



## MISSION BEYOND COVID-19

### Kang-San Tan: BMS and Mission Beyond Covid-19 | 21.07.2020

#### 1. Financial Planning and Risk Monitoring

- a. xxx FT/PT English Baptists ministers might be made redundant, churches losing income, while thankful that there is some stability with retired and elderly donors.
- b. 2021: in our assumptions for next year there is an anticipation of an investment of £xxx for establishing a sustainable strategy.
  - i. 5 Year Financial Scenario Planning, BMS will have to take steps to reduce costs and mitigate the losses, assess the potential risk to BMS and its long-term financial security.
  - ii. Nerve centre is a flexible structure that concentrates leadership skills and capabilities that gives leaders the best chance of getting ahead of events rather than reacting to them. Weekly strategic level discussions among Directors.
- c. Disproportionate impact among non-Western churches and partners, yet we were humbled by generosity of regional sharing.

#### 2. Lack of gospel penetration among World Religions and rapid growth of non-Western missions

- a. Christianity was relatively successful in African, Latin America, less so in Asia, certainly not impacting World Religions. Generally, less than 1% of Muslims, 2-3% of Hindus and Buddhists come to Christ.
- b. International missions, local missions and denominational missions.
  - i. Passing the baton of mission leadership and best practices
  - ii. Focus on healthy, reciprocal relationships with local leaderships

#### 3. Practical illustrations of Co-creating new ways for local missions leadership

- a. Catalysing new platforms/spaces for global south2south missions. APBF. The future of collaborations is dependence on missional leadership of global south churches. Many are leading in new initiatives, but we want to increase both the number as well as quality of missional endeavours. Story of my first meeting with the General Secretary of Baptist leader in a partner country, who were introduced to me as the General Director, but the rest of the conversation, he was looking to my Western colleague for input.
- b. Post Covid and Building local capacity – BMS reduced partnerships from over 80-90 partner organisations, to less than 60 partners, and we might prune further, to focus on local sustainability, growth in impact. Regional learnings from one another. Divisions between partner organisations who were competing for precious support from international grant making partners. The Western partner used to be the centre for relationships, but our relationship will continue to

be transactional, and though we speak of local sustainability, our structures, actions and current approaches still rely BMS being the initiator, driver.

- c. Polycentric missions recognise the need to co-create new sending and receiving platforms between South and South missions, for example Brazilian Baptist to work in West Asian Muslim country; BMS Kolkata to be a facilitating hub to bring new partnerships, working to co-appoint an Asian leader who are embedded within Asia Pacific Baptist Federation to facilitate the sending and receiving between Asian Baptists, who is a member of BMS in Asia, nor do we line manage these leaders. Concept of “decentred interconnectedness”.
- d. Growing younger missional leaders. Gender equality, creation stewardship, Discipleship Making Movements, Church Community Mobilisations.
- e. Training leaders who will impact their organisations as well as impact BMS structures.

#### **4. Diversities of leadership among Western missions.**

- a. International Missions, Denominational Missions – question of polycentric leadership within UK charities- from Board of Trustees, Executive Leadership to middle managers/leaders. Many missions were looking for new strategy, when what God is saying is to focus on the right people, and the best people to bear witness within world religious blocks are local witnesses, local communities and local missions.
- b. Role of BMS – shift our focus from Western mission workers to local partners, and local church mission leadership. Kolkata, Beirut, north Africa.
- c. Question of culture. We assume what is biblical, what is Christian, and what are best practices are something we grew up with. Diasporas and minorities are often quite tired, and the future seems to be separate missions?