REFLECTIONS ON READING THE BIBLE MISSIOLOGICALLY

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Category: Old Testament

Chris Wright author of the wonderful The Mission of God: Unlocking the Bible's Grand Narrative gave a public lecture at Redcliffe College recently. The mission e-zine encounters is focussing on the lecture this week. You can listen to it and read responses from a number of interesting people by visiting this link. I would particularly highlight the response from my fellow blogger Brian Russel as well as the one by someone called Eddie Arthur.

Here is an excerpt from my article:

> *In a language with the economic capacity of English we have numerous translations of the whole Bible available. For many minority languages, it is often the case that only a selection from the Bible is printed or published. Perhaps a Gospel, or a whole New Testament, maybe with the Psalms or a selection of Old Testament stories. In truth, Jeremiah is likely to be way down the list of things that are published. Does the missional hermeneutic stress on the overarching narrative of the Bible give us any insight into how weÂ should go about making the Scriptures available? Should we perhaps consider concentrating resources so as to translate the whole Bible for one group rather than making selections available to a number of groups? Or could a missional hermeneutic guide us in making more principled decisions about which passages should be seen as essential? On the pages of a mission magazine this might seem a sterile question, but in a world where 200 million people do not have the Scriptures in their own language, some hard choices need to be made and we need a good hermeneutical and theological basis upon which to make them.*

While on the subject of Chris Wright, he is interviewed on the Slipstream podcast; this will be well worth a listen.