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Mission Commission



Jay Matenga presents... **Mission in Motion**



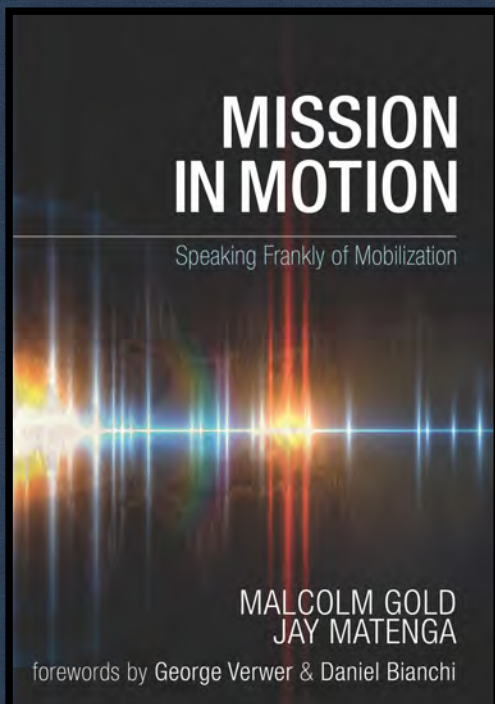
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Mission in Motion
speaking frankly of mobilization

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Mission In Motion: Speaking Frankly of Mobilization

WEA Globalization of Mission Series

William Carey Library

Pasadena, 2016

Approx. 300 pages

Launch date: October 5, 2016



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introducing the research team



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Mission in Motion
the research team

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MISSION COMMISSION

1. Hikari Matzusaki
2. Alison Allen
3. Duncan Olumbe
4. Jay Matenga (Leader)
5. Kannan Rajendran
6. Malcolm Gold (Analyst)
7. Min Young Jung
8. Jo Jowett
9. Carlos Scott (absent)



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overview

project history



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- 2005 Project Initiated
- 2006 Pilot study assessed
- 2007 Qualitative approach chosen,
research team trained
- 2008-10 Research undertaken
- 2011-14 Research data analyzed
- 2013-16 "Mission in Motion" writing/editing
- 2016 Findings to be published.



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research method qualitative research



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qualitative research

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Method Rationale

- Focused on individual narratives
- Allows for more nuance
- Seeks meaning in context
- Analysis looks for patterns in the data
- Reporting draws on the themes which emerge
- ...via the voices of respondents



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research context setting the backdrop



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A Crisis in Mission

David Bosch's Crises in Mission:

1. Prominence of scientific rationale
2. Western Christianity decline
3. Increased pluralism
4. Western guilt
5. Rich/poor divide
6. Majority world theology & mission uncertainty



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Missional Anomie

- Two decades after Bosch's "Transforming Mission"
- At the end of an 'era' of mission
- The future is uncertain
- Three additional factors in mission uncertainty...
 1. Hermeneutic liberty (interpreting Scripture)
 2. Proliferation of theologies (fluid orthodoxy)
 3. Global shifts in Christianity (unprecedented)



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research results
data analysis and findings



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Meanings

● What is mission?

- * Myriad answers + no discernable norms.
- * In a state of flux - the time of Judges 17:6/12:25.
- * Three continuum presented: what, where, when
- * It is for the evangelical mission community to define the meaning of mission ahead.
- * "Extending God's influence in the world"?



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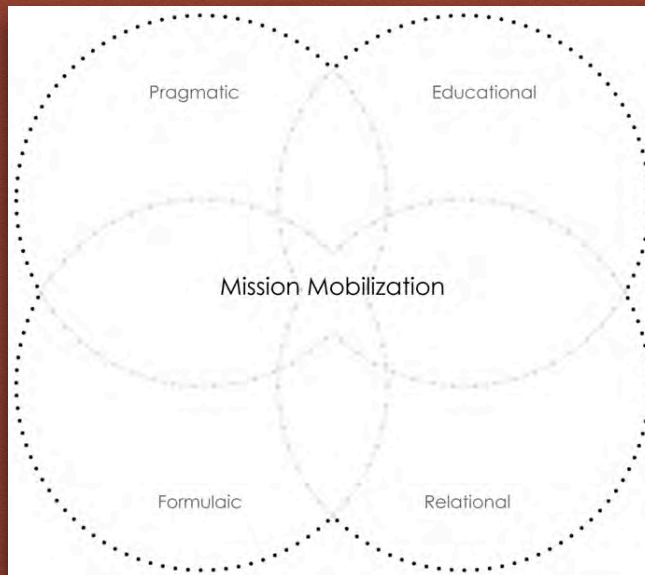
Meanings

● What is mobilization?

