



Marketplace Moments

Bibliophoria

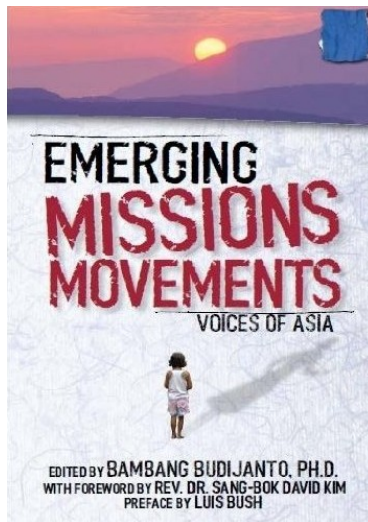
Emerging Missions Movements

Bambang Budijanto

Workplace or Marketplace Ministry has sometimes been accused by certain segment of Christians, for moving away from the emphasis of evangelism and missions, which they consider to be the 'ultimate purpose' of the church. This view is narrow at best and disastrous for the global witnessing of the Gospel at its' worst. We cannot put new wine into old wine skins. The gospel remains unchanged. However, the way we witness in this day and age must continue to mature.

Marketplace / Workplace Ministry is still an emerging movement and have gathered momentum in the past 10 years or so. Holistic missions, championed by South American theologian and thinker Rene Padilla and few others, forms the basis for many emerging missions movements. It is the realization that solely proclaiming the gospel or employing the old methods of evangelism is not sufficient to demonstrate the power of the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

This book is a collection of essays by Asian missiologists and missions practitioners, who writes from the context in the region where we live and work. Lawrence Ko, the new Director of Singapore Centre for Global Missions (SCGM), Chair for Singapore Lausanne Movement and exco member of Asia Lausanne kicks off with a 4K framework for missions and how local congregations can have a mission-



centered vision, both locally and beyond.

Philip Chang, International Deputy Director of Lausanne for South-East Asia articulates the concept of Business as Mission, harnessing the role of business in Kingdom work and distinguishes the less holistic version of Business for Mission. Other chapters include the new 4/14 Window, Incidental Missions, example through the Filipino Diaspora and the Asian Emerging Leaders Movement.

Strategically God is showing His church new ways of witnessing the Gospel in and through every facet and arena of life; from domestic workers and manual laborers to professionals in business, academia, politics etc, each having a role in the furtherance of the Kingdom of God.

Far be it that Marketplace / Workplace ministry is not concerned about the work of sharing the Good News. It is integral to the demonstration of the Good News of Jesus Christ.

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Of the Heart and Mind

Uniqueness of Jesus

What makes Jesus stand out among the plethora of faith options out there? Imagine walking into a supermarket of 'isms' and to freely select and pick the attributes of faith that conforms to our liking. In the highly competitive culture of product customization, we might even pick and choose a concoction that includes elements from differing faith propositions that is uniquely our own. Welcome to the post-modern world of faith.

Is this a bad thing? Not necessarily. At the very least, Christianity has been invited back to join the selection list on somewhat equal footing with the rest. Whereas in modern era, it has probably been relegated to the expired category.

The uniqueness of Jesus today however, is not merely seen through the Holy Scriptures, as less and less people are interested in the truth. The irony on the post-modern mantra is that 'the truth' IS that there is 'no truth'. A concept self-defeating and boggles my mind. If not through scriptures, then what? It is through the 'People of God'. More than proclamation or evangelism, or talking people into the faith, we need to demonstrate the Gospel through the People of God.

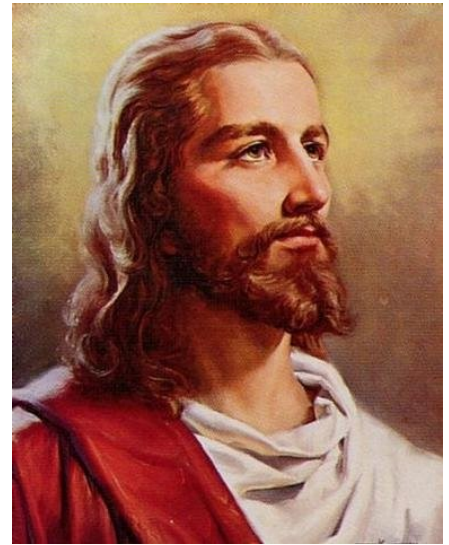
Lausanne Capetown Commitment writes, 'Different religions each affirm that theirs is the way of truth. Most will seek to respect competing truth claims of other faiths and live alongside

