



# The Road to Clarity: Seventh-Day Adventism in Madagascar (Contemporary Anthropology of Religion)

By E. Keller

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In recent years, millions of people have joined churches such as the Seventh-day Adventist which prosper enormously in different parts of the world. The Road to Clarity is one of the first ethnographic in-depth studies of this phenomenon. It is a vivid account based on almost two years of participation in ordinary church members' daily religious and non-religious lives. The book offers a fascinating inquiry into the nature of long-term commitment to Adventism among rural people in Madagascar. Eva Keller argues that the key attraction of the church lies in the excitement of study, argument and intellectual exploration. This is a novel approach which challenges utilitarian and cultural particularist explanations of the success of this kind of Christianity.

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#### **Review**

"This finely observed and gracefully written ethnography is focused on the intellectual life of Seventh-Day Adventists in Madagascar. In its emphasis on the role of Bible study, Socratic discussion and the search for intellectual satisfaction in grounding the religious commitment of Malagasy Adventists, the book stands out as absolutely unique- I have never read anything like it. Social scientists have far too long ignored the intellectual side of the Christian life, leaving us, among other things, flat-footed in the currently raging debate over the relationship between science and religion. Keller's important book fills the gap splendidly and stands as a landmark in the anthropological study of Christianity and religion more generally." - Joel Robbins, University of California, San Diego

#### **About the Author**

EVA KELLER is a Research Fellow at the University of Zurich, Switzerland. She received her PhD in Social Anthropology from the London School of Economics and Political Science, UK, in 2002. She is currently carrying out research on a national park in Madagascar.

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