

# Missionary Narratives – Engaging a Globalizing World

## Telling and Reflecting on Missionary Stories

**Objectives:** 1) To provide missionaries with the opportunity to reflect on and analyze their mission experience during a period of unprecedented global interchange (1990-2003), a period of time characterized as Globalization; 2) To provide an opportunity to missionaries to give critical feedback as to how mission may best be done in light of our present day globalized world.

### **STAGE 1: Recalling your experience**

*In stage one, we ask you to recall your experience at a particular mission site.*

1. Recall how, when, where and with whom this mission experience began.
  - Where and when was it?
  - Who else was there?
  - What decisions did the people with whom you worked have to make?
  - How connected was the culture of this place to the rest of the world by media, trade, telecommunications, etc.?
  - What expectations did you set for yourself?
  
2. Recall the changes that occurred during the course of the mission experience or up to present day if you are still at the site in response to this period of unprecedented global interchange (1990-2003).
  - Who else was/is there?
  - What new or different decisions did/do the people with whom you worked have to make?
  - How has the connection of the culture of this place to the rest of the world changed by media, trade, telecommunications, etc.?
  - How did the expectations that you set for yourself change?

### **STAGE 2: Understanding what has changed**

*In stage two, use the items you have recalled above to examine in greater detail the way in which the world has changed for those with whom you lived and worked, as well as for you as a missionary. Refer to the six Global Economic and Cultural themes (Consumption, Production, Migration, Political Relations, Social Relations and Religious Experience) defined in the handout as a lens to focus and round out your reflection.*

1. What has changed among the people with whom you did/do your mission work?
  
2. How has your missionary culture and approach changed?

### **STAGE 3: Evaluation of the impact of these changes on local people**

*In stage three, you are given the opportunity to evaluate how the changes that you have recalled impacted the local people.*

1. How have these changes affected the local people/culture?
2. How do the people feel about these changes?

### **STAGE 4: Reflecting on your personal experience of these changes**

*In stage four, you are given the opportunity to reflect on how the changes that you have recalled affected you personally.*

1. How do you feel about these changes?
2. How have these changes affected your approach to mission?
3. How consistent or inconsistent with your spiritual values are these changes?
4. Are you at peace within yourself with the current mission situation and your role in it, or are you fighting within yourself?

### **STAGE 5: Imagining the future of mission**

*In stage five, using these given assumptions*

- that Globalization has had an effect on local cultures and the worldwide community;
- that new areas of missionary endeavors\* are advocated by Church documents. \**Redemptoris Missio* draws explicit attention to six areas or environments of mission: mega-cities, youth, migrants and refugees, the mass media, the new areas such as peace and care for the environment;
- that missionary endeavors are most fruitful when there is an integration of the key elements of mission: proclamation, witness, dialogue, spirituality and prayer, reconciliation and social transformation.

1. Imagine how you would shape the future of missionary activities.
2. Imagine what kind of advice you would give to someone entering the field of mission today.