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