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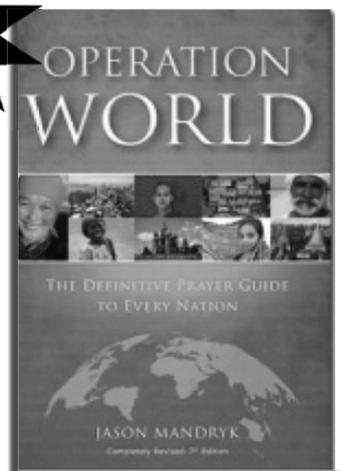
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Kingdom Dimensions: Kaleidoscope or 'Collide'-oscope?

I should have seen it when my daughters visited home throughout college. They reported new ethical issues, edgy slogans, and global causes. The fresh energy and mission commitment on the campuses highlighted justice, AIDS, abolishing sex trafficking, and bringing reconciliation. I hadn't noticed the "mission shift" at first, but church planting was waning, and Kingdom-talk was in. The call was to more relevant forms of international service.

A kaleidoscope of social and transformational agendas is emerging, each with its own Kingdom apologetic. One suspects "kingdom" is rather overused, that it's deployed from many sides to capture different aspects of God's mission. It can mean a "full context mission" to one, to another the "missional" church. Others call us to capture the halls of cultural power or the seats of government. Is it a random kaleidoscope or a well-integrated holism?

Of the four world-level gatherings in 2010, the Lausanne meeting in Cape Town seemed most successful in bringing under one roof the manifold expressions of our Kingdom mission. But each of the four gatherings spun the Kingdom agenda in its own way, and the recognition of four different gatherings seemed to affirm the importance of multiple dimensions of mission, that a single gathering could not reflect the full spectrum of the Kingdom. The continuation efforts will together weave quite a Kingdom tapestry.

Most vital is the way all this Kingdom-talk is capturing the mind and heart of a younger generation. They march to the cadence of Kingdom mission with all its perceived social, political and economic ramifications. While tuned to different Kingdom frequencies, they seem to share a basic Kingdom paradigm. This journal has chosen to dialogue with aspects of that paradigm in this issue. We've asked Bill Bjoraker to unpack one dimension of this Kingdom apologetic by engaging James Davison Hunter's thoughts on culture change (p. 13). This prestigious sociologist's recent book provides a compelling argument that synchronizes with younger minds and hearts in mission today. Bill will break it down in two parts, and we hope to get some younger responses to it all in the next issue.

This younger Kingdom-mindedness is also forcing a wide angle view into frontier mission settings. They often wonder why our seemingly narrow *mission agendas* compete or *collide*. They seem in the hunt for more Kingdom

Editorial *continued on p. 4*

The views expressed in **IJFM** are those of the various authors and not necessarily those of the journal's editors, the International Society for Frontier Missiology or the society's executive committee.

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integration. A previous generation would raise the name E. Stanley Jones when it comes to Kingdom-mindedness. His lifelong encounter with India personifies a wider Kingdom approach that might attract younger hearts (p. 32). Rick Brown reflects a similar integration of kingdom and mission, and offers a biblical schema for understanding the apparent kaleidoscope we encounter today (p. 5). Rick's article will also come in two parts, this first part being a needed Kingdom theology to frame our understanding of both church and mission. Stay tuned.

This Kingdom kaleidoscope creates multiple applications on the frontier. Bruce Graham believes Jones' "Unshakable Kingdom" is the necessary foundation for indigenous mission training (p. 23). Gene Daniels (p. 33) issues a challenge for "marketplace" ministry, one that stretches to the bazaars of the Muslim hinterlands. Is BAM up to the task? And Talman's book review of Miroslav Volf's new book, *Allab*, stretches us

to reconsider our theological assumptions and attitudes when encountering our Muslim neighbor (p. 39).

Finally, it has come to our attention that Hans Weerstra, former editor of *IJFM*, has died. In our salute to his life and work on p. 38, you'll note his role in the build up to AD 2000 and the wide range of subjects this journal covered in attending to frontier mission. Hans gave some early emphasis to the ideas surrounding "radical decontextualization" that would dominate this journal as it entered the first decade of this century. Hans was a Kingdom-hearted guy if there ever was one. He'd be very much in tune with a Kingdom Kaleidoscope.

Could this call of the Kingdom color the next decade of mission? We'll continue to pursue this theme in our next issue of the journal, as well as at our ISFM meetings this Fall (Scottsdale, Arizona, September 27—29, 2011, www.ijfm.org/isfm/annual.htm). We want to explore

how "Kingdom" and "Church" interface in strategic mission on the frontiers. Will they merely coexist in tension or can they harmonize in penetrating the remaining unreached peoples? The answer could determine how an up and coming generation will carve out their mission to the frontiers.

Looking forward,



Brad Gill
Senior Editor, *IJFM*

The **IJFM** is published in the name of the International Student Leaders Coalition for Frontier Missions, a fellowship of younger leaders committed to the purposes of the twin consultations of Edinburgh 1980: *The World Consultation on Frontier Missions* and the *International Student Consultation on Frontier Missions*. As an expression of the ongoing concerns of Edinburgh 1980, the **IJFM** seeks to:

- ☞ promote intergenerational dialogue between senior and junior mission leaders;
- ☞ cultivate an international fraternity of thought in the development of frontier missiology;
- ☞ highlight the need to maintain, renew, and create mission agencies as vehicles for frontier missions;
- ☞ encourage multidimensional and interdisciplinary studies;
- ☞ foster spiritual devotion as well as intellectual growth; and
- ☞ advocate "A Church for Every People."

Mission frontiers, like other frontiers, represent boundaries or barriers beyond which we must go yet beyond which we may not be able to see clearly and boundaries which may even be disputed or denied. Their study involves the discovery and evaluation of the unknown or even the reevaluation of the known. But unlike other frontiers, mission frontiers is a subject specifically concerned to explore and exposit areas and ideas and insights related to the glorification of God in all the nations (peoples) of the world, "to open their eyes, to turn them from darkness to light and from the power of Satan to God." (Acts 26:18)

Subscribers and other readers of the **IJFM** (due to ongoing promotion) come from a wide variety of backgrounds. Mission professors, field missionaries, young adult mission mobilizers, college librarians, mission executives, and mission researchers all look to the **IJFM** for the latest thinking in frontier missiology.