



Patterns and Trends in Mission¹

Ted Ward

Outline of Workshop

Monday, Nov. 14

1:30 p.m.

REGISTRATION

2:00 p.m.

TRENDS OF RECENT YEARS:

- Identifying the variety and span of participants' experiences.
- Building a list of various mission purposes.
- Exercise 1: *The Motives of Missionaries*
- Discussion

Tuesday, Nov. 15

9:00 a.m.

Assignment for today: Considering the Evidence . . .

9:30 a.m.

WORSHIP: Reflections on the Invitations of Christ

COMPARING PERSPECTIVES:

- Theological perspectives on missions, church, and evangelism.
- Cultural perspectives on leadership, responsibility, and initiatives.
- Exercise 2: *Comparing Perspectives*

2:00 p.m.

EXAMINING UNIQUE HISTORIES:

- Telling the stories of change.
 - Case 1. _____
 - Case 2. _____
 - Case 3. _____
- Discussion

Wednesday, Nov. 16

9:30 a.m.

Assignment for today: Review of Readings

THE SOCIAL-SPIRITUAL TENSIONS:

- Exercise 3: *Uneasiness and Conflict*

2:00 p.m.

THE DILEMMA OF INSTITUTIONAL SUPPORT:

Case. The History of TEE

Case. Autonomy vs. Dependence in the Andes

Thursday Nov. 17

9:00 a.m.

Assignment for today: Searching for Clues

WORSHIP: Led by the Resident Community

9:30 a.m.

THE MISSION OF CHURCH PLANTING:

- Who Should Do It?
- In case of Neglect, then What?
- Exercise 4: *What do they mean when they Say It?*

2:00 p.m.

SETTING APPROPRIATE PRIORITIES:

- Document Review Sessions
- Theological Guidelines
- Cultural Guidelines

¹Workshop materials for Overseas Ministries Study Center (OMSC), New Haven, CT, November 14 – 18, 1994

Friday, Nov. 18 Assignment for today: Developing Guidelines
9:00 a.m. DEVELOPING A VIEW OF THE FUTURE:
- Exercise 5: *Steps toward Fulfillment of Mission*
- Reflective Discussion
11:30 a.m. END

Patterns and Trends in Mission since World War II: Toward a New Era

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The second half of the twentieth century has been a period of missiological transformation and innovative mission response to a more rapidly changing world. As the engines of world mission accelerated after the mid-century's Great War, all sorts of new ways and means were added to the repertoire of missions and missionaries.

The *Patterns and Trends* seminar will examine trends in terms of increases and decreases within four categories of missionary activity:

1. Evangelizing and establishing churches.
2. Assistance through institutional education.
3. Assistance in local-church context.
4. Assistance through activities, institutions of physical and social participation in the indigenous community and society.

The seminar will provide practical experiences in finding and using data related to matters of mission-and-church relationships. Concerns about the quality of relationships will be examined in terms of the following categories:

1. Source and form of the initiatives.
2. Form, substance, and participation in planning.
3. Sources of resources and funding.
4. Balances of effort.
5. Shares and qualities of control.
6. Concrete outcomes and affective consequences.

One practical outcome of the seminar will be the development of a unique format for the study of the patterns of purpose and procedure within the particular mission with which the participant is most closely involved. All discussions are intended to lead toward increased capacity and skill in the anticipation of the future toward which the particular mission is moving.

Recommended Preparation for the Seminar

1. The *most useful* preparatory exercise is to (a) locate and read a history of the mission on which the participant intends to focus, giving special attention to the statements about purpose and activity for the period from 1945 until the present; or, (b) as a first alternative, if a written history is unavailable, collect, study, and *bring* recent and past documents which demonstrate how the mission is being represented for purposes of recruitment and support-raising; or, (c) as another worthwhile preparation, prepare a 1-2 page "then-and-now" description of the mission, giving special attention to the activities which have been *discontinued, added, increased, or decreased*. You may wish to interview some older missionaries or church leaders in order to add to your own perspective.

2. Find and borrow a copy of MARC's *Mission Handbook, 1993-1995*. Bring it to the Seminar, please. Become familiar with the way the *Handbook* is organized and the kinds of data which it represents, so that you will be able to use it as a resource during the study-hours at the Seminar.
3. Find and borrow any older editions of the Missions Handbook which you can bring to the Seminar. We will need to compare data across the years.
4. Especially for Seminar participants from nations in which North American and European missionaries have been at work since mid-century, write three lists:
 - LIST A: Impressions of the activities and personal style of the earliest missionaries that you can recall.
 - LIST B: Impressions of more recent missionaries.
 - LIST C: Changes in the reactions of local people (in the church and in the community) to the missionaries across the years.
5. For participants whose background is in North America or Western Europe:
 - a) Identify two mission organizations of which you have some knowledge.
 - b) Write a short description of each of the organizations, with special emphasis on what they emphasize about their work. What do they say about their purposes? their personnel? their results?
 - c) If possible try to find some of the publicity, publications, and documents which represent the mission. Ideally, locate earlier and more recent materials, copy them, and bring them to the Seminar.

