

# Jaffray perspectives



...fresh ways  
of looking at  
God's global  
mission

## A Canadian "Blessed Reflex"

One of the principle bi-products of the rise of the modern mission era over 200 years ago, was the introduction of the mission society. This resulted in greater local church participation in missions, and saw increased creativity and intentional reflection as the church sought to reach out to new regions of the world.

With this renewed level of energy, the mission movement of the 19th century began to entertain conversations about a number of future unintended consequences or "blessings" that the sending churches might experience in the wake of increased global engagement. The idea of a "blessed reflex" or "reflexive action" emerged and "... energized the missionary movement..." creating "... a reflex action in the rest of the world that would, in return, benefit the Western sending churches."<sup>1</sup>



While this "reflex action" and its attending benefits were not fully developed in the 19th century, Kenneth Ross (a UK missiologist) and Michael W. Goheen (a Canadian missiologist) suggest that perhaps one of the early expressions of this "blessed reflex" came in the form of the "conversion" of the missionary<sup>2</sup>. That is, that as the missionary engaged these "new" cultures, fresh insights were generated as they bumped up against different religious expressions and opposing worldviews. These new ways of understanding the world, in turn, provided an opportunity for the missionary to reflect on their faith in ways that forced them to broaden their understanding of God and the Scriptures. These new missiological constructs, tested in the crucible ministry, were then brought back with them to their "home" countries as a kind of "reflexive" missiological blessing<sup>3</sup>. In time talk of the "blessed reflex" appears to diminish as the western mission movement surged on, spawned by the 19th century's desire for colonial expansion.

Fast forward 200 years to a significantly new missional time period. Today the church from the global south has greater influence than ever before in what has become an increasingly multicultural, polycentric, postcolonial world. No doubt one of the unanticipated consequences of this global expansion has been the vibrant and ever increasing diverse ethnic expressions of the church found in many of the global cities of the historic sending nations. Perhaps in a rather ironic turn of events this is the era anticipated by so many of the 19th century missiologists. The period in which we find a clearer expression of the "blessed reflex."

We live today in a world where over 250 million of us live in places other than where we were originally born. Canada, a nation of immigrants, continues to be a welcoming nation. The 2016 Canadian census recognized that one-in-five of us were born outside

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memory with the Jaffray  
Centre? We'd love to  
hear from you! Get  
in touch with us at  
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## A Canadian “Blessed Reflex”

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of the country<sup>4</sup> accounting for 21.9% of the population<sup>5</sup> or 7,540,830 Canadians who are foreign-born. In 2006, that percentage had been 19.6%. Statistics Canada acknowledges that this trend will continue to grow driven by Canadians’ low fertility rates and ongoing immigration. By 2036, over one quarter of Canadians, or 28.2%, will be foreign-born<sup>6</sup>. Interestingly, many new-Canadians will continue to come from Christian regions of the world.

This is why we at the Jaffray Centre cannot speak of the Canadian church today, without including our Hispanic-

Canadian, African-Canadian, Caribbean-Canadian, Chinese-Canadian, and a whole host of other hyphenated Canadian in the conversation. While we may lament the decline of Euro-Canadian church, we need to celebrate the growing influx and influence of this “blessed reflex” quietly springing up in neighborhoods all across our nation.<sup>7</sup>

The Jaffray Centre also recognizes that as Canadians we have a diverse future whether we want it or not. All we have to do is to simply look at our two largest cities to recognize our need

for greater intercultural awareness and cultural fluency. As perhaps the world’s most diverse city, 51% of Torontonians<sup>8</sup> identify as being born outside of Canada, while 47% of Vancouverites indicate being foreign born<sup>1</sup>. These statistics give evidence for the need to develop the skills and awareness to be able to work together effectively, not only as a society, but as the church. After all, we may be living in the era of that great “blessed reflex” so vaguely referred to some two hundred years ago. ♦

**Dr. Charles Cook**

<sup>1</sup> See Harvey C Kwiyan, *Sent Forth: African Missionary Work in the West* (Maryknoll, NY: Orbis, 2014) pg. 71

<sup>2</sup> See Harvey C Kwiyan, *Sent Forth: African Missionary Work in the West* (Maryknoll, NY: Orbis, 2014) Ibid. pg. 72

<sup>3</sup> Leslie Newbiggin comes to mind as a significant example of one whose central Asian missiological reflection were brought to bear on his domestic missiology in the West.

