


Asian Mission

Yesterday, Today and Tomorrow

**Compendium of
Asian Society of Missiology
Bangkok Conference 2007
October 30 – November 1, 2007**

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 Institute for Asian Mission

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Preface

It is undeniable that the world we live in today is undergoing rapid change. We exist in a global community that is increasingly becoming interconnected via technology, mass culture, political and social movements, and religion. This global phenomenon presents a challenge for us to reshape the way we think about ourselves, our surroundings as well as others within and beyond our borders. It also points us to a realization that there is a need to move forward with a clear understanding of the present realities and future prospects within a global context. Most importantly, it challenges us to carefully analyze and draw from the past, in order to avoid similar pitfalls and judiciously decide which aspects of the past we must set aside or take along with us in our journey.

Missiologically speaking, changes are exciting opportunities for the Gospel to be transported into all parts of the world. It is imperative that we look at the world from a Kingdom perspective, taking advantage of every opportunity to communicate the message of hope and salvation to all people. Mission history often tells us of the development of Christianity in a specific ethno-linguistic, geographical and historical setting. This allows us to gain valuable insight from mission activities in retrospect, clearly determining the impact to the culture and spiritual mindset of the people. Moreover, this type of analysis serves as a foundation for a theological framework of mission. In this way, the interaction of the timeless truth of the Word and the changing cultural setting of a particular people group shape our theology and praxis of mission.

Asian mission is no exception. Recognizing the dynamic changes occurring all over the world, the Asian Society of Missiology (ASM) convened in Bangkok, Thailand, on October 30 to November 2, 2007, to interact and brainstorm ideas with

regard the past, present and future of Asian mission. The Bangkok conference was the first international gathering of ASM since its inception in Moscow, Russia in 2003. It also provided a valuable platform for frank dialogue between Asian and Western mission, as represented by respected missiologists in attendance. The Bangkok Conference revealed the insights of Asian missiologists as they presented their papers, among them David Hartono, Vice President of Asian Society of Missiology; David J. Cho, founder of Asian Missions Association; Hidalgo Ban Garcia of Universitas Pelita Harapan (Indonesia); Lewis Chau of Azusa Pacific University; and Caleb Chul-soo Kim of Nairobi Evangelical Graduate School of Theology (Kenya).

This compendium is a special printed edition of *Asian Missiology*, which is the online journal of the Asian Society of Missiology. It contains papers and responses presented at the 2007 Bangkok Conference. Readers will be able to catch a glimpse of the thoughts and emotions of Conference participants as they exchanged ideas and experiences.

Special recognition goes to the Bangkok Conference preparatory committee, including David Hartono, Paul Y. Jeong, Samuel Sikitari, Greg Y. Paek and Rei V. Eusebio. Also, special thanks to Daniel Baeq, Micha Pak, Chong Pae Kim with his team and Jung Soo Jang, who all provided valuable assistance during the conference. Heartfelt gratitude goes to Ttokamsa Home Mission Church (THMC), Elder Do Won Chang and his wife Mrs. Jin Sook Chang of THMC for their generous financial contributions and to my friend and colleague, Rei V. Eusebio, who managed the entire process of publishing this book.

Timothy K. Park, Ph.D.

Editor

Welcome Address from ASM President

Dear Fellow Missiologists and Bangkok 2007 Participants:

It is with honor and enthusiasm that I welcome all of you to the First International Conference of Asian Society of Missiology (ASM) here in Bangkok, Thailand. This conference is not only a meeting of minds, but also of spirit and common desire to see the kingdom of God advance to all nations as Jesus Christ commanded His disciples in Matthew 28:19-20.

The theme of our conference is Asian Mission: Yesterday, Today and Tomorrow. As missiologists, the best way to respond to a rapidly-changing world is to learn from the past, drawing from our experiences to distinguish strengths from weaknesses. We have many distinguished speakers at this conference who are experts in their respective fields. Let us take this opportunity to hear from them, learn from them and exchange ideas with them. Together, we will formulate steps to provide the Asian mission community a practical framework for carrying out the Great Commission.

The Asian Society of Missiology is at the cutting edge of missiological inquiry in regards to Asian Mission in particular and World Mission in general. Through partnerships and fruitful dialogue with other regional missiological societies, we will continue to serve our purpose as a think-tank and repository of knowledge and expertise. Let us take advantage of this occasion to establish new connections, strengthen our ties and create an atmosphere of friendly discussion. From this point, we are a community with a common cause.

I would like to acknowledge the dedication and hard work of all the people who made this conference possible— the ASM officers, staff and all the volunteers. Your presence in this conference is their biggest encouragement. Let us also thank those who prayed and financially supported this gathering. To our God, praises and glory!

Timothy K. Park, Ph.D.
President, Asian Society of Missiology

