A MANDATE FOR MISSION

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Category: Mission

From the Lausanne World Pulse:

> ***John Perkins suggests that three types of people are needed in order to see real transformation of an urban neighborhood**:*
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> 1. *The â€œrelocatorsâ€ are those people who were not born in the neighborhood, but who move into the area to tie their well-being to that of their neighbors.*
> 2. *The â€œreturnersâ€ were born and raised in the community and then left for a better life. They are no longer trapped by the poverty of their neighborhood, yet they choose to return and live in the community they once tried to escape.*
> 3. *The â€œremainersâ€ are the ones who could have fled the problems of the neighborhood, but who have chosen to stay and be part of the solution to the problems surrounding them.*
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> *Although Perkins was talking about inner-city USA, this is a helpful framework within which to think about international missions. Over the last few years, however, as the Church has gained a deeper appreciation for the contribution the poor can make in reaching their own people and rebuilding their own communities as â€œremainers,â€ I have observed the Church losing confidence in what we as westerners might have to offer as long-term international â€œrelocatorsâ€ among the poor.*
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> *The roots of this insecurity are complex. Partly it is a natural reaction against wrong emphases in the past. Yet somehow we must avoid the theological equivalent of throwing the baby out with the bathwater. So I want to briefly survey four reasons why we might have lost some of our confidence in long-term, cross-cultural missions. (Read More: It is Excellent!)*