<sup>4</sup> <http://angusreid.org/charity-new-canadians/>

<sup>5</sup> (<https://canadaimmigrants.com/canada-immigrants-by-country-of-birth-2016-census/>)

<sup>6</sup> Accessed September 06, 2019 <https://globalnews.ca/news/3823778/canadians-immigrant-foreign-born-asian-census-2016/>

<sup>7</sup> In Calgary a growing list of some 138 ethnic congregation has been compiled. Check out the uReach Toronto website

<sup>8</sup> Toronto information from Vital Signs <https://torontofoundation.ca/vitalsigns/>

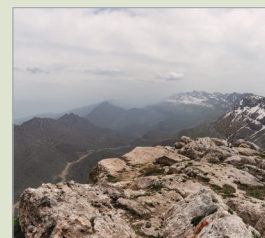
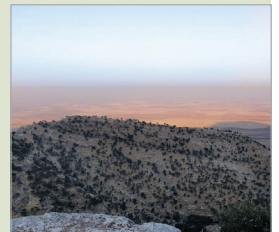
<sup>9</sup> <https://vancouver.ca/files/cov/2017-10-27-city-of-vancouver-2016-census-indigenous-peoples-immigration-and-ethno-cultural-diversity.PDF>

## Friends of Jaffray

We are **B\*ryan and J\*essyka**, both graduates of Ambrose; B\*ryan graduated in 2012 with a BMin in Intercultural Studies, and J\*essyka in 2014 with an MA in Intercultural Studies. While at Ambrose, we both participated in international internships, B\*ryan going to Cambodia in 2010/2011, and J\*essyka to Indonesia in 2012. Those experiences were formative for each of us, and confirmed our desires to work internationally. We began dating in 2013 and married the following year. Our intentions continued to be that we live and work overseas, but we needed time to pay off student debt. During our first 5 years of marriage we lived in a neighbourhood in Calgary as part of a ministry called MoveIn. The demographics of our neighbourhood primarily consisted of first-generation immigrants and refugees, and we made many new friends while enjoying different foods and cultures. The time we spent visiting with and praying for our neighbours solidified our love for the people and cultures of the Middle East, and taught us about the value and joy of relationships in ministry.

In January 2019 we moved to the Middle East, joining a new field established only months before we arrived. We are deep in our language studies now and expect to continue in those for another year yet. In the meantime, we are learning much about the area we live and the needs that exist, and pondering what our roles will look like specifically. Our call is to see the Church developed among one of the least reached people groups residing in the country we live.

As many in the people group we serve are refugees, we expect that the work of our team will touch many areas: trauma informed programming, economic development, leadership development, discipleship, deliverance, and intercession, among other possibilities. Would you pray that we discern well where the Lord is leading us and our team in the next few years? ♦



*Each edition of Perspectives we like to feature a graduate of Ambrose Intercultural Studies program and where they are now. If you are an ICS graduate we would love to hear from you!*

## AngExchange 2019 - Carole Ardell

I boarded the plane after midnight. Armed with noise cancelling headphones, I anticipated sleeping well on the flight to Hong Kong and perhaps even squeezing in a nap on the connecting flight into the Philippines. I knew that I needed to arrive fully rested. With Rhonda Wilson meeting me at the airport, there would be no down time before starting our Jaffray teaching adventure.

