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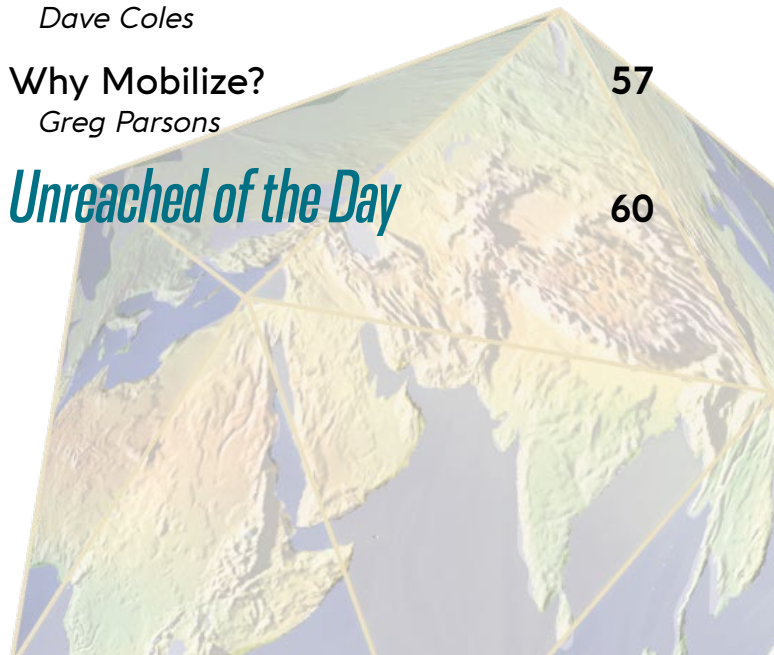
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History in the Making

By **SUE PATT**

Frontier Ventures Chief Strategy Officer

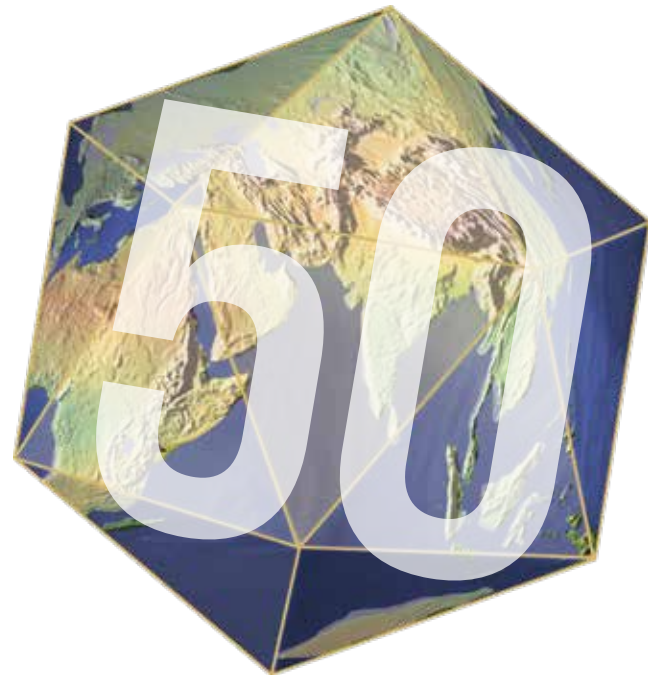
Dear *Mission Frontiers* Reader,

This issue tells a story 50 years in the making, and that story is still unfolding across the globe! I can't imagine that the students in the first Perspectives class could have envisioned just how their own lives would be shaped by this class and the ideas they would encounter. One student from that first class tells his story in these double-issue pages. Even so, that leaves many more stories from that class and so many others untold.

My own story intersects this timeline 44 years ago, when in 1980 at Penn State University, I enrolled in the first Perspectives class by extension. The content in this groundbreaking survey class already had radically changed the lives of college students who took the class. Still, most Christian students on secular college campuses could only gain access to this material if the class could be made reproducible. That's what the 1980 Penn State class was about.

Over the next many years, those working behind the scenes created training resources for multiplying coordinators and creating infrastructure to empower what would become explosive growth. I completed my degree in Human Development and interned at the US Center for World Mission (USCWM, now Frontier Ventures), working in the Perspectives office. I joined staff after graduating so that I could continue building infrastructure for the growing network of coordinators. I co-coordinated my first two classes in 1984 with a regional Frontier Ventures staff person who later became my husband! I'm a witness to an amazing view of how the Holy Spirit breathed life into the work of a few dedicated people.

That theme is echoed in each article of this issue. Regular people grasp ancient ideas that are new



to them. The Holy Spirit empowers them to live a life after God's purpose to build a family from all the families on earth. They also become witnesses to the ongoing ways the Holy Spirit empowers others through them. It's a remarkable story by all accounts.

