

# Seven trends in the theology of missions

Built on material in *Introduction to Missiology* by Alan Tippet

- **1. Taking a new look at the theology of God as creator**
  - A clearly enunciated doctrine of Yahweh as creator is vital where people have worshipped other gods
  - Insistence that the Creator God is alive and is still creating and providing

- **2. Developing a theology of “power encounter”**

- **3. Discovering new aspects of the theology of indigeneity**
  - **1840's: Henry Venn**
  - **A church is indigenous**
    - **When it is culturally a part of its own world**
    - **When its witness is relevant in meeting the needs of its congregation and the world around it**
    - **When its physical form and operating structures are suitable for the culture**
    - **When it acts on its own initiative by doing ministries arising from local needs and crises and in missionary outreach**
    - **When it is aware of its own theological identity**

- **4. Formulating a theology of social change**
  - **Culture clash versus culture contact**
  - **Change processes**
    - **Modernization**
    - **Urbanization**
    - **Mobility / Immigration**

- **5. Rediscovering a theology of the corporate group**
  - **Western individualism and competitiveness**

- **6. Allowing a theology of contextualization to emerge**
  - **Levels in which contextualization takes place**
    - **Communication of the Gospel**
    - **Processes of conversion / discipleship**
    - **Church formation**
    - **Leadership selection and styles**
    - **Christian ethics**

- **7. Demanding a new theology of missionary training**
  - Implications of our ecclesiology
  - Recognition of globalization / glocalization issues