



RE-ASSESSING THE FRONTIERS:

Ethnicity, Globalization and the Kingdom of God

2010 NORTH AMERICAN MEETING, INTERNATIONAL SOCIETY FOR FRONTIER MISSIOLOGY
SEPTEMBER 21-23, COUNTRY INN & SUITES UNIVERSITY PLACE, CHARLOTTE
(PRIOR TO THE NORTH AMERICAN MISSION LEADERS CONFERENCE)

In this centennial year of global mission gatherings from Cape Town to Tokyo, the mandate for mission is under review. Mission and church strategists will be studying all the indicators of change and envisioning directions for mission in the 21st century. The relevance of ethnic and cultural difference is often contested or ignored as new agendas emerge in a global sending Church.

After more than three decades of emphasis on “unreached peoples,” this year’s ISFM gathering will reassess frontier mission by examining the intersection of ethnicity, globalization and the Kingdom of God. Sessions will assess the emerging social, cultural and religious dynamics on these frontiers. Are they eroding or hardening under the impact of globalization? What new access is granted for Kingdom-mission in the turbulence of change? Plenary talks, formal responses and interaction from the floor will combine to unpack these frontier realities. Plenary speakers bringing their expertise to this theme will include the following:



A Global Perspective: Dr. Todd Johnson (co-editor of the *Atlas of Global Christianity* and director of the Center for the Study of Global Christianity) will bring a sweeping macro-analysis of how globalization impacts religious, ethnic and social boundaries,

creating either firewalls or new thresholds between communities and civilizations.

A “Glocal” Perspective: Dr. Gary Fujino (Ph.D., Trinity) will offer an analysis of how globalization



has impacted Japanese identity and the Japanese church. From more than 15 years of church-planting in the “global city” of Tokyo, Gary will assess efforts in contextualization within the multiple, shifting identities of Japanese culture.



A Religious Perspective: Dr. Kang San Tan (Former OMF Research Desk, professor Redcliffe College, UK) will address the multi-religious experience in a globalized world, giving special focus to the Christian-Buddhist frontier. While Christian theology

has tended to treat non-Christian religions as tight and separate religious systems, global complexities make this increasingly problematic for converts who struggle to relate to their previous world of faith.



An Anthropological Perspective: Dr. Robert Priest (Professor of Mission and Intercultural Studies, and Director, PhD Program, Trinity Evangelical Divinity School) will survey the development of our

anthropological lenses on “people groups” and refine our grasp of the contextual complexity of peoples under the impact of globalization.



A Missiological Perspective:
Steve Hawthorne (co-editor, *Perspectives on the World Christian Movement*) will probe the missiological concept of “people group” by reviewing the historical use of “ethnicity” in recent mission strategy. With increasing

calls for multiculturalism and culturally-hybrid congregational life, Hawthorne will reexamine the biblical and theological foundations of ethnic and cultural difference in frontier mission.



A Kingdom Perspective:
Dr. Sam Kamaleson (former Vice-President of World Vision International) will speak on the “gospel of the Kingdom” as it confronts the ethnic realities of India’s caste system. From his

years of experience with indigenous mission efforts, he calls for a gospel among peoples that is both incarnational and transformational.



A Biblical Perspective: Bruce Graham (Director, Training Division, Frontier Mission Fellowship) will address the subject of the Kingdom of God from his two decades of training indigenous mission workers in India. With voices from the

non-Western world and today’s student generation calling the Church to reconcile the injustices and inequities of globalized society, Graham will focus his response on the biblical narrative of Kingdom Mission as an integrating perspective for reaching creatively across resistant and turbulent frontiers.

Registration

Registration will begin at 5:00 p.m., Tuesday, September 21, at the conference room at the Country Inn & Suites

University Place. The conference will conclude at noon, September 23.

To register, see <http://isfm2010.eventbrite.com/>

Cost

- \$50 for the full, three-day conference (includes coffee breaks and materials)
- \$40 early-bird registration until September 1
- \$25 for full-time students and donor-supported foreign missionaries
- If you plan to only attend the Wednesday evening and/or the Thursday morning sessions, please contact isfm@ijfm.org

Meeting Location and Lodging

Country Inn & Suites University Place

131 E. McCullough Drive

Charlotte, NC 28262

Phone: (704) 549-8770

Fax: (704) 717-8728

E-mail: countryinnfom@gmail.com

To obtain discounted lodging at the Country Inn & Suites (\$69 plus tax per room, per night, double occupancy), see <http://www.countryinns.com/isfm>

Contact Information

For further information, e-mail brad.gill@ijfm.org, or call (734) 765-0368.

This ISFM meeting will precede the North American Mission Leaders Consultation, scheduled for September 23-25 at a nearby venue. Further information on the North American Mission Leaders Consultation is available at http://www.crossgloballink.org/Mosaic_AC10