Those early days pre-date the internet or personal cell phones. There initially was one computer terminal in the Perspectives office where class registrants were put into a central database by a couple of different staff people, including me. Records were sent through the mail from classes popping up around the country and coordinated mostly by rugged entrepreneurs who didn't need rails to run on to pull together a class. There were no rails.

A curriculum created for the Christian students on secular college campuses quickly migrated into the church world where missions pastors offered the life-changing ideas to their congregations. Much later, when a few rails were being developed and refined, we coached coordinators to integrate multiple church fellowships into each class. Mission-sending agency staff recognized the significance of participating in the growing opportunities presented by Perspectives, serving as instructors and coordinators. Listen for those stories in this issue.

Still, the rails were being built, then refined and refined again. That's why Perspectives has been able to shift in minor and major ways, leveraging new technology and overcoming new challenges. Listen for stories that include how teams shifted during the COVID-19 pandemic. Innovation has been of high value all along the way. Challenges always have been present, too. Credit-granting institutions, curriculum revisions, coordinator training, instructor training, class enhancements, leadership structures, money management, and transparency are all just some of the challenges that have taken turns at the top of the priority list. Even so, regular people have continuously been empowered to see their life purpose through the lens of God's purpose—blessing all peoples with the fullness of life in Christ, reorienting people as individuals, churches, communities, regions, agencies, and even continents. Look for Latin American and African stories in this issue!

From Urbana 1973, we saw growing openness among college students to become involved in missions.¹ What began as a response to that phenomenon has grown to a multi-lingual, multi-cultural, multi-country, multi-continent movement of God entirely focused on God's glory among all peoples. The translation of the curriculum into Spanish touched off explosive growth throughout Latin America. Today, we're poised for another chapter of explosive growth with the translation of the curriculum into French now being positioned for release into Francophone Africa. Watch with awe for what the Lord of Glory will do in the next decade!

It sounds easy as I write words on a page, but between each line, I see the faces of those who put their shoulder to the plow and gave the best years of their lives to what they could not see fulfilled in their lifetime. They now join the cloud of witnesses cheering as we continue to run our race. Through it all, the USCWM provided essential structures to support the Perspectives team. For the past nine years, since the renaming of USCWM to Frontier Ventures, the support has continued,

¹ See Yvonne Huneycutt's article in this issue, which adapts the introduction of her book *Propelled by Hope*.


through leadership changes, budgets, personnel needs, financial reports, and annual audits. The undergirding support of Frontier Ventures has been extensive and often invisible to the students, volunteers, and even Perspectives staff.

There remains no doubt in my mind that Perspectives has flourished for reasons beyond human understanding, but that the support of Frontier Ventures has been essential. It has been a joy for Frontier Ventures to be such an integral part of the Perspectives story, and we look forward to seeing the story unfold. Our apostolic missional community continues that original innovative spark of catalyzing movements to Jesus worldwide.

Through our numerous global initiatives, we provide similar and powerful points of purposeful connection for the global body of Christ. In all that we do, we build on a growing foundation of relationships at the very edges of the kingdom of God to witness Holy Spirit-led blessing for all the families of the earth. We need your help to continue this flow of the gospel to the frontiers of mission. In partnering with Frontier Ventures, you are allowing the same collaborative and innovative spark that birthed Perspectives to continue flourishing around the globe. Won't you join with us in God's purposes to all peoples? Scan the QR code below (qrco.de/FVgive) to partner with Frontier Ventures financially. We are immensely thankful for all your support, and we covet your prayers!



Do you have a story to tell about outcomes from Perspectives over the past 50 years? This double issue is bulging with stories from many different points of view, but you can tell us your story by writing to editor@missionfrontiers.org. You, too, are a witness to the amazing work of the Holy Spirit!

For the glory of God among the nations,
Sue Patt, a regular person
Chief Strategy Officer, Frontier Ventures 



Porque así como las aguas cubren los mares, también se llenará la tierra con el conocimiento y la gloria del Señor.






A Movement
***Propelled
by Hope***

By **YVONNE W. HUNEYCUTT**

Yvonne W. Huneycutt
(DMin, Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary) has served the Perspectives movement since 1991. She is currently on staff with Perspectives Global as an instructor, trainer, and author. Yvonne resides in Texas with her husband, Steve. She can be contacted at yvonne.huneycutt@perspectivesglobal.org.



A photograph of a sailboat on the ocean. The boat is on the left side of the frame, with its white hull and a portion of its sail visible. The water is a deep blue, and the sky is filled with soft, white clouds. The overall mood is serene and expansive.

