

BANGKOK 2007 DECLARATION

Preamble:

Asian and select non-Asian missiologists gathered at the Grand Hotel, Bangkok, Thailand from October 30 to November 2, 2007 to hold the first international Conference of the Asian Society of Missiology.¹ The theme of the Conference was “Asian Mission: Yesterday, Today and Tomorrow.” The purpose was to consider the challenges of contemporary mission as it emerges out of the past, intersects with the present, and takes us into the future, from the perspectives of history, theology, leadership development, and strategy. At the conclusion of the Conference, which included presentations, responses, open forums, and small group discussions, the Asian Society of Missiology adopted the following affirmations:

1. We affirm that our mission as the people of God is the proclamation of the Good News of reconciliation through the atoning death and resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Prince of Peace.
2. We affirm that people are the special objects of God’s reconciling mission, and that those who are reconciled have the privilege and the obligation of living their lives in ways consistent with this gospel and congruent with their specific cultural contexts.
3. We affirm proclamation of the whole gospel, including its practical expressions of God’s love through medical, education, community development and all other endeavors that are biblically sound and contextually appropriate. Although we are aware of both historical and contemporary shortcomings in mission praxis, we acknowledge and celebrate those practices that are good. We further affirm the importance of sensitive interaction with people of other faiths and ideologies.
4. We affirm that all human beings are created in the image of God, are of intrinsically equal worth, and have the right to hear and experience the good news of reconciliation with God through his Son Jesus Christ.

¹ Thirty-nine Asian and five non-Asian missiologists, together with eleven observers, from Cambodia, China, India, Indonesia, Korea, Laos, Malaysia, Philippines, Russia, Singapore, Sri Lanka, Tanzania, Thailand, Vietnam, and the USA, were in attendance.

5. We affirm our interconnectedness as we face the deep challenges of globalization, and as God's children living in this unique era, we acknowledge its remarkable opportunities for mission.
6. We affirm that those who follow Jesus should form local communities of faith and practice which function as salt and light, influencing both their own contexts and serving across ethnic and language boundaries.
7. We affirm that it is the Asian Society of Missiology's obligation to assist and serve Asian churches and mission agencies in carrying out their mission responsibilities effectively. We further affirm that the ASM should encourage the organization of branches to serve as think tanks, organizing consultations, engaging in research and publications, and promoting education for mission.
8. We affirm our commitment and willingness to play an active role in mission conferences and consultations of global import.

Asian Society of Missiology
November 1, 2007
Bangkok, Thailand