

**Commendation:**

This book tells an important story, that of the faithful witness of Baptists in Romania from their foundation in 1856 to the present day, notwithstanding hostility not only from different political regimes but from a state church which found it exceptionally difficult to understand the soul freedom crucial to the believers' church tradition. In the early years activities were mainly confined to German-speaking peoples but when mission activities began to bear fruit amongst indigenous Romanians, problems arose even though the state was officially committed to a policy of religious toleration. A persecuted church secured considerable support from the worldwide Baptist family. Paradoxically, the advent of the Communist regime after World War II brought some relief, though not for long. Persecution, restrictive legislation and marginalization within society caused inner tensions within the denomination. The new freedoms of the 1990s, though opening many opportunities for Baptist work, have not, however, solved the old tension between Orthodoxy and minority churches. This is an important contribution to evangelical scholarship which I warmly commend.

Professor John Briggs  
Director, The Baptist History and Heritage Centre,  
Regent's Park College, University of Oxford  
and  
Senior Research Fellow, IBTS, Prague,