

HANDOUT FOR

WORLD CHRISTIANS: JESUS' PEOPLE IN ASIA, AFRICA, AND LATIN AMERICA

Miriam Adeney

In this session we will hear stories, some drawn from Miriam Adeney's books like *Wealth, Women, and God* which is about the Arabian Gulf, and *Kingdom Without Borders* which is about real Christians on five continents in the 21st century, and *God's Foreign Policy: How to help the World's Poor*.

Jesus' people are alive today all over the world. Over 60% of the world's Christians live in Asia, Africa, or Latin America. At least eighty million Chinese inside China call Jesus Lord, and millions more Chinese around the globe. Africa has 350 million Christians. Latin American evangelicals support 10,000 of their own foreign missionaries. Clearly the North-Western world does not control the Church of Jesus Christ anymore (if it ever did). The Spirit of God moves on its own terms, and people are transformed--men and women, young and old, educated and nonliterate. They reach out in witness in their own ways to their own circles. And far across borders.

So has Christian mission been accomplished? Are foreign missionaries no longer needed?

Huge regions are full of people who have never heard the good news that God has come close to us in Jesus. Like Pakistan, with 185 million people. Local Christians may witness vibrantly. But they need partners.

Obviously, such partnership requires humility, which was always crucial in authentic mission, but never more than now.

Beyond Christian witness, what are the issues we need to tackle together? Poverty. Religious pluralism. Persecution and martyrdom. Contextualized discipleship. Ethnotheologies. Leadership training programs. Globalization and diasporas (200 million people live outside the countries where they were born). Justice. Violence and conflict-resolution. Ecology. Gender. Arts. The next generation.

Hurting people and gifted people are everywhere, and among them we will find God's grace, touching, teaching, comforting, empowering. New stories are being born every day. In this session we will explore these stories and issues.