MISSION LANGUAGE (AGAIN)

Posted on February 23, 2022 by Eddie

Removing this deeply cherished word missionary from the Churchâ€™s vocabulary may provide the liberation many â€œmissionariesâ€ desire.
Category: Observations

I'm currently reading Apostolic Imagination by J. D. Payne. Although I'm not entirely convinced by the central thesis, I do think that it is well worth a read, not least for the chapter on the language of mission.

> *Removing this deeply cherished word missionary from the Churchâ€™s vocabulary may provide the liberation many â€œmissionariesâ€ desire. Nearly everyone serving under this modern appellation wonders how they can honestly say â€œnoâ€ when asked by a potentially hostile person, â€œAre you a missionary?â€ Missionaries have no problem being recognized as followers of Jesus, but they are appalled at the notion of being misunderstood by nationals because of a label that is usually associated with colonialist ideology and distorted by stereotype and caricature. This term has often erected stumbling blocks before unbelievers, keeping them from getting to the stumbling block of the cross. If no church or organization provides this modern identifying label, then such is a step in the direction of a more excellent way.*

This certainly captures my thoughts.

A fuller review will follow at some point soon (when I finish reading it).