WORLD THEOLOGY

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In a paper writing on the changes in World Mission from1910-2010 Andrew Walls writes:

> *The Western theological academy is at present not well placed for leadership in the newÂ situation. It has been too long immersed in its local concerns, and often unaware of the transformation that has taken place in the Church. It is often hugely ignorant of the world in which the majority of Christians live, their social and religious contexts, and the history and life of their churches. Its intellectual maps are pre-Columbian; there are vast areas of the Christian world of which they take no account. Nor are its products always readily transferable outside the West. Western theology is in general too small for Africa; it has been cut down to fit the small-scale universe demanded by the Enlightenment, which set and jealously guarded a frontier between the empirical world and the world of spirit. Most Africans live in a larger, more populated universe, in which the frontier is continually being crossed. It is a universe that comprehends what Paul calls the principalities and powers. It requires a theology that brings Christ to bear on every part of that universe, making evident the victory over the principalities that Paul ascribes to Christâ€™s triumphal chariot of the Cross. The new age of the Church could bring a theological renaissance, with new perspectives, new materials, new light on old problems, and a host of issues never faced before.*

Sadly, many Western theologians don't seem to have their ears open to learn from the Church in the rest of the world assuming that it is their place to instruct the rest of the church, not to learn from it. One thing which involvement in mission should teach us is humility - I hope I'm learning it.

You can read the rest of Walls' paper here (pdf).