



**INTERVARSITY**  
URBANA15

**Seminar: Holistic Missions and Community  
Development from an African Perspective**



*#urbana15*

# Seminar: Holistic Missions and Community Development from an African Perspective

28 December, 3:30-4:30pm  
Embassy Suites Hotel, Laurel Ballroom  
Seminar by Victor Obeng

A woman with long, wavy hair is shown from behind, hugging a large globe. She is barefoot and her arms are wrapped around the globe. The globe is on a stand and is the central focus of the image. The background is dark with several out-of-focus white lights, creating a bokeh effect. The overall mood is intimate and global.

We Are All In This Together

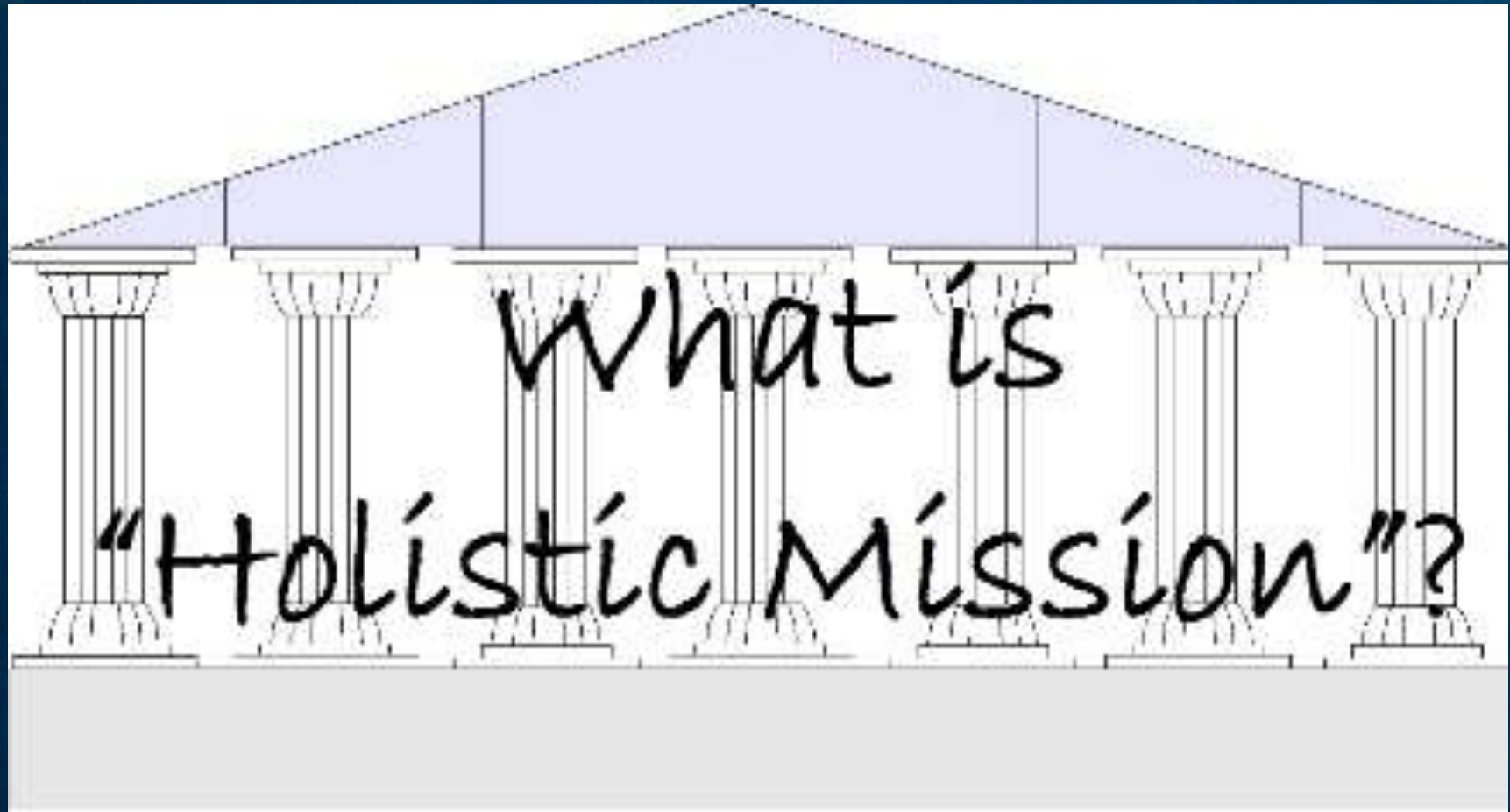


# *Objectives of the Seminar*



We will discuss from an African perspective:

- What good partnership in these kinds of mission looks like and what they mean or otherwise.
- The importance of people coming on mission being willing to submit and learn from the hosts
- Seeing people as people and not as 'projects'.
- Learn to help people groups to be and not be looked on with pity as looking through the lens of money and material things only.
- Discuss and reflect together Mission partnership on equal terms.
- There will be a case study on Ghana where a young graduate is 'enslaved' as a 'development chief' not because of material wealth.



## *What is Holistic (Wholistic) Missions?*

- Holistic Mission – is described as going beyond just 'evangelism' or 'discipleship' but includes real partnership with people on ground to bring deep incarnational gospel transformation in the lives of the people being reached

# *What is Community Development?*

- Community Development (community service kinds of mission) also means doing advocacy and deep theological reflection with the people groups being reached.





