# WE MUST LEARN TO LISTEN

*Posted on May 6, 2021 by Eddie*

**Category:** Observations

I've just finished reading The Bethlehem Story by Andy McCullough; a truly remarkable book. I'll review it in a day or two, but for now I just wanted to quote a passage from the final chapter (which is actually written by Dave Devenish).

> *Furthermore, the Western church in particular must learn to listen to those that they would regard as at the margins, or may have never even heard about! As has been frequently documented, the centre of Christianity has moved from the West to the East and the South. However, the Western church, and in particular, Western church leadership must learn to listen to the challenges and understandings and increasingly respect the voices emerging from East and South. They have so much to teach us. The growth of Christianity is occurring with leadership given by many unsung heroes of faithâ€"often persecuted, often despisedâ€"rather than from the â€œcelebritiesâ€ of the Western church. Bethlehem teaches us the importance of this.*

I'm highlighting this for two reasons; firstly because it is true and it needs to be said over and over again and secondly, because next week provides an excellent opportunity to put this into practice. Global Connections is organising a Passion for Mission day on Tuesday May 11. The title of the day is "Global Voices; what if we really listened".

> *he world has had to adapt considerably in recent times. We have had little control over circumstances and restrictions are often dictating decisions, but the need to connect with others is stronger than ever and one way we can do this is to take a step back, to switch off from the noise, and to listen. To really listen.*
>
> *The wise words shared by James in James 1:19 remain challenging to us today, so letâ€™s take note and consciously take the time to listen to global voices who have experienced missional challenges first-hand, who have had to adapt and evolve with ever-changing situations beyond their control â€“ perhaps together we will learn something insightful!*
>
> *This special **Passion for Mission full-day event** invites **Vinoth Ramachandra** to bring his deep experience of ministry from an Asian context. Vinoth is a well-known speaker and thinker who knows first-hand the struggles faced by Christians living in minority contexts.*
>
> *We will also be joined by **Ruth Padilla Deborst** who has considerable experience of mission from around the world, especially from her context of Latin America. Ruth has a highly respected ministry which is characterised by passion and wisdom.*

You can find details of the event here, but you'd better hurry if you want to sign up as time is running short.