Between the two of us, Rhonda has the distinct advantage. She has ministered in the Philippines for almost eighteen years. She speaks two of the local languages and has taught with PSALM, VAST and ASDECS. I relied on her language skills and experience, taking my cues from her as we began teaching at Davao Alliance Bible College (DABC).

We had five full days with our students. Rhonda taught the sophomores about cross-cultural Kingdom living. Highlights for her were introducing the Peace Generation Values of Peace and transferring manuscript study skills using scripture passages in Acts. I was with the senior class, studying God's justice and mercy and the importance of both in local and global contexts. Rhonda and I also taught chapel for the student body at DABC and at Christian Colleges of Southeast Asia.

As a Bible teacher, there is nothing better than seeing God's truth land in the lives of your students. On the last day of class, I asked, "What are two or three practical steps you can take towards the things that break your heart in your community?" I returned home resolved to pray for them as they courageously seek to live out the answers I heard that day.

Rhonda says, "Teaching with Carole was a celebration of our mutual connection to the Philippines. After we roomed together at Canadian Bible College, Carole came to the Philippines on Alliance Youth Core '88 and I came with Philippine Student Alliance Lay Movement (PSALM) in 1990. Then Carole, Steve and their two boys visited me in Cebu in 2008." Rhonda is always great at leveraging connections. She recruited Canadian Theological Seminary graduate, Tancho Baes, to speak to our combined classes one afternoon. It was a joy to collaborate with Tancho. His missional stories of justice and compassion resonated with many of the students.

Reflecting back on our AngExchange teaching week at DABC, both of us agree that seeing God expand the hearts of young adults to love people of all nations is exciting, especially when they are equipped to take what we have discussed, live it out in their contexts and teach it to others. Rhonda and I are profoundly grateful for the opportunity to invest in the lives of DABC students.

We are equally indebted to those who have generously donated a legacy gift specifically for the purpose of equipping and training Filipino students for local and global leadership. Theirs is a gift that keeps on giving. ♦

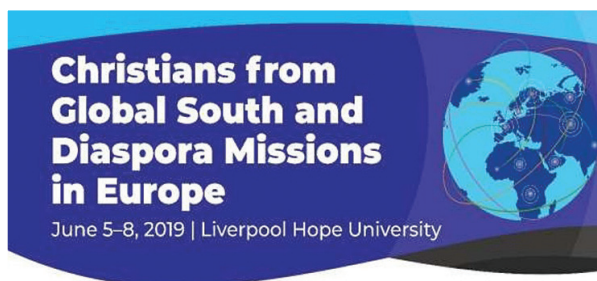
**"As a Bible teacher,  
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## The Lausanne Liverpool Diaspora Consultation - Lauren Goldbeck

At the Jaffray Centre, you'll often hear us talk about diaspora. Diaspora refers to migrants or people who reside outside their homeland. My own family, having immigrated to Canada in the mid-20th century, are part of the German diaspora; at some point in time your family likely identified as part of a diaspora community as well. Although this concept isn't new, the shift in migration patterns in recent years has brought this topic to the forefront of conversations in the missions community. God's people are on the move, so how should the Church respond?



From June 5-8, 2019, I attended the Liverpool Diaspora Consultation at Liverpool Hope University, UK. Hosted by the Lausanne Movement which connects influencers and ideas for global mission, the Consultation was on the theme of 'Christians from the Global South and Diaspora Missions in Europe'.

The event brought together scholars and practitioners of diaspora ministries from Europe and around the globe to discuss the transformation of Christianity in Europe over the last 100 years as it has been shaped by the migration of Asian, African, and Latin American Christians to Europe. More than one hundred people representing over thirty countries attended, and presenters at the conference included scholars, pastors, NGO workers, and lay leaders. Some remained in their birth countries and were working with the



diaspora communities moving into their neighbourhoods, while many others were members of diaspora communities themselves and were ministering to the diaspora groups in their new communities. Although the presenters were all working in the European context, the stories, ministries and themes shared, parallel those in the Canadian context. Throughout the presentations, a few reoccurring themes stood out.