# *Holistic Missions*

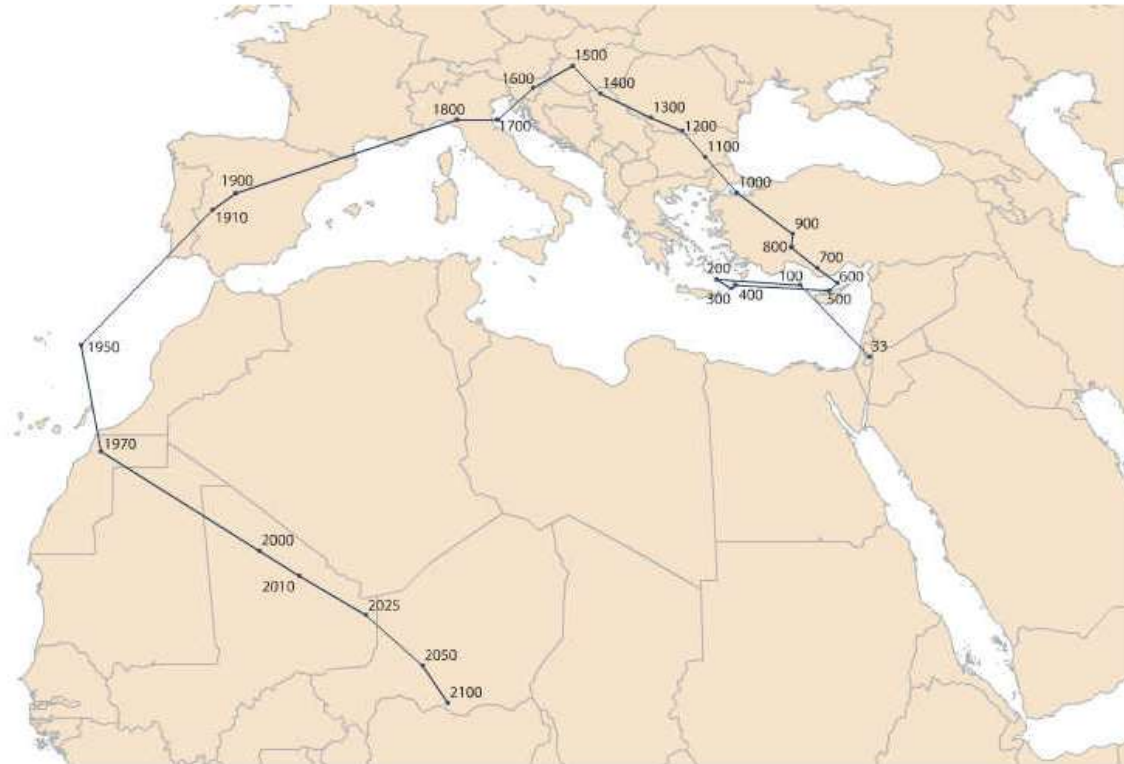
- Mission arises from the heart of God Himself and is communicated from his heart to ours. Mission is the global outreach of the global people of a global God." - John Stott
- "History has shown that mission is always moving from a vital centre of Christian life to places where Christians are few or **marginal**. Matthew 28:18.
- Mission is now from everywhere to everywhere
- John Mbiti said "Christianity is like a beggar seeking food to eat and cloths to wear from any place he goes to"



# *Holistic Missions*

- *-get out of your culture and you will see how your culture has influenced your Christianity...*
- *We are conditioned by "what we think we know" and "What we know". We ought to be careful about "what we think we know"*
- *Andrew Walls says the story of Christianity across twenty centuries has been serial.*
  - *"Its centre of gravity moves from place to place. No one Church or place or culture owns it. At different times different peoples and places have become its heartlands, its chief representatives. Then the baton passes on to others."*

Tracking the statistical centre of global Christianity, AD 33–2100



© Edinburgh University Press, 2009

# Christianity and Transformational development

- 'Development' began to be used in 1756 as a term describing the desire to improve people
- Religion and spirituality had no place in Western ideas of development
- Christianity sees that focusing only on economic, cultural, environmental, social is inadequate.
- To make it a ***Transformational Development*** spirituality must be part



# *Community Development*

- *'Poor' is a relative term as it relates to development*
- *We need to place ourselves in the context of those with whom we want to work.*



# *Community Development*

- A “human-need” focus leads to a problem solving approach with a negative focus.
- We need to see potentials not problems
- People are not capital nor resources
- The “I am here to do something for them” mentality must be checked
- It must be cooperative.

*In the humility of our heart and attitude we go.....*

- Self imposed weakness
- Sacrificial love
- Spirituality
- Spirit led and spirit filled



# Case Study: STICS

- STICS – Short Term Involvement in Community Service
- Recent graduates commit their one-year term of national service to live & work as missionaries in rural communities.
- They teach in schools, preach the gospel, work with community leaders, and other things to bring holistic transformation

# Case Study: STICS

- As a result of the positive impact STICS missionaries are having in a community known as Zua, near Walewale in the Northern Region, its Chief and people enskinned one of the STICS missionaries, Clement Ulzin.
- Clement is a graduate of University of Ghana, serving in their community as a Development Chief. The amazing part of this whole story is the fact that Zua is a predominantly Muslim community which doesn't even have a single Church.

# Case Study



Young graduate Clement Ulzan 'enskined' as a 'development chief' in Zua, West Mamprusi District in the Northern Region of Ghana not because of material wealth.





**A young graduate Clement Ulzan is 'enskined' as a 'development chief' in Zua, West Mamprusi District in the Northern Region of Ghana not because of material wealth.**

# THE END

## THANK YOU

GOD BLESS YOU FOR PARTICIPATING IN THIS SEMINAR!!!