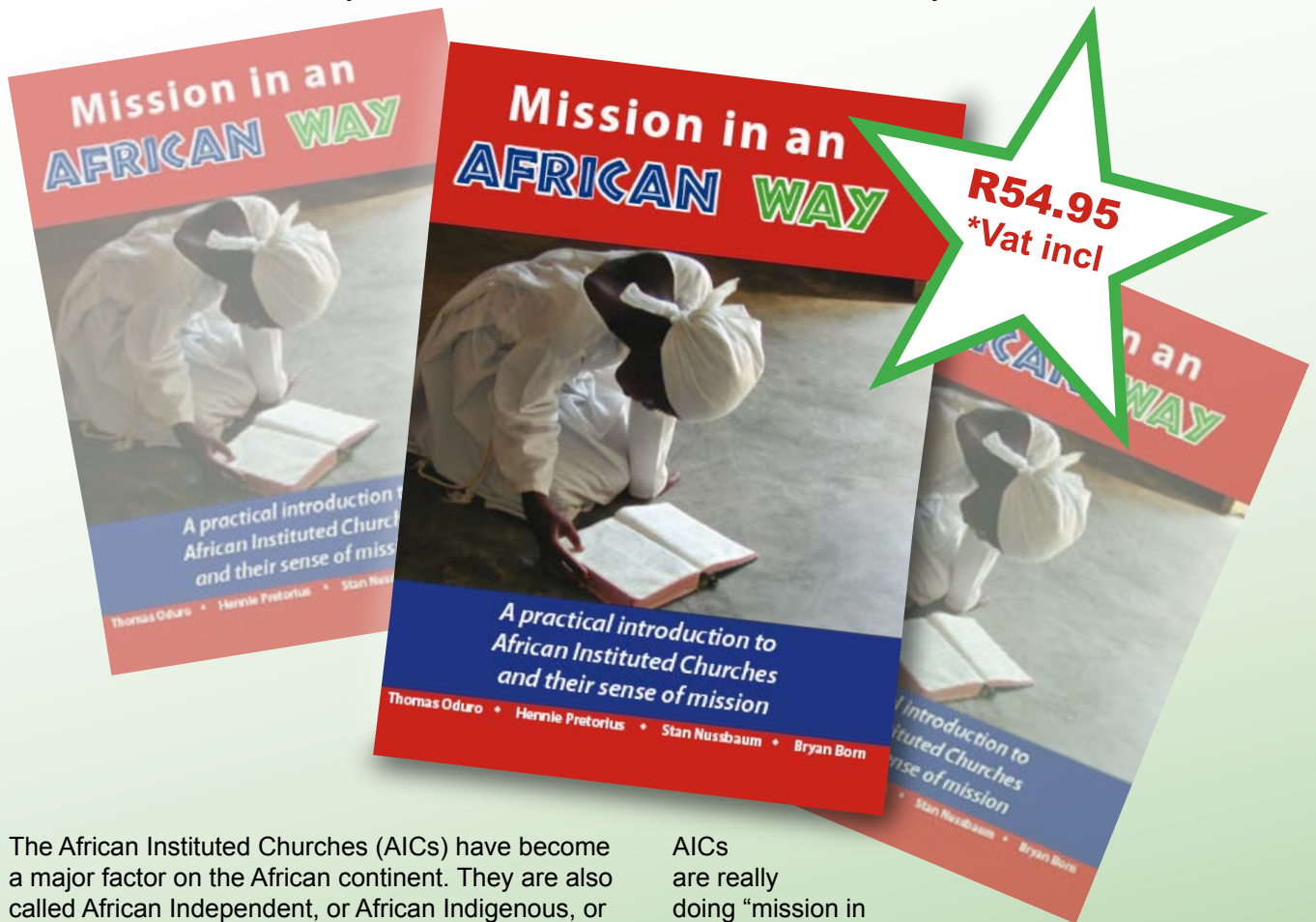


MISSION IN AN AFRICAN WAY

A practical introduction to African Instituted Churches and their sense of mission

By Thomas Oduro, Hennie Pretorius, Stan Nussbaum & Bryan Born.
Forewords by the Most Rev. Dr Daniel Okoh & Prof. Tinyiko Maluleke.



The African Instituted Churches (AICs) have become a major factor on the African continent. They are also called African Independent, or African Indigenous, or African Initiated Churches (in any case AIC for short). They are churches started by Africans rather than missionaries. Some of them are generations old. New ones are popping up everywhere. They come in many sizes and shapes. They often attract the youth, but also older members of the community. They are growing very rapidly.

These churches have become a big challenge to the so-called mainline churches. For a long time there has been a tragic gap between mainline churches and AICs. Generally the AICs were regarded as “separatistic” groups posing a threat to the established churches. Their way of doing was viewed with suspicion.

In this manual four authors who have for many years been practically involved with these churches in their ministry are trying to bridge the gap by introducing the AICs to the mainline churches. They focus specifically on their sense of mission. It becomes clear that the

AICs are really doing “mission in an African way” and that the mainline churches can learn a lot from them. They are obviously meeting the real needs of people in the African context at the grassroots level. They are drawing people to God by contextualising and inculturating the Gospel for African people. Their approach is a significant contribution to the proper understanding of Christian mission and can no longer be ignored.

The manual is reader-friendly. The authors deliberately chose to keep the vocabulary and sentence structures simple. They believe the manual will be useful even at university level, but they also want to reach people at the grassroots level. It will help people in mainline churches to understand the AICs, evaluate them and relate to them. At the same time it is boosting the self-image of the AICs. They will feel that God is indeed using them to expand his Kingdom.

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