WORKING WITH 300 YEAR OLD MODELS

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The structures and functions that served the Missions world thus far are not a good fit for people from another world view.
Category: Observations

Today's post is a quote from an article by the International Director of Interserve, Bijoy Koshy. It says a number of things that I've been saying over the years, but it's good to hear them from another source. You should plan on reading the whole article, which you can find here. Tomorrow, I plan to write a few thoughts on how to spot whether an organisation is making the sorts of adaptions suggested by this article.

> *We operate today with mission structures and processes which are founded on principles nearly 300 years old. The principles were derived from realities, world view and culture of a particular group of people. Our reading of Scripture (largely) through the lens of individualism, resulted in a certain understanding of mission and calling. These structures and processes have served us well and efficiently for nearly three centuries.*
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> *However, the move of the centre of the church from the Global North to the South means two things. Firstly, that the structures and functions that served the Missions world thus far are not a good fit for people from another world view. The interpretation and understanding of Scripture through a different lens offers a new understanding to mission and function. Secondly, in the past, the gospel movement was well delineated from â€˜Christian West to the Restâ€™. That is no longer the reality. There is a church in almost every country that has to be taken into account â€“ however small and seemingly weak it may be. What does this mean for us as an organisation? It means that even before the pandemic (and now made so obvious), God was showing us that we must allow the National Church to lead us in local missions. That will mean that the dominant world view of missions will be community focused, relationship oriented and locally led. Diminishing presence of outsiders in a country in the future means that we will either have to close down or will have to be â€˜nationals drivenâ€™ in the future. This is a major change that we, as an organisation will have to navigate. It is important to reiterate that being nationally driven does not mean that there is no place for non-nationals in mission.*