

Wisdom from Our Mission Partners – May 2021

Many insightful and helpful things were shared by our Mission Partners at the Mission Partners Forum.

Things that have encouraged you over the past year:

- Seeing people connecting with digital material that points them / leads them to faith
- Couples being disciplined through Couples Talk
- People to hand over the work to in Copenhagen
- Although fewer student contacts, this has given opportunities to go deeper with them
- Seeing Christian international students sharing their faith with others
- Opportunities to share faith with Muslim friends here even though we cannot be in the country we have been called to
- Seeing how God has changed us

Lessons learnt:

- Trusting God for his faithful provision grows our faith
- Fear of the unknown is unfounded: we can trust the Lord in every situation
- Taking risks for the gospel, following God's leading, regardless of what are the results: faithfulness is what matters, not success
- Being willing to take greater risks for God as we get older
- Relationships are crucial: reconciliation, sincere love for brothers & sisters
- We are all on a mission, not just the "professionals"
- Need to be impassioned but humble – it's the Lord's agenda not ours
- Finding "magnetic points" for sharing the gospel cross-culturally¹

What are the obstacles for us getting involved in mission and evangelism?

- We think people don't want to hear about Jesus, but they are interested in stories
- We think we have to tell them the whole gospel each time: instead ask questions, take an interest in them, bit by bit sharing the gospel
- Busyness: need to slow down, notice people and see what God sees
- Fear: need to fight fear with faith: the obstacles are only in our mind
- For full-time mission: fears about finance and the effect on the family: but we can trust the Lord
- Being over-protective of our children: they too need to learn to trust the Lord's leading
- Feeling of inadequacy: but each of us has a role to play: what is the obstacle for you?
- Feeling that we need to talk from a position of strength: rather we need to accept our weakness: God's grace is sufficient

How could we support our Mission Partners better, and how could we be more involved?

- Appreciation of the way the church does support them
- Prayer: prayer letters / blogs are available from our Mission Partners
- Sending them encouraging messages when we have been praying for them
- Opportunities are here on our doorstep: international students from around the world, many of whom are happy to engage; Muslims living in Birmingham
- We all have a part to play!

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¹ Dan Strange & Tim Keller: Making Faith Magnetic (available from Good Book Company)