MISSION, MONEY AND POWER

Posted on January 23, 2013 by Eddie

Category: Mission

The New York Times has a fascinating and rather disturbing video linking US missionaries and funding to the persecution of gay men in Uganda. They won't allow me to embed the video here, so you will have to go over to their page to watch it; it lasts about 8 minutes.

I realise that gay-rights is a controversial issue at the moment, and that's not an issue I want to get drawn into, too much. It seems to me that whatever your view on the subject, the idea of homosexuality being punishable by the death penalty, or preacher asking who is willing and ready to kill gay men isÂ abhorrent.

The reason why I've brought the issue up on this blog is that I believe it raises some important questions for Christian missionary and development agencies.

- To what extent is it appropriate for Western Christians to use their money and influence to shape policy in Churches and governments in other parts of the world?
- Do we really understand the impact of the way we work in other countries?
- Why are their so many missionaries preaching to crowds in a country which claims a higher percentage of Christians than the USA?
- Why is there so much focus on sexuality and so little focus on corruption and justice?

As you can see, I find a good deal to be concerned about in this video; not least because I'm worried that more responsible Christian agencies will be condemned by association.