



Key Changes in Missions: Workshop Handout (1990s)

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SPECIAL PROBLEMS

1. Preparation of the missionary
2. Acceptable types of missionary activities
3. Employability of displaced missionaries

KEY CHANGES IN MISSION

STYLE:	from CONFRONTATIONAL	to BRIDGE-BUILDING
RELATIONSHIP:	from PIONEERING	to TEAM WORK
ACTIVITY:	from WITNESSING	to CHURCH PLANTING
APPROACH:	from RECRUITING	to TRAINING
POSTURE:	from EXPERT	to SERVANT
MOTIVE:	from LEADING	to SHARING

WHAT IS PASSING?

Dichotomized gospel
Outsiders as
 Dominant force
 Decision-makers
 Change-agents
Leveraged listeners
Elitist technologies
(Those that cannot be “teamed”)
Church aloof from society

WHAT IS EMERGING?

Holistic gospel
Outsiders as
 Guest participants
 Servant-helpers
Temporary
Equipping and discipling
Teams using simple technologies

Church stimulating its communities

HIGH HOPES

1. Involvement of the church in national development
2. China—focus on re-entry in new modes
3. Contextualization of institutional forms
4. Shifts in missionary deployment (re-discovery of the “frontier”)
5. New modes of missions
 - Bi-vocational missionaries
 - International missionary teams

ROOTS OF CRISIS

POST-COLONIALISM

Sensitive scars
Imbalanced resources
Craving for experience

EMERGING ECONOMIES

Upsurge of control
Demands for partnership

EMERGING CHURCHES

Autonomy
Responsibility
Determining tasks and roles

DISTRUST OF THE WEST

Resistance to cooperation
Suspicion of motives

STRONG PROBABILITIES

1. Immigration restrictions
2. Economic pressure on church
3. De-emphasis of denominational distinctives (Third World)
4. Greater demand for higher education (Third World)
5. Mounting pressure for food
6. Political manipulation of missions

ISSUES IN MISSIONS TODAY

Not MOTIVES, BUT **EXTERNAL** MOTIVES

Not COMPASSION, BUT **DEPENDENCY-PRODUCING** COMPASSION

Not INSTITUTIONS, BUT **UNSUPPORTABLE** INSTITUTIONS

Not MISSIONS, BUT A **REPRESSIVE AND CONTROL-ORIENTED** VIEW
OF MISSIONS

QUESTIONS MOTIVATED BY FEAR

Are we seeing God change his strategy for the world?

Is the era of modern missions at its end?

How can we assure a future that looks like the past?