



# **“A Personal Survey of the Land”—Bill Taylor**

**Issues I discern, and  
surely you see more and  
differently**



# 1. We are reading a new world

Two articles: Chris Wright and Michael Jaffarian

Two books: Samuel Escobar and Chris Wright

- ◆ Global mission is re-defined:
  - poly-centric and
  - multi-directional



- ◆ **No, the world is NOT flat; it's bumpy and dangerous**
- ◆ **Yes, we are in a clash of civilizations**
- ◆ **Yes, worldviews are changing us forever.**
- ◆ **No, it's not over yet.**
- ◆ **Yes, suffering, violence, persecution and martyrdom must be part of our curriculum, our preaching, our mission.**
- ◆ **Yes, there are truths and myths about the Global South church. Be realistic!**



## 2. We see missions re-defined

- ◆ New language: missions to mission to missional and now everything is missional!
- ◆ Intense focus on wholistic mission, but are we in danger of losing Christ-vision? Yes.
- ◆ New voices have emerged to speak for God in and on mission
- ◆ Churches are changing, some times too much and to their loss



- ◆ We battle the challenge of the “global mission flavor of the decade”: from the 10/40 Window to Russia, from China to Business as Mission, from....
- ◆ We grapple with new definitions of what is short term, mid-term, long-term, often conflicting with grounded realities of the church around the world.
- ◆ The danger of short-term mission becoming the be-all of local church missions. You can evangelize in mime but not disciple, nor translate the NT.




### **3. Some agencies are recruiting many younger missionaries**

- ◆ **But others are not!**
- ◆ **Why the difference?**
- ◆ **What are the key factors?**



## 4. Some agencies are in serious transition and crisis

- ◆ Crisis of identity in light of growth of church in former “mission fields”
- ◆ Some agencies shrinking
- ◆ Yet others growing with younger and longer-term new servants/partners.



## 5. Churches are taking lead in missions today as never before

- ◆ The mission movement in much of the Global South is church-driven; in Korea both church and agency.
- ◆ Most churches that try to do alone the work of training and agencies will fail—unless they are megas to begin with.
- ◆ Wise churches will subcontract aspects of their mission vision: training and on-field ministry strategizing, supervision, shepherding.



## 6. What is the role of the Western missionary today?

- ◆ A crisis of identity and role in the world today.
- ◆ Wise voices in both north and south call for a Biblical model of mission: the Triune God calls ALL into full mission.
- ◆ The testimony of thoughtful Global South colleagues bears this out: there IS a role for the North. But.....



## 7. What do we say to the younger generations as they ponder global mission?

- ◆ Listen to them, but how is the key...
- ◆ What does a conversation look like?
- ◆ Don't down-define, down-dumb the challenge and cost of cross-cultural ministry
- ◆ Select the right kind of people to dialogue with the younger, and include some sages in the mix!



# Drawing to a close

1. First
2. Then
3. Finally