- * Military usage: to make mobile for deployment.
- * Historic survey of the term pre/post 1974.
- * Identified major players in mobilization emergence.
- * Discuss the means, models, methods, and mechanisms of mobilization.
- * Identified four interacting 'ideal types'
= Pragmatic, Educational, Formulaic, Relational.



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Accelerants

● Key influencers on mission involvement

- * Influential Relationships
Familial Relationships.
Individuals, Missionaries, Ministers, Networks, Organisation Reps.
- * Education
Institutional, Church, Courses/Conferences, Literature, Books,
Magazines, Promotional Material, Missionary Reports, Hardship.



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Retardants

- **Major hindrances to mission involvement**

- * Funding

Churches, Generosity, Misapplied Money, Control, Giving Education, Faith Orientation, Divine Provision.

- * Mission Agency

Prerequisites, Practices, Personnel, Props, Pitches.

- * Gender

Women as Ancillary, Gender Dynamics, Gender & Leadership.



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Retardants

- **Major hindrances to mission involvement**

- * Sending Context

Church Discouragement, Secularism, Individualism, Prosperity, Time.

- * Spiritual Opposition

Kingdom of Darkness Resistance



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Ignition

- **Vocation: a nascent sense of CALL**

- * Transcendent

Supernatural Sense, Passion/Uncion/Conviction, Gradual or Sudden, A Leading. A "God Thing".

- * Nascent

Initially Vague, Deeply Moving, Grows Over Time.

- * Influenced

Developed by Exposure/Training/Information, Needs Abiding.



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sneak peak
quotes from the inside



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conversation questions



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- ★ We live in an age that increasingly understands and appreciates context.
- ★ Missionaries are in danger of reacting too defensively, thereby revealing self-interest and self-preservation.
- ★ Regardless whether you view history as eras, epochs, pulses or paradigms, shifts happen, and our data reveals that we remain positioned deeply in a new shift... we no longer have a reliable roadmap to help us navigate the shifting landscape, at least not one we all agree on.
- ★ "I realised it's so important to help people practically, not just tell them, 'Jesus loves you but, you know—bye bye.'" (East European)
- ★ I am involved with mission with the Indians I have met. That's mission in the true sense of the term mission..." (East European)



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conversation questions



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- ★ Clearly not *everything* is mission. Participating immoral acts can never be mission, but ministering where immoral acts are perpetrated can certainly be mission. Can it? Even if the location of those immoral acts is the neighbourhood you grew up in?
- ★ "I do not use the word 'mission', because many people think cross-culturally when we speak of missions... In our teaching put everything together... (South American)
- ★ "Definitely, my understanding of mission is that it doesn't have to be cross-cultural; there are needy people everywhere." (Indian)
- ★ "Short term missions are a good medicine..." (South American)
"(Short term trips) are meaningful but only on a certain level." (USA)
- ★ At Lausanne Billy Graham drilled the concept of "whole church" mobilization into the bedrock of evangelical mission.



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- ★ Therefore, we understand mission mobilization as, the process of preparing Christians for deployment into some form of active mission involvement.
- ★ None of us are immune to the influence of those around us, but we are most readily influenced by those we trust, those with whom we have a relationship.
- ★ The pragmatist just wants to apply that which will help achieve their goal. Over the past era in the evangelical missions community, that has most often manifested as 'we must finish the task'.
- ★ As the primary socializing agent our findings confirm that not only are families influential in the internalising of values and beliefs into their children, but also in the development of convictions and tendency toward Christian service and mission.



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conversation questions

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- ★ Friendship is the best way for individuals to influence as an accelerant of mission interest.
- ★ If reality TV has shown us anything, it is how compelling someone else's real life experience can be. So missionaries, be yourself and just tell of the wonderful things the Lord has done.
- ★ The lesson for organizations to learn from our research is to work hard on *personalizing your presentation of mission*.
- ★ What students need is inspiration, motivational guidance as to how best to *apply their sense of purpose* to the information available.
- ★ To neutralize the retardants, we need only to *energize the flame*.



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discussion time

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1. Do you think we are experiencing a 'crisis in mission'?
2. How would **you** define 'mission' and 'mobilization'?
3. As reflective practitioners, are multiple understandings of these concepts within the mission community problematic or positive?
4. In your experience, what seems to work well in mobilization? What hinders it?
5. How important do you think a strong call to mission is for effective mission service? What, if anything, can be done to initiate or otherwise generate a call?
6. Whether you agree with it or not, where do you see mission heading in the future? If it indicates that the 'wind of the Spirit' is moving in a different way, how should churches 'set their sails'?



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FAN THE FLAME

pray to the Lord to thrust out labourers into the harvest



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