel Chae).

In a third respect also the volume differs from the norm. While we have included several essays that would otherwise have found their way into the academic research journals, and all are well informed by theological scholarship, the aim has been to produce a volume that would be more readily accessible, interesting, and useful to (e.g.) the second and third year theological student, the pastor, and the intelligent layperson. The essays address various areas of more general significance for church and mission, rather than being entirely specialist contributions. We have felt this to be more in keeping with Peter Cotterell's own position (in precept and in example) that theology should, where possible, be 'relevant' and offered in the service of the wider church, not confined to the academe.

With this volume, we, the editors, the publisher, and the contributors, wish to record our indebtedness to the friendship, leadership, and example of Christian life and service, that Peter Cotterell has been to us all.

Peter, we salute you on your retirement from the College. We wish you a fruitful ministry beyond. May Christ's love and strength be with you to build up others as you have us.

Antony Billington  
Tony Lane  
Max Turner

May 1995



## Main Publications of Peter Cotterell

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*Small Groups, Big Results: All About House Groups* (Eastbourne: Kingsway, 1993).

*Dealing With Death: A Christian Perspective* (London: SU, 1994).

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## Abbreviations

A1CS	The Book of Acts in its First Century Setting
AB	Anchor Bible
AOAT	Alter Orient und Altes Testament
AV	Authorised Version
BDB	F. Brown, S.R. Driver and C.A. Briggs, <i>Hebrew and English Lexicon of the Old Testament</i> (Oxford: OUP, 1929)
BETL	Bibliotheca ephemeridum theologiarum lovaniensium
<i>Bib</i>	<i>Biblica</i>
<i>BibSac</i>	<i>Bibliotheca Sacra</i>
BNTC	Black's New Testament Commentaries
<i>BTB</i>	<i>Biblical Theology Bulletin</i>
CBNTS	Coniectanea Biblica, New Testament Series
<i>CBQ</i>	<i>Catholic Biblical Quarterly</i>
DSB	Daily Study Bible
EKK	Evangelisch-katholischer Kommentar zum Neuen Testament
<i>EMQ</i>	<i>Evangelical Missions Quarterly</i>
<i>EvQ</i>	<i>Evangelical Quarterly</i>
<i>ExpT</i>	<i>Expository Times</i>
GNB	Good News Bible
IBMR	<i>International Bulletin of Missionary Research</i>
IBS	<i>Irish Biblical Studies</i>
<i>Interp</i>	<i>Interpretation</i>
<i>HTR</i>	<i>Harvard Theological Review</i>
ICC	International Critical Commentary
ITC	International Theological Commentary
IRM	<i>International Review of Mission</i>
JB	Jerusalem Bible
<i>JBL</i>	<i>Journal of Biblical Literature</i>
<i>JETS</i>	<i>Journal of the Evangelical Theological Society</i>
JSNTS	Journal for the Study of the New Testament Supplement Series

JSOTS	Journal for the Study of the Old Testament Supplement Series
JSNT	<i>Journal for the Study of the New Testament</i>
JSOT	<i>Journal for the Study of the Old Testament</i>
JTS	<i>Journal of Theological Studies</i>
JTSA	<i>Journal of Theology for Southern Africa</i>
LCC	Library of Christian Classics
LCL	Loeb Classical Library
NAC	New American Commentary
NASB	New American Standard Bible
NCBC	New Century Bible Commentary
NEB	New English Bible
NICNT	New International Commentary on the New Testament
NICOT	New International Commentary on the Old Testament
NIDNTT	New International Dictionary of New Testament Theology
NIGTC	New International Greek Testament Commentary
NIV	New International Version
<i>NovT</i>	<i>Novum Testamentum</i>
NovTSup	Novum Testamentum, Supplements
NRSV	New Revised Standard Version
NTS	<i>New Testament Studies</i>
OTL	Old Testament Library
REB	Revised English Bible
<i>RevBib</i>	<i>Revue Biblique</i>
RSV	Revised Standard Version
SBLDS	Society of Biblical Literature Dissertation Series
SBLMS	Society of Biblical Literature Monograph Series
SBT	Studies in Biblical Theology
<i>SJT</i>	<i>Scottish Journal of Theology</i>
SNTSMS	Society for New Testament Studies Monograph Series
TDNT	<i>Theological Dictionary of the New Testament</i> , eds. G. Kittel and G. Friedrich, trans. G.W. Bromiley, 10 volumes (Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1964-76)
TNTC	Tyndale New Testament Commentaries
<i>TrinJ</i>	<i>Trinity Journal</i>
<i>TynB</i>	<i>Tyndale Bulletin</i>
<i>VoxEv</i>	<i>Vox Evangelica</i>
VTSup	Vetus Testamentum, Supplements
WBC	Word Biblical Commentary
WMANT	Wissenschaftliche Monographien zum Alten und Neuen Testament