Cardinal Kasper provides us with an overview of the dialogues which have taken place between the Roman Catholic Church and the Lutheran, Reformed, Anglican and Methodist Churches from 1967 to the present day.

He is, of course, uniquely qualified (as President of the Pontifical Council for Promoting Christian Unity at the Vatican) for this task. He does full justice to each of these four dialogues and achieves the not unambitious task implied in his title - he brings home a rich harvest and as a celebration of the harvest identifies grounds for hope in the continuing processes which have been set up.

He also leaves us with questions. Is anything happening by way of dialogue between the Roman Catholic Church and the Greek and Slavonic Churches of the east, and the Coptic Church of the south, separated by barriers of greater antiquity than those erected by the protestant reformations of the sixteenth century? And, what is happening among the non Roman Catholic churches, outside the conversations summarised in this book?

Unavoidably, Kasper views the ecumenical scene through his end of the telescope - which leaves him at the centre. Perhaps a book with a wider scope is overdue, one which would bring the Christian reader up to date with the activities and labours of the World Council of Churches, for example - are there no fruits to be harvested in that vineyard?

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