The first was how much Christian history has been shaped by people on the move. Examples included the early church in Acts; 13th century Mongolian Christian Pilgrims; Christian slaves from Africa sent to the New World; European migration in the 19th century; Korean Missionaries in the 20th century; Chinese International students; Iranian Refugees; and so many others from the global east, west, north, and south. It's easy to focus on the recent history of western countries sending missionaries to the rest of the world, but Christian history is rich with examples of Christians from different corners of the world moving and bringing their faith with them. As Dr. Cook referenced in his article, the Canadian church is currently experiencing the 'blessed reflex' of Christian missions.

Another reoccurring theme related to the positive impact Diaspora groups can have on the local church communities as they move into their new European homes. Some diaspora groups start their own congregations and reach out to others from the same background. Others are intentional in reaching out to the nationals in their host countries or join existing churches which is breathing new life into many previously declining European

churches. In addition to connecting in their local environments, these diaspora Christians are also connecting to members of their community around the globe through travel, relationships, and technological resources. In many cases, they are able to bring the gospel message to places it cannot easily be taken by traditional missionaries. The European Church continues to be shaped by people on the move, and this is no less true in the Canadian church.

Despite the positive impact these diaspora Christian groups are having on the European Church and Christianity around the globe, there is still often a separation between the Christian European community and the various Christian diaspora communities. Many presenters recognized a need for groups to work together, share resources, and support each other in ministry as equals in the body of Christ all working towards a common goal. Reoccurring themes included the lack of resources, loneliness faced by many immigrants, as well as the challenges in identity that come from living outside of your birth country or being a visible minority in a new culture. But along with a recognition of the shared struggles, the importance of hospitality and establishing strong Christian communities were presented as ways to address the struggles. There is a need for the historic European churches and new diaspora churches to break down silos and intentionally get to know each other so they can support each other. Though our Canadian churches face different struggles than those in

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Europe, the need for the churches in Canada to support each other is no less important. How can we come together as the Church?

The conference focused on the European context, but many of the examples, ministries, struggles, challenges, and successes discussed parallel those in the Canadian context. It is exciting to hear the stories of how God is at work through the accelerated migration patterns we are seeing around the world today. Not only is my family a part of the German diaspora in Canada, but for several years, I was part of the Canadian diaspora in Laos so I know firsthand how it feels to be living in a new context. We often take for granted where we live or the communities in which we are placed, but as I was reminded throughout the presentations in Liverpool, God is at work through the movement of his people. The challenge is, how are we going to use the location God has placed us and the people he is bringing into our communities to further His Kingdom? ♦

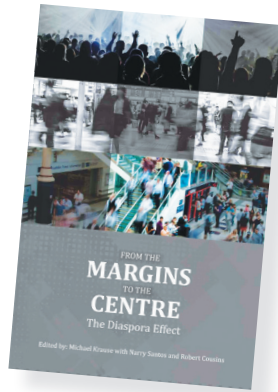


## Book Recommendation

### From the Margins to the Centre: The Diaspora Effect

*Dr. Robert Cousins*

This book was written to celebrate the 20th anniversary of Tyndale Intercultural ministry (TIM) Centre (1998-2018). TIM Centre is a strategic part of the ministry of Tyndale Seminary, located in Toronto, one of the most multicultural cities in the world. For the first ten years the focus of TIM Centre's ministry was being a catalyst for helping the Canadian church engage more effectively in global mission. In 2008 TIM Centre made a strategic change in its ministry focus. Sensing that God was doing something new in bringing representatives of the nations of the world to Toronto, TIM Centre launched its "diaspora initiative." The vision of TIM Centre became "the church from all nations, bringing Christ to all nations."



