

TRENDS IN MISSIONS: TOWARDS A NEW PARADIGM FOR THE 21ST CENTURY

AGE OF EXPLORATION	AGE OF ENLIGHTENMENT	AGE OF POST-MODERNITY	AGE OF GLOBALISM
<b>IN THE WORLD</b>			
<u>Exploration of the world and discovery of others and otherness</u> - other as savage, barbarian - conquest of new worlds	<u>Conquest of the world and rule of others</u> - other as primitive, aboriginal - colonialism - stress etic knowledge	<u>Reemergence of cultural identity and rise of movements of independency</u> - other as native - anti-colonialism - stress emic knowledge	<u>Increasing globalization of the world and global linkage</u> - other as us - globalism - emic-etic knowledge
<u>Knowledge rooted in tradition</u>  understand	<u>Knowledge based on positivism</u> - knowledge as photograph  - goal: Truth - it is objective and has a one-to-one correspondence with reality - focus on objective knowledge [cognitive]  - knowledge is universal, ahistorical, acultural truth to be believed - goal a Grand Unified Theory [GUT] based on reductionism  - formal semeiotics - focus on the big story  <u>Supernatural/natural dualism</u> - split between nature [run by natural laws] and miracles [acts of God]	<u>Knowledge based on instrumentalism</u> - knowledge as collage:  - goal: problem solving pragmatism - it is subjective and is self defining  - focus on subjective experience [affective] - knowledge is personal, perspectival and affectively loaded - GUTS are suspect as hegemonic and repressive, deconstruction and incommensurability. Knowledge is pluralistic. Anti-reductionism  - Saussurian semeiotics - focus on little stories  <u>New spirituality</u> - stress holism and inner subjective spirituality, stress holism	<u>Knowledge based on critical realism</u> - knowledge as montage, maps blueprints - Truth/truth and problem solving - it links objective and subjective realities - focus on response [cognitive + affectivity --> evaluation & response] - knowledge combines objective and subjective realities, and should - - complementarity, knowledge is perspectival and context based, but comparison and community Hermeneutics can led us to  the Greater Truth - Peircian semeiotics - seek big story in sum of little stories lead to moral response

## IN THE CHURCH

### Christianity in the West

- geography and religion as paradigms
- west has the answers
- dependency of young churches

### Christianity equals Western Christianity

- western worship styles
- western ecclesiology
- western theology as universal and timeless

### Systematic theology

- focus on text
- literal hermeneutics
- absolute, ahistorical and acultural Truth

### Unity based on uniformity

### Christianity in most lands

- people groups, spiritual mapping
- each church must formulate its own
- stress three selves and independency

### Christianity expressed in all cultures

- culturally appropriate worship styles
- culturally appropriate ecclesiology
- local theologies and self-theologizing

### Deconstructionism and local theologies

- focus on context
- interpretive hermeneutics
- local theologies, relative, perspectival

### Diversity celebrated as *sui generis*

### Christianity a local/global reality

- local/global as paradigm
- local and global interaction
- stress autonomy and partnership

### Unity of church- underlying diversity

- local and global worship styles
- local ecclesiol., global networks
- local theologies leading to global theology

### Meta-theology based on one revelation translated into all local context

- focus on text in context
- double horizon hermeneutics
- approximate truths, and divine Truth