REMEMBER! The better your preparation the better will be your experiences in the Seminar. Also, you will be in a better position to be helpful to others.

Suggested reading, preferably in advance of the Seminar:

Joel A. Carpenter and Wilbert R. Shenk, Editors. 1990. *Earthen Vessels--American Evangelicals and Foreign Missions, 1880-1980*. Grand Rapids: Wm. B. Eerdmans, 1990. Give special attention to Chapters 5, 7, 8, 9, and 10. It will be especially useful to read and pursue some of the valuable reading ideas suggested in Chapter 14.

Phillips, James M. and Robert T. Coote, Editors. 1993. *Toward the 21st Century in Christian Mission*. Grand Rapids: Wm. B. Eerdmans, 1993. Of special value in preparation for this seminar, please read the sections written by Glasser (pp. 9-20), Bosch (pp. 175-192), Shenk (pp. 218-234), Jacobs (pp. 235-244), Tienou (pp. 245-252) and Thomas (pp. 363-374). Each of these chapters has excellent suggestions for further reading on topics of special interest.

Workshop Exercises

Exercise 1: *The Motives of Missionaries*

Indicate the motives that are most significant for your mission and/or church.

1. Evangelizing and establishing churches.
2. Assistance through institutional education for church leadership.
3. Assistance in local-church context.
4. Assistance through activities and institutions of physical and social participation in the indigenous community.

-- Should we add some other categories?

- 5.
- 6.
- 7.

Exercise 2: *Comparing Perspectives*

1. Identify the theological guidelines that are the most important to you and your church as you face the future.

2. Identify the cultural guidelines (the socio-cultural and economic factors) that must be taken into account if the church is to continue to fulfill the mission of Christ in your area.

3. Identify the three, or your most important, steps toward a constructive fulfillment of mission, as best you see it.

Telling the Stories of Change

(Participants present case examples)

1. Identify two mission organizations of which you have sound knowledge. What is your knowledge based upon?

2. Describe the organization and its activities.

3. What is their emphasis?

4. What do they say about their purposes?

5. What sort of personnel do they employ?

6. What does their publicity emphasize in the “sending” country?

7. What is their emphasis on the field?

8. In what ways is this mission trying to change? Why?

9. In what ways do you think of their work as useful?

Exercise 3: *Uneasiness and Conflict*

1. What are the major points of tension between church and mission as you have observed the situations?

2. With respect to these points, which are essentially cultural differences? Which are more fundamentally spiritual issues?

3. What steps of reconciliation have been taken (or could be taken?) Whose responsibility is it to take these steps?

4. What, if any, spiritual standards and godly witness matters are at stake?

Exercise 4: *What Do They Mean When They Say It?*

1. Preferably from some of the documents available for the workshop or from your own materials and experiences, what activities do mission agencies and promotions describe or point to as examples of church planting?

2. What does the established church where you work understand church planting to be?

3. What different terms, if any, do people in your region use to talk about church planting?

4. In your opinion, what other ways might one use to talk about the assistance in multiplying of churches?

Exercise 5: *Steps Toward Fulfillment of Mission*

Predictors and Quality of Mission-and-Church Relationships

1. Source and form of the initiatives.
2. Form, substance, and participation in planning.
3. Sources of resources and funding.
4. Balances of effort.
5. Sharers and qualities of control.
6. Concrete outcomes and affective consequences.

Which of these matters is the most closely related to the level of trust that exists in the relationship?

What people have the greatest potential influence in these matters?

Considering the evidence of change—is it moving in a useful direction? Describe that direction.

Using the reverse side of this page, prepare and share a “then-and-now” description of a mission or of a church that you know well. Give special attention to the activities or characteristics which have been *discontinued, added, increased or decreased*.

Talk about these matters:

1. Impressions of the activities and personal style of the earliest missionaries or leaders that you can recall.

2. Impressions of the activities and personal style of more recent missionaries or leaders.

3. Changes in reactions of the people of the church or of community people, in general.

4. What do these missionaries or leaders say about their work? What do they say about their purposes? Their results?
