



TRANSCRIPT OF GROUP CHAT

John Gibbens:

Recent today is that COVID could go on to 2064 or even 2100 and involve billions. Is it not more reasonable to talk about Missions WITHIN COVID

Ian Matchett, YWAM Seamill:

Points to agree with:

- This has not taken God by surprise, we need to stop being dependent on our own strategies and plans. How do we shape the global nature of planning when we can't revert to old structures? Thinking through restructuring and recruitment and adapting to a new way of doing mission. Positive time to reflect.
- Pushing towards impacting
- Should we reinforce, relaunch or pivot? Yes, we need to embrace what is coming in new alliances and more.
- Who should we be listening to? Fundamentally, we need to be listeners and learners not simply those promoting missions but listening to how we do missions in a changed world.
- 5 – 10-year strategic plans are not possible, time to take stock and reflect with the Lord for the future.
- Flexibility and agility are key in this new season.

Not much to disagree with.

- International strife is not something new.

Questions to push back to the speakers?

- Listening to non-western voices, who are they? Who would we recommend?

Helen Kovacs: Group 6

- Agreement - rest of the world are looking at us very differently, need to acknowledge that. Need for humility, to be prepared to listen, take it on the chin where we've messed up. Be ready to adapt our models, not based on superior thinking, but humility to work with partners on the ground. Look at what we have done so far to build capacity. Not enough conversations looking at how future could be completely different, more focussed on "when can we get back to normal". Changes are going to be more significant than people think - it is not a blip (blizzard/winter/ice age). Acceleration of localization, agility, diaspora, digitalisation.
- People tend to be more resilient than we think, because they have to be and come up with different solutions that we might, which will also likely be more sustainable. Need to evaluate the appropriateness of projects from the point of view of the receivers.
- Question: Will people still want our services when they cost and don't come "with the money"?

Chris Howles: Group 10

What struck us?

- Don't waste a good crisis! Communication harder but also becoming more diverse, perhaps even more effective
- Geopolitical reshaping of the world – what 'pax' is there now that might facilitate the wide spread of the gospel?
- Many reasons to be pessimistic (humanly-speaking), and yet with agility, thoughtfulness, nimbleness and prayer, new growth can come from that.
- Struggles in fund-raising.

Questions:

- Relationship between virus and anthropocentric destruction of environment
- How far have agencies gone in restructuring financial models?
- How, practically-speaking, do we listen to other voices for whom our 'new norm' is their 'norm'?
- Expectations of financial pressures in the months and years to come. How to use money wisely, how to make tough and painful decisions.

Kevin Wren - Interserve GBI:

What resonates well with you?

- Zoonotic diseases
- Poor will be affected
- Our theology of suffering – teaching in the local church by agencies; hearing from voices where persecution is normative

Are there points you fundamentally disagree with?

- Lots of stuff in the first two talks were repeating what we know
- Unclear with some of the things that Hans said such as fundraising, etc

What questions are emerging from what you heard?

- What is the place of social action
- Visas harder to get
- What happens to missionary redundancies
- Pressure on long-term opportunities and so more of a view of short-term

How do we change as an organisation?

- Shift in calling, travelling opportunities
- Less deterministic view of the world
- We can see the whole world now which fuels our choice / access to information
- What do we do if we don't send anyone next year?
- Working with the local church
- The risk is no different in a pandemic

Philippe Ndabananiye:

- lots of agreement, being in listening mode is important more than ever.
- most of what we've heard today isn't new but heightened the importance to adapt and take action
- we need to become more agile in organisation but how do we do this practically?
- GC could help us dig deeper on the impact on funding, training, working as ministries globally

Neil Brighton:

What resonates?

- Most things: need for agility and innovation. Covid is here to stay. There is no more money to come from the UK church. Leadership models, we don't know what to do but we can be agile.

Disagree with:

- Covid is not a gift, though it maybe is an opportunity

What are we doing?

- Small group looking at 'over the horizon stuff'. We need to plan for the future, whilst doing what we can. We need to adjust to being mostly digital and only occasionally physical.

Also:

- We recognise that the centre is not the UK but how we work through the implications so we are good international partners - this is not easy.

Mhairi Hamilton:

What struck us?

- who are we listening to? recognising even our own communities, e.g. working with disabilities or those on the fringe and listening and reflecting on their experiences and insights;
- Jesus spent time with those on the fringes - powerful voice, and we could refocus
- the sense that the world was already changing - can identify, e.g. in our own experiences and the challenge is how to adapt
- provocative but helpful reflections "don't waste a good crisis" and "COVID19 is a gift from God". Not sure how our churches might respond to some of these thoughts but really provoke useful reflection and discussion.
- Thought all three speakers were really thought provoking and insightful

Claire Franks:

- Look elsewhere for what's normal; rediscover God's narrative for new normal; don't waste a good crisis – it has accelerated changes which has already been happening; pivot is now important!; crisis - gift to pause and reflect; we don't know what's happening.
- Society is trying to get back to normal! (though we need not to!)
- Have felt busier now than before so hard to pause and reflect
- Fundraising – there is a lot of money out there.
- There is a real uncertainty.
- How do we pivot? What does that look like? What does that involve?

Derek Burnside:

Suggestions for Webinars: Contextualisation v indigenisation

John Gibbens:

If nationals disagree with a mission, as per the mention of Eddie A, they find it impossible to get listened to. The larger the mission, the more impossible it is. How can this be addressed and put right? If we do not, any such idea is great, but we have to go further than that.

Mhairi Hamilton:

Questions around...

- How do we build new partnerships/ collaborate with partners in virtual ways where we work with relationships?
- How do we support local partners with practical and logistic challenges to engaging with virtual tools, which by their nature are more accessible for us in the West? (technology which supports online platforms, costs for data)
- How do we harness digital resources and use them helpfully (without dictating / driving the conversation)?
- With growth in focus on virtual community/ less travel, how do we build a sense of community and relationships?
- How do we capture some of the benefits of previous activities, e.g. short-term mission, as we pivot/ realign?

Evan Winter: Group 3

What do I agree with?

- People who understand the times and how to respond, e.g. R & D.
- VUCA – learning from those who have lived in areas routinely affected by uncertainties, fragility.
- New funding model required – now becoming a priority.
- Trusting too much in our own plans, etc. but become more sensitive to the HS. Measurement of success.
- Don't waste this crisis – God will let it go on until we have learnt what He wants to teach us.

Shape and involvement of diaspora ministry?

- Change of funding

Did anything jar with any of us?

- There is more money in the church but it's in our pockets. Is God teaching us that we have used the funds inappropriately in some instances.

What are we going to need to change in our organisations?

- Travel? What are the reasons for the travel? Is it still absolutely necessary?
- Developing good regimes of spiritual disciplines. More times in solitude and key relationships
- Agility – yet balanced with following a strategy / vision. Dynamic tension.

Doug Wakeling:

What guidance could you give to UK church mission groups on how to spend their mission budget in the current climate?

Jenny Smyth:

Thank you for a stimulating and helpful session...looking forward to the next...

Gordon Temple:

Thank you JBB and team. An inspiring afternoon. God bless you all.