GUEST POST: GLOCAL MISSION

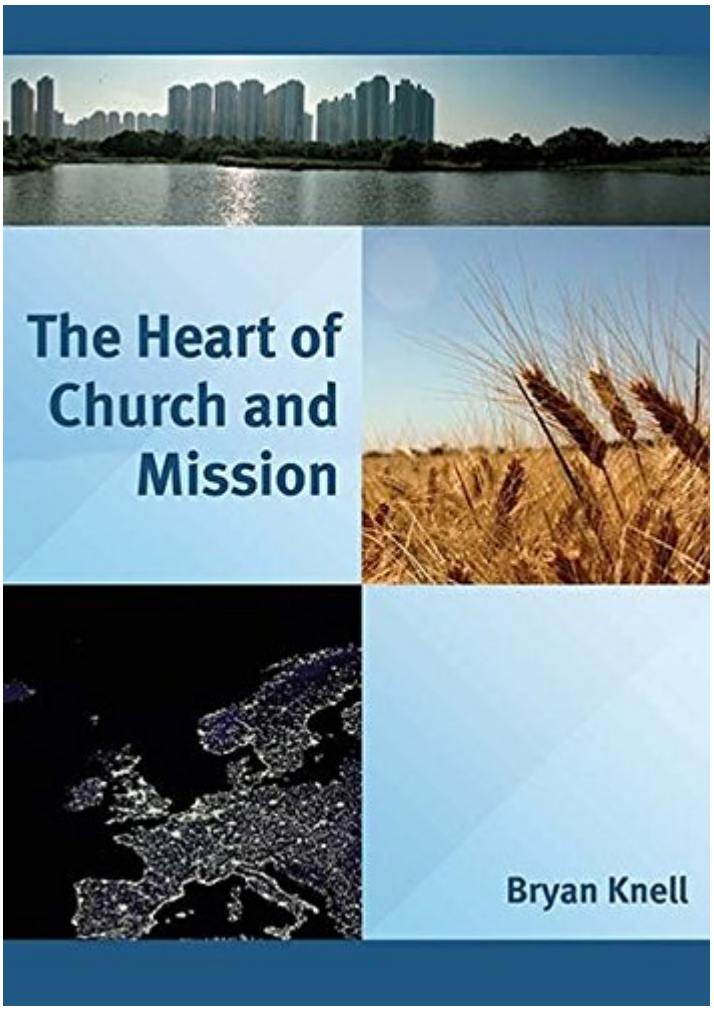
Posted on May 11, 2018 by Eddie

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Category: Observations

Today's post is a follow up to my post from a few days ago by my friend Bryan Knell.

I am a great supporter of the concept of GLOCAL mission.Â In other words, I believe that local mission and global mission should not be independent of each other, but should be linked together in some way.Â This provides a much more cohesive approach to mission.Â It is reasonably easy to study your local community, collect statistics, identify ethnic groups and social classes, find out where the needs are and ask the Lord where he wants you to make a difference.

In the UK we have large Pakistani and Bangladeshi communities.Â If the church is in a Pakistani area, it makes sense for it to take an interest in the home country of that community.Â It should link with Christians in Pakistan, learn from them and share a ministry to reach out to Pakistanis both in the UK and in Pakistan.Â I know of a church in East London, which sent a family to Bangladesh for a year to learn the language and culture so that they can be more effective in reaching out to the Bangladeshis in their area of the UK.Â The same could be true of Somalis, Turks, Poles and many other groups.



But it can work, not just in areas of geography, but in areas of ministry too.Â If a church supports hospital radio in the UK, then supporting Christian media across the world would fit with their vision.Â A church with a prison ministry here could be involved in supporting prison ministries around the world.Â The Alpha Course has spread around the world, so why should a church offering the Alpha Course in the UK not form a fellowship and supportive link with an Alpha church across the world.

As you enter many towns and cities in the UK, you will see that they are officially twinned with town

and cities across mainland Europe.Â Why not try to twin your church with a church in the town or city with which your community is twinned?Â There may be money from the local Council to help with reciprocal visits, and the local secular media would almost certainly run a story on the way in which your churchâ€™s friendship with this other church is working out.

This post is a quote from Bryan's excellent bookÂ The Heart of Church and MissionÂ you can read my review here.