

MISSION BEYOND COVID-19: NOW WHAT?

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Introduction and Recap

- Covid-19 is an accelerator (Jay Matenga: Session 2)
- The disruption we are going through is normal for most of the world (Michael Stroope: Session 1)
- God's mission continues
- Mission agencies are a modern strategy for involvement in God's mission (Walls, 2002, 28)
- The Western mission movement is in its old age (Walls, 1996, 255)

Two Key Questions for Agencies

- Are we viable?
- Are we relevant?

Are We Viable?

- Some agencies will not survive
- There are too many agencies and the flow of funding is uneven (Arthur, 2019a)
- Ministry is more important than structures
- Agencies need to ask the question

Are We Relevant?

- The missionaries have returned, but churches have remained (Hans Walter Ritter)
- What do we need?
 - A missiology based on the whole of the Bible, not just NT proof-texts (Jay Matenga, Rosalee Velloso Ewell: session 2)
 - To be countercultural (a rejection of modernist, industrial missiology)
 - Real partnerships at all levels of the organisation (Kang-San Tan: Session 2)
 - Less brand protection.
- How do we get there? (From chat questions)
 - Charity governance pushes us to as the viability question but to spend less time on the relevancy one (Arthur 2019b)
 - Change won't happen without determined effort. We need to recognise the need for change and take steps to make it happen. Executive teams (not boards) will need to make this happen.
 - Listening to other voices is key. This is more than field reports from missionaries and partners.
 - This means changing board and executive leadership recruitment. Can GC and the Centre for Missionaries from the Majority World help?
 - We need to change the way that we run our leadership and board meetings
 - We need to change what we define as success and what we measure

References

Arthur, E. D. (2019a) A snapshot of mission agencies in the UK in 2019 [Online resource available at: https://www.kouya.net/?page_id=10397]

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Walls, A.F. (2002) *The cross-cultural process in Christian history: studies in the transmission and appropriation of faith*. Orbis Books, Maryknoll.