THE FUTURE OF MISSION: 1

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The future of mission doesn't lie in structures or strategies...
Category: Observations

This week, I'm in Singapore at a conference looking at the future of mission, sponsored by OMF. Judging from the programme it's going to be a fascinating few days and I plan to blog some of the things that I learn while I'm here. Today we are looking at issues related to the future of mission agency structures. This is something that I'm very interested; in fact I was one of the people presenting a paper.

However, I thought that I'd start this series of blog posts with one of our devotional readings from this morning. Whatever we do about structures, strategies and the other stuff which fills my work hours, the future of mission is wonderfully described in Psalm 119:1-24.

Aleph
Joyful are people of integrity,
who follow the instructions of the Lord.
Joyful are those who obey his laws
and search for him with all their hearts.
They do not compromise with evil,
and they walk only in his paths.
You have charged us
to keep your commandments carefully.
Oh, that my actions would consistently
reflect your decrees!
Then I will not be ashamed
when I compare my life with your commands.
As I learn your righteous regulations,
I will thank you by living as I should!
I will obey your decrees.
Please donâ€™t give up on me!

Beth
How can a young person stay pure?
By obeying your word.
I have tried hard to find youâ€”
donâ€™t let me wander from your commands.
I have hidden your word in my heart,
that I might not sin against you.
I praise you, OLord;
teach me your decrees.
I have recited aloud
all the regulations you have given us.
I have rejoiced in your laws

as much as in riches.
I will study your commandments
and reflect on your ways.
I will delight in your decrees
and not forget your word.

Gimel
Be good to your servant,
that I may live and obey your word.
Open my eyes to see
the wonderful truths in your instructions.
I am only a foreigner in the land.
Donâ€™t hide your commands from me!
I am always overwhelmed
with a desire for your regulations.
You rebuke the arrogant;
those who wander from your commands are cursed.
Donâ€™t let them scorn and insult me,
for I have obeyed your laws.
Even princes sit and speak against me,
but I will meditate on your decrees.
Your laws please me;
they give me wise advice