As you read this book one theme is constant throughout: We are living in a changing cultural context where proven solutions of the past no longer relate to the questions being raised in the present. Yet in this changing context, like the Apostle Paul, we must grapple with the truths

of scripture, discerning what is the essential and unchanging principles learning to apply them to new and uncharted ministry contexts.

This book challenges us to be aware of the assumptions we bring to the ministry context and be willing to evaluate them as we engage the global community that now lives among us. This will require a spirit of humility to listen and learn from people of different cultures that God has brought to our doorstep. Each of the chapters of this book have been written by

ministry partners of the TIM Centre. Each chapter is written by a reflective practitioner engaged in ministry to, through and beyond the diaspora. They write, not as leaders who have all the answers, but as servants of God who are "building the bridge as they walk on it." As you will learn in reading this book there is no blue print or five-year plan laid out to follow in diaspora ministry. What is needed is a humble heart, one which is willing to listen and learn, willing to experiment, willing to make mistakes and yet learn from those mistakes.

It is our prayer that as you read this book you will discover people who are fellow sojourners as the people of God desiring to see God's blessing for the nations. You will be more motivated to move out of the safety and security of your culture to cross cultural boundaries. You will develop cultural self-awareness, knowledge and skills for the intercultural journey God is leading you into. ♦

## Event Calendar

**Calgary Spanish Pastors Dessert Night**  
Ambrose University  
October 7, 2019



Edmonton, Alberta  
October 22-25, 2019  
[www.sikhconsultation.ca/](http://www.sikhconsultation.ca/)

**Ecotonos Cross Cultural Simulation**  
Ambrose University  
October 26, 2019

**Canadian Evangelical Missiological Society Meeting**  
March 23, 2020  
[www.emsweb.org/regions/canada](http://www.emsweb.org/regions/canada)

**Kairos Course**  
Ambrose University • May 4-8, 2020  
[www.kairos.outreach.ca/](http://www.kairos.outreach.ca/)



**Jaffray-Ang Symposium**  
Calgary, Alberta  
May 27-29, 2020

**Global Missions Podcast**  
([globalmissionspodcast.com](http://globalmissionspodcast.com))  
Bi-Weekly • [www.globalmissionspodcast.com](http://www.globalmissionspodcast.com)

For more information on these and other Jaffray events and projects, please visit us at [www.jaffrayglobal.com](http://www.jaffrayglobal.com) or send us an email at [jaffray@ambrose.edu](mailto:jaffray@ambrose.edu).

## Global Workplace Forum - Dr. Sadiri Joy Tira

### **Greenhills, Pasig City, Philippines**

Approximately 900 invited participants gathered from more than 100 countries in Greenhills, Pasig City, one of the commercial districts of the Philippines. They came for the Lausanne Movement-sponsored event, the *Global Workplace Forum (GWF) 2019* event from June 24-29, 2018. The event was hosted by the Greenhills Christian Fellowship.



(Pictured left to right): Dr. Sadiri Joy Tira, Dr. Sam George and Dr. T.V. Thomas

Dr. Michael Oh, CEO of the Lausanne Movement reminded the participants who represented the global church and labour force to mobilise the “99 percent” of the church in order to fulfill the Great Commission. The 1% cannot finish the task of world evangelisation. Every follower of Jesus Christ must be mobilised.<sup>1</sup>

Diaspora missiology and diaspora missions was at the centre of discussions throughout the GWF; featured in one of the plenary sessions and four seminars. Economic migrants are pervasive, penetrating every corner of the globe. Many of them are Christians. For example Filipinos work on the high seas, in the oilfields, in hospitals, in highrises and apartment blocks in many urban centres. There they live out their faith.

Participants, mostly leaders of business enterprises, representatives of NGOs, lawyers, journalists, professors, accountants, even barber and salon workers, returned to their homeland with a new sense of calling, courage, and hope that they were 21st Century Kingdom Workers.

