

“Contextualized approaches for a globalized Japan: The impact of technology, demographic shifts and identity formation on both sides of conversion”

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DESCRIPTION: This presentation is focused around two distinct questions:

1. *How might globalization affect the way that the gospel is presently being contextualized in Japan?*
2. *Can the Christian identity of Japanese be strengthened or weakened for contextualization by the influence of the global church and by globalization alike?*

In today’s post-modern and globally connected world, who are the Japanese? And how is the Japanese church presently relating to the worldwide body of Christ? The present impact of the gospel message and its “translation” into Japanese culture for mission will be examined from an outsider missionary perspective.

- I. Intro: “the world is no longer flat” (*moving on from ethnocentrism*)
 - a. A changing *aeon* : Recent globalization effects (“*As the world turns*”)
 - b. A specific context : Urbanized Tokyo, Japan (*a “global city”*)
 - c. Multiple, shifting identities (*but we’re not “wacko”!*)
 - d. A church between paradigms (*oxen, canals, and the “iron horse”*)
- II. Defining parameters for our discussion
 - a. Mincing words : Are the terms we use and how we think “neutral”?
 - b. Assessing the landscape: keywords for today
 - i. Contextualization
 - ii. Globalization
 - iii. Postmodern
 - iv. Identity
 - v. Culture
 - vi. Church
 - vii. Mission
- III. “GloCalization” : the intersection between macro and micro
 - a. Merging the emic and the etic: the inescapable impinging and melding of context, insiders/outside, technology and globalizing forces

- i. GloCalization's relationship to contemporary human identity
 - ii. GloCalization's relationship to the modern Japanese church
 - 1. An inside-outsider's view of Christianity in Japan
 - 2. Looking outwards: the Japanese church in the world – a missionary perspective
 - iii. Is gloCalization a good thing or a bad thing? Or both/neither?
 - b. What does the Bible have to say?
- IV. "Translatability" – becoming conversant and facile for the world
 - a. Case studies in Japan on how contextualization, globalization and identity overlap to form "a new kind of Christian" within a fluid age
 - i. "Black gospel" choirs as a foundation for evangelism and church planting new communities of faith
 - ii. Immigration patterns and their effect on both not-yet-Christians and believers alike in Japan, Brazil and Peru
 - iii. New types of "contextualized" church expressions within Japan and how they have been influenced by a "global village"
 - b. What does the Bible have to say?
- V. Suggestions for practical applications from what we learned today
 - a. Accepting the realities of "the mix": engaging from where we're at
 - b. "Deep and wide" – Staying faithful to the gospel while still engaging the realities of today's world, still going "to the ends of the earth."
 - c. Utilizing different starting points for holistic mission
- VI. ACTION PLANS: Dealing with the world we live in? What's next?
 - a. Question and answer time
 - b. Interactions with the entire group :
 - i. What do you think?
 - ii. How would you approach this in your context?
- VII. FOOD FOR THOUGHT: How might globalization, contextualization and identity affect the ministry roles in which we are engaged
 - i. For one raised in a given, local context?
 - ii. For cross-cultural workers?