

Creative Access Mission: Leadership Training in Asian Context

Response by

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This assignment is very meaningful to me personally. I see the beauty of integration of missiology and Christian Education (CE) in his topic. To do away with dichotomy in missiology and CE excited me, both as a field missionary and as a director of CE of a local church. The integration of the two took me a long journey to understand that they are one.

The key word as I read Dr. Chau's thesis is the word "Integration." I have had this concern of dichotomy and trichotomy in the minds of leaders of churches, agencies, and institutions. The departmentalization of church organization and administration caused the fragmental understanding of the ultimate goal of the church. This has been my concern. In the last chapter of his book "Distorted Truth", Dr. Richard Mouw, President of Fuller Theological Seminary, wrote about "Integrated Journeying." His definition of the word "integration" is personally helpful to me.

The word is used to express the value of wholeness. Integration takes the bits, pieces, and parts and puts together in such a way that they form a healthier whole.

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Dr. Mouw said that a person who has integrity is someone in whom we can see how all the pieces fit together. I see his paper as call to Asian leaders - a call for wholeness or integration in their pastoral or institutional ministries. For me this integration is the initial step toward the realization of this topic.

I will respond to his paper in two points due to the time limit:

First, Dr. Chau's paper, which is "Creative Access Mission: Lay Leadership Training in Asian Context" presents the content spontaneously. I see four important emphases in his topic.

- a. Creative Access Mission. For this idea, "Mission Maker Magazine 2008" backs up the Dr. Chau's point with facts and figures.
- b. Lay Leadership. Certainly, this is one of the answers in obedience to our Lord's Great Commission. Dr. Chau gave us a good picture of human resources on Asian lay leadership.
- c. Training. For this third point, may I recommend Dr. David Harley's book "Preparing to Serve." The content of the book provides the framework. He stresses a holistic training or whole person training. That includes spiritual character building, learning to live and serve with and in community/partnership or teamwork, developing personal perspectives on mission, learning to evangelize cross-culturally, developing ministry effectiveness and others. Maturity or spirituality of a person is more important than personal knowledge or doing.
- d. Doing all this in Asian context. When we say Asia or Asian that provides a very broad or general context. So, my suggestion is to change from Asian context to Chinese context. Even then, you will still have the northern and southern Chinese context for your expansion.

Secondly, Dr. Chau's presentation on three important places - local church, sending agencies, and Christian institutions – to implement the lay leadership training - who, why, what, where, when, and how - for Creative Access Mission is very clear.

The local church is seedbed for mission. Dr. Chau's invitation to 21st century church to revisit the first century church at Antioch is great because the church at Antioch prepared and commissioned Barnabas and Paul to the Gentile nations.

Here I want to recommend APMC's very practical resources to the leaders of the church. APMC material helps leaders to integrate mission with church's educational ministries, which includes all age levels.

Dr. Chau mentioned Christian institutions – seminaries and Christian graduate schools. Their leaders need to train students to integrate their faith into their vocation or profession. Thankfully this trend is happening. More and more institutions gear for every type of students in any kind of ministry (Christianity Today, October 2007 issue has three great and thorough articles on the subject).

In addition to his three places, I would like to add one place to his list of three – that is Christian home. Christian parents need to obey their God-given parental responsibilities more seriously than ever. Christian home should be the best classroom, and Christian parents, especially fathers, should be the teacher to bring their children up in the training and instruction of the Lord (Deut. 6:6-9 and Ephesians 6:4).

Based on my own experience as director of Christian Education in a local church, Korean parents leave the spiritual nurturing in the hands of church's educational ministry or institution.

In conclusion, let me emphasize "integration" in response to Dr. Chau's thesis. John Piper's book "Let the Nations be Glad" clearly illustrates the idea of

integration. Piper integrates mission with worship. In other words, two becomes one. According to Piper, mission is not the ultimate goal of the church, sending agencies, and Christian institutions. Worship is. Mission exists because worship does not. Worship is ultimate, not mission, because God is ultimate, not man.

Thank you, Dr. Chau, both for who you are and for your study. May God use your thesis to train and mobilize lay leaders for Creative Access Mission.