them. However postmodern, relativist pluralism is different. Its ideology allows for no absolute or universal truth. While tolerating truth claims, it views them as no more than cultural constructs. (This position is logically self-destroying for it affirms as a single absolute truth that there is no single absolute truth.) Such pluralism asserts 'tolerance' as an ultimate value, but it can take oppressive forms in countries where secularism or aggressive atheism govern the public arena.'

How do we then respond to such a challenge? Capetown Commitment calls for a return to Humility, Integrity and Simplicity. This call is to also reject the idolatry of Power, Success and Greed respectively.

This can happen on a personal level. We get a small glimpse of the idolatry of power from the movie review *Chronicles* (next page) and how in real life, we exert power or influence at the workplace, at home or in the church. Many of us may be familiar of abuses at the workplace. We also see violence and male chauvinism in the homes if we are aware. And, yes, it also happens in the churches where I have seen members or missionaries mistreated under the auspices of spirituality.

Idolatry of success is shrouded in the mantra of 'hard work and meritocracy'. Nothing wrong in and of themselves except to whom do we render the hard work towards? Self or God?



Greed is seen in our pursuit beyond our providential calling. I had a conversation with a fellow brother, both consoling and encouraging each other about contentment in and through our current life situation.

The first half Psalm 73 resonates in our struggle in a fallen world. The Psalmist writes, 'But as for me, my feet had almost slipped; I had nearly lost my foothold.³ For I envied the arrogant when I saw the prosperity of the wicked.' And this 'envy' comes so subtly, slowly creeping and gnawing at our conscious and sub-conscious awareness.

But all these change in verse 16,¹⁶ When I tried to understand all this, it troubled me deeply¹⁷ till I entered the sanctuary of God; then I understood their final destiny.

It is not easy to walk in humility, integrity and simplicity. But in order to show forth the Uniqueness of Jesus, we must!

Timothy Liu

Eyes in a Darkened Room

Chronicle

Directed by Josh Trank and written by Max Landis, the story follows Andrew (Dane DeHaan), his cousin Matt (Alex Russell) and high school friend Steve (Michael B. Jordan). One night they discovered an unknown object and received telekinetic abilities (ability to move objects using their minds).

They started with mischief with their new found powers, making practical jokes on people. As their abilities continue to grow, they were able to move larger objects and even fly. In one incident, Andrew pushes a rude motorist off the road and into a river. Matt then insist that they now put a rule not to use their powers on living creatures.

Andrew grew in a home where the mother is really sick and the father is an alcoholic and abusive. He is constantly being bullied at school. As his power grows, so did a more violent side of him, for hatred against his own father and those around him. It finally culmi-

nated that his father accused him for his mother's death and Andrew started to wreck destructive havoc throughout the city.

The film was seen mostly through the first person view of Andrew and his camera. It did cause a bit of motion sickness at the end of the movie but provided an interesting perspective of the story.

This movie puts into focus the question on the acquisition and the use of power. What if someone has acquired power without purpose? Like the three friends to begin with, they used their powers for self entertainment and pleasure. That is usually the progression in a downward spiral.

As the power grows, it is used sometimes for self preservation or against those who poses a threat to us. It is also interesting to note that this is when the destructive strands appear. Matt attempted to put into place rules and limitations for the use of



such powers, a check of sort.

Eventually, the power was used to destroy another who poses the same power. This is a great analogy of history and the meaninglessness of power without purpose. It also demonstrates the tragedy of giving power to those without the character to use power appropriately.

Throughout scripture, we see that God gave power to the Egyptians, Babylonians and Romans etc to judge Israel and bring them back in relationship with Himself. What we may experience sometimes in the real world is that we don't fully understand the purposes of God and his 'delegation' of powers.

What power of influence, what gifts and abilities has He given you? Do you know where and when to use those 'powers' for the purposes of God and His Kingdom? There is a simple word for this, it is known as 'Calling'. (Timothy Liu)



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