MESSING AROUND WITH CHATGPT

Posted on January 18, 2023 by Eddie

In which an artificial intelligence system gives some answers to questions about mission.
Category: Observations

You may have come across the new Open Artificial Intelligence system ChatGPT, which aims to give intelligent, human sounding answers to questions posed to it. It's a bit like those chatbots that you find on e-commerce websites. However, instead of having a set of specific answers that it gives when it works out what it thinks you are asking, it generates new answers to each question.

Having established that it had never heard of me, or of Kouya.net, I decided to see what it would make of some terms and questions that have cropped up on this blog over the years.

What are the pros and cons of using the term "mission" to describe the intentional spread of the Christian faith?

The use of the term "mission" to describe the intentional spread of the Christian faith can have both positive and negative connotations.

Pros:

- *The word "mission" implies a sense of purpose and direction, which can be empowering for those who are actively involved in spreading the Christian faith.*
- *It emphasizes the idea that spreading the faith is an active, intentional effort, rather than something that happens passively.*

Cons:

- *The word "mission" can also imply a sense of superiority or a desire to convert others, which can be viewed as arrogant or imperialistic.*
- *It can also imply that non-Christians are incomplete or in need of salvation, which can be offensive to people of other faiths or no faith.*

It's important to be aware of the potential connotations of the term "mission" when discussing the intentional spread of the Christian faith, and to use it in a way that is respectful and inclusive of people

of all beliefs.

What does a missional hermeneutic mean?

A missional hermeneutic refers to a way of interpreting and understanding the Bible that emphasizes the missional aspect of the text. It focuses on how the Bible's message can be applied to the world and how it can be used to further the mission of the church in sharing the gospel with others. This approach looks at the text through the lens of mission

What is the Great Commission and why does it matter?

The Great Commission is a statement attributed to Jesus in the New Testament of the Bible in which he commands his followers to "go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you." (Matthew 28:19-20) It is considered a fundamental part of Christian theology and is often seen as a mandate for Christians to share their faith and spread the message of Christianity to others. It is considered important because it is a call to action for Christians to be actively engaged in spreading the message of the gospel and to be a light to the world.

What is the relationship between proclamation and works of service in Christian mission?

Proclamation refers to the act of telling others about the message of Christianity, while works of service refer to practical actions that demonstrate the love and compassion of Jesus Christ. In Christian mission, both proclamation and works of service are important and complement each other. Proclamation shares the message of salvation through Jesus Christ, while works of service demonstrate the love and compassion of Jesus and can help build relationships and create opportunities for proclamation. Together, they can effectively communicate the message of the gospel and bring people to a saving faith in Jesus Christ.

What should be the roles of mission agencies and churches in supporting missionaries?

Mission agencies and churches have different but complementary roles in supporting missionaries. Mission agencies typically provide administrative support, such as handling finances, insurance, and legal matters, as well as providing training, resources, and networking opportunities for missionaries. They may also help match missionaries with specific fields of service.

Churches, on the other hand, provide spiritual support, such as prayer and accountability, as well as financial and practical support, such as housing, transportation, and other necessities. They may also help prepare missionaries for service, such as through mentoring, teaching, and training programs.

Both mission agencies and churches play an important role in supporting the work of missionaries and helping them to effectively share the gospel and serve in their fields of service.

I thought I'd close with something slightly more controversial.

What are the differences between Evangelicalism in the UK and in the USA?

Evangelicalism in the UK and in the USA share many similarities, but there are also some key differences. In the UK, Evangelicalism tends to be associated with non-conformist Protestant denominations, such as the Baptists and Methodists, and is a minority within the overall Christian population. In contrast, Evangelicalism is a significant and influential movement in the USA, where it is often associated with conservative Protestant denominations, such as the Southern Baptists. Additionally, the political views of Evangelicals tend to be more conservative in the USA than in the UK. Finally, Evangelicals in the UK tend to be more theologically diverse than Evangelicals in the USA.

The thing about these answers is that they are all pretty good. Yes, there could be more detail and at times they don't reflect the way in which I would approach the particular questions, but as starters for discussion they are not bad at all. It's a fascinating thing to play around with. The problem is, that as systems like this become increasingly complex and adaptive, it will be difficult to tell when something has been written by a human author and when it is entirely AI generated. Let's face it, some of those answers above aren't far from things that I've blogged in the past. This must be a particular concern for people in academia, with generated text this good, will it be possible for students to stop cheating?