During the diaspora plenary presentation, Dr. Tira informed the audience of the growing diaspora missiology centres in academic institutions, and the Jaffray Centre for Global Initiatives at Ambrose University was highlighted. ♦

For a detailed GWF 2019 report, visit the Lausanne Movement website. [www.lausanne.org](http://www.lausanne.org)

More information on GWF 2019 at the following links:

“Christians at Work—The Missing Link in Fulfilling the Great Commission”  
<https://www.lausanne.org/about/blog/christians-work-missing-link-fulfilling-great-commission>

“Should evangelism be the highest priority of Christians at work?”  
<https://www.lausanne.org/about/blog/gwf-starts-today>

<sup>1</sup> Read his article published by the Christianity Today: <https://www.christianitytoday.com/ct/2019/june-web-only/apology-christian-99-1-percent-lausanne-gwf-michael-oh.html>.



Each year Ambrose University is privileged to welcome C&MA Global Ministries international workers to the university to join us for the academic year as the International Workers in Residence (IWIR). The IWIR role includes teaching missions courses, mentoring students, supporting the student leaders of REACH, and lead a study abroad course. Being able to connect with the IWIR provides a valuable opportunity for students interested in serving overseas to learn from those who have lived it.

### **Welcoming the Klassens**



For the next two years we are glad to welcome Ernie and Marilyn Klassen, alumni of Canadian Theological Seminary and Canadian Bible College, as the IWIR. Among their many impressive qualifications, the Klassens have served as missionaries in various Latin American countries such as Peru and Mexico for 25 years, worked at INFORMA (Institute of Alliance Ministerial Formation) in Spain, and pastored an Alliance church in Belleville, Ontario.

The Jaffray Centre is looking forward to having the opportunity to work with the Klassens.

## Servant Leadership - Karl Mueller

**“ I wish I had gone through this course when I first began to be a leader at work and in my church. I would have been so much more effective.**

***This course helped me to see how I can apply Biblical leadership principles not only in my ministry, but also at work. I will be a different, more Jesus-like leader because of taking this course.*** ”

These are just two of the comments from the students who enrolled in the first Foundations of Servant Leadership Course offered by DAI Leadership Ministries in partnership with the Jaffray Centre. The class met one Saturday a month for four months at the Milbourne Community Life Centre in Edmonton. While we had only a small group of students, the diversity of ages, ethnicities and denominational backgrounds contributed to deeply meaningful and rich discussions on important leadership topics such as:

- Worldview, Culture and Leadership
- Understanding Your Leadership Style
- Leading Like Jesus
- Conflict Management and Transformation
- Integrity and Accountability
- Purpose, Mission, Vision and Values for Life and Ministry

The class, facilitated by Karl Mueller and Cheryl Krueger of DAI Leadership Ministries was highly interactive and enabled students to learn Biblical leadership principles through a combination of lectures, group discussions, stories, case studies and each other's personal experiences.

DAI and the Jaffray Centre are committed to working together to offer courses that will equip church and ministry leaders (especially those who are leading or working with New Canadian churches) to be more effective in their ministries.

Look for the announcement of new courses that will be offered in the coming months in both Edmonton and Calgary. ♦



## ABOUT



We often refer to the Jaffray Centre as a combination incubator/greenhouse where new ideas, collaborative initiatives, and fresh ways of looking at God's global mission are nurtured, developed and then launched into service in the church and in the world.

Each of the four hubs (Research Projects and Publishing; Educations, Training and Global Awareness; Global projects and partnerships; and Church in Mission Events and Services) houses the different initiatives we're working on, and we're always adding more.

The Jaffray Centre is made up of people like you and me who want to engage the world around them in new and meaningful ways. Through collaborative project development, training, and research projects, the Jaffray Centre seeks to rekindle and ignite a passion for God's unending concern for people. Interested in any of our current initiatives or have ideas for new ones? We'd love to hear from you.

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