### Diversity given meaning in underlying unity

## IN MISSIONS

### Mission paradigm based on geography

### Mission paradigm: geography, religions

### Mission paradigm: people groups and spiritual mapping

### Mission paradigm: local and global interplay

### Other as heathen, pagan

### Other as primitive

- displace other religions

### Other as native

- dialogue to find common ground

### Other as us

- bear witness, dialogue to find truth

### Civilization

### Culture

### *Sarks, archeon, eon*

### Missionary comes as explorer

### Missionary comes as outsider

### Missionary comes as insider

### Missionary comes incarnationally

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- come as God's lawyer, rescuer</li> <li>- come to proclaim</li> <li>- confrontational</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- come as learner</li> <li>- come to dialogue</li> <li>- non-confrontational</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- come as witness</li> <li>- come to share and empower</li> <li>- hard love</li> </ul>
<u>Message to conquer and rule</u>	<u>Message to Christianize, civilize and commercialize</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- from West to nonWest</li> <li>- sender oriented communication</li> <li>- Gospel is truth to be believed</li> </ul>	<u>Message to rediscover native identity and to dialogue</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- discovery from within</li> <li>- receptor oriented communication</li> <li>- Gospel is experience to be felt</li> </ul>	<u>Message to share Biblical revelation and plant churches in all cultures</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- from above to all cultures</li> <li>- correspondence oriented comm.</li> <li>- Gospel is truth and experience that lead to following Christ and moral transformation.</li> </ul>
	<u>Focus on theology</u>	<u>Focus on social sciences</u>	<u>Focus on theology in context</u>
	<u>Literal translation</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- form= meaning</li> <li>- literal hermeneutics</li> </ul>	<u>Dynamic equivalence translation</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- form/meaning, keep meaning</li> <li>- Saussurian semeiotics</li> <li>- interpretive hermeneutics</li> </ul>	<u>Double translation</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- form~meaning~reality</li> <li>- Peircian semeiotics</li> <li>- double horizon hermeneutics</li> </ul>
	<u>Stress real needs</u>	<u>Stress felt needs</u>	<u>Start with felt needs, move to real needs</u>
	<u>Supernatural/natural dualism</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- flaw of the 'excluded middle'</li> <li>- separation of evangelism and 'social gospel'</li> </ul>	<u>Spiritual holism</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- wholism and spirituality as experience and therapy</li> </ul>	<u>Biblical wholism: evangelism, church,</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- evangelism church, Kingdom, King</li> <li>- spirituality as living a Kingdom life and relationship to God and sisters and brothers around the world</li> </ul>
<u>Assimilation</u>	<u>Noncontextualization</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Gospel is ahistorical and acultural truth to be believed</li> <li>- pagan cultures are seen as evil, Western culture as good</li> <li>- sin is corporate</li> </ul>	<u>Uncritical contextualization</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Gospel must be expressed in each particular sociocultural context</li> <li>- all cultures are seen as good or neutral and capable of communicating the Gospel</li> <li>- sin is individual</li> </ul>	<u>Critical contextualization</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Gospel is universal and must be translated into particular contexts, it calls for transformation</li> <li>- all cultures are seen as mix of good and evil. Must be critically evaluated</li> <li>- sin is individual and corporate</li> </ul>

## TRENDS IN MISSIONS: TOWARDS A NEW PARADIGM FOR THE 21ST CENTURY

### *MODERN ERA*

### *POST MODERN ERA*

### *POST-POST MODERN ERA*

Colonial

Anti-Colonial

Beyond anti-colonial

Positivist epistemology

- knowledge is objective, ahistorical, acultural truth to be believed [feelings, values and community hermeneutics contaminate truth]
- the goal is to develop a Grand Unified Theory of truth explaining everything

Instrumentalist/Idealist epistemology

- knowledge is personal, perspectival, and affectively loaded. [experience is central to knowing]
- Grand Unified Theories are suspect as hegemonic and oppressive

Critical realist epistemology

- knowledge combines both objective and subjective realities, and should lead to a moral response and a changed allegiance
- knowledge is perspectival and context based, but comparison and community hermeneutics can lead us to an understanding of greater Truth
- built on relational sets and stress on wisdom in which different logics are used
- the Gospel is truth to be believed, and experience to be felt which lead to following Christ and moral transformation

- built on intrinsic-bounded sets and algorithmic logic

- built on intrinsic-fuzzy sets [and fuzzy logic?]

- the Gospel is truth to be believed

- the Gospel is experience to be felt

Focus on truth

Focus on experience

Focus on relationships

Christianity = Western Civilization

- western worship styles
- western ecclesiology
- western theology is universal and timeless

Christianity express in all cultures

- culturally appropriate worship styles
- culturally appropriate ecclesiologies
- self-theologizing and theologies must address issues in the context

Unity of church underlying diversity

- local and global worship styles
- local ecclesiologies, global networks
- seeking to find the unchanging theological universals underlying contextualized theologies

#### Supernatural/Natural Dualism

- split between natural [run by laws of nature] and miracles [acts of God]
- separation of evangelism and social gospel.

#### Unity is based on uniformity

- metaphor: photograph

#### Noncontextualization

- Gospel is ahistorical and acultural truth to be believed
- pagan cultures are seen as evil, our culture is seen as good

#### New Spirituality

- wholism, rejection of all dualisms
- inner subjective spirituality
- spirituality as therapy

#### Diversity is celebrated

- metaphor: collage

#### Uncritical contextualization

- Gospel must be expressed and understood in particular contexts
- all cultures are seen as neutral or good and capable of communicating the Gospel, Sin is in individuals.

#### Creator/Creation contingent dualism

- Biblical holism: evangelism, church, Kingdom of God, King Jesus Christ
- spirituality is relationship to God, to sisters and brothers, and the world

#### Diversity given meaning in larger unity

- metaphor: montage

#### Critical contextualization

- The Gospel is universal, it must be communicated in particular contexts, it calls for response and transformation
- all cultures are seen as a mix of good and evil. We need a process to test them and call for transformation. Sin is both individual and corporate.