I sat bewildered and amazed. What is this teaching? How could I just now be hearing such significant information? After all, I was raised in the church—in a strong, mission-minded denomination. I held church staff positions. I had a seminary degree for goodness' sake! How did I miss this? This is revolutionary. My perception of missions was shattered in the space of two hours. My insight into Scripture was enlarged in the space of two weeks. My understanding of God, myself, the world, and my role in it was transformed over a semester.

Welcome to the Perspectives on the World Christian Movement course! My experience may be radical, but it is not unusual. Thousands bespeak a testimony that echoes my own. From college students to professors, from business executives to stay-at-home moms, from pastors to lay leaders, from missionary candidates to seasoned missionaries—we have done more than take a class. We have entered a movement, one that has reshaped more than just our lives. This movement has reshaped the mission endeavors of churches and organizations. It's a movement that is reshaping the world through the kingdom advance of God's people.

From the beginning...

Launched in 1974, Perspectives has intersected the lives of an estimated 300,000 course alumni across the globe. In addition to myriads who have taken the Perspectives course or derivatives of it, tens of thousands have used the Perspectives *Reader* as a textbook in college and seminary classes. There is no way to calculate the additional hundreds of thousands of individuals who have been directly influenced by those who have studied the Perspectives material and embraced God's call and promise for world evangelization.

Perspectives on the World Christian Movement is a course comprised of 15 lessons woven together into an integrated paradigm that unfolds God's declared purpose in this world and his active work toward the fulfillment of that purpose. Although often described as a missions course, in reality, it is not. It is a vision and discipleship course. Its intended purpose is to awaken God's people to his purpose, mobilizing his church to strategic engagement with him in the outworking of that purpose.

The uniqueness of Perspectives that undergirds its enduring legacy is found in two surprising elements. The first is that it is almost entirely a volunteer movement. It is propelled forward by millions of volunteer hours supplied by thousands of eager volunteers promoting, organizing, teaching, and conducting courses around the world. Most full-time staff raise their own support to have the privilege of serving the ministry. The course produces an outcome of God's people voluntarily engaging God's purpose in a multitude of ways for the rest of their lives.

A new old paradigm for missions

Why would so many give so much of their time to this movement? The answer is found in the second sustaining element—the paradigm of the course, which often catches believers by surprise. It is explored with greater detail in my book *Propelled by Hope*. The paradigm is essentially the unfolding of a grand story. A great God is writing a great story, where he creates a great people of blessing within every people, inviting them into his story to co-labor with him in bringing about his great and global purpose.

God's people are not objectivized into useful tools to dutifully accomplish his mission; instead, God grants dignity and purpose to his people by gracing them with a great work in a relational partnership with himself. The outcome of this story is great glory for God. Because God's purpose is certain, God's people engage with him in great hope, knowing that they give their lives to an ancient, eternal, and sure purpose. They are propelled by hope.

This, then, is the Perspectives story: a volunteer movement of God's people propelled forward by hope in the sure completion of God's purpose. The Perspectives movement and the frontier mission movement are inextricably intertwined. Therefore, a broad overview of the frontier mission movement, with its concepts and outcomes, is included in this story. This overview is not intended to be all-inclusive but enough of an outline to acquaint readers with the gist and breadth of frontier missions.

On the other hand, my book *Propelled by Hope* tells the Perspectives story in greater detail, serving as a documented history of this incredible movement. Interspersed throughout the narrative are stories of lives transformed through their encounter with Perspectives. Ralph Winter, the originator of the course, used to say that Perspectives joined a movement of God that was already in progress. This is why my book begins with a historical overview of the major trends in American culture and missions leading up to the mid-1970s. I then document the early development of the Perspectives course, up through 1981, with the publication of the first Perspectives *Reader* and *Study Guide*.

It became a movement.

The Perspectives course not only joined God's movement but itself became a movement, contributing to and accelerating major mission trends. So, *Propelled by Hope* pauses in the middle of the story to highlight the developing trends in world missions between 1980 and 2000. Those were formative decades in shaping future mission outreach, particularly in the frontiers of mission. Grasping the larger context, the stage was set to continue the story of the expansion and development of the Perspectives course in the final two decades of the 20th century.

Part two of *Propelled by Hope* ushers us into the 21st century, with all its change and chaos but also its increasing fruitfulness for the kingdom of God. Again, we examine the historical and global context impacting how we do mission, noting tectonic shifts in the new millennium. The frontier mission movement matured, continuing its global expansion with new expressions while, at the same time, encountering opposition, necessitating consultation and clarification. The mission *field* became the mission *force*. God surprised everyone with cascading people movements to Christ. With broad strokes of the paintbrush, I attempt to capture significant developments in frontier missions during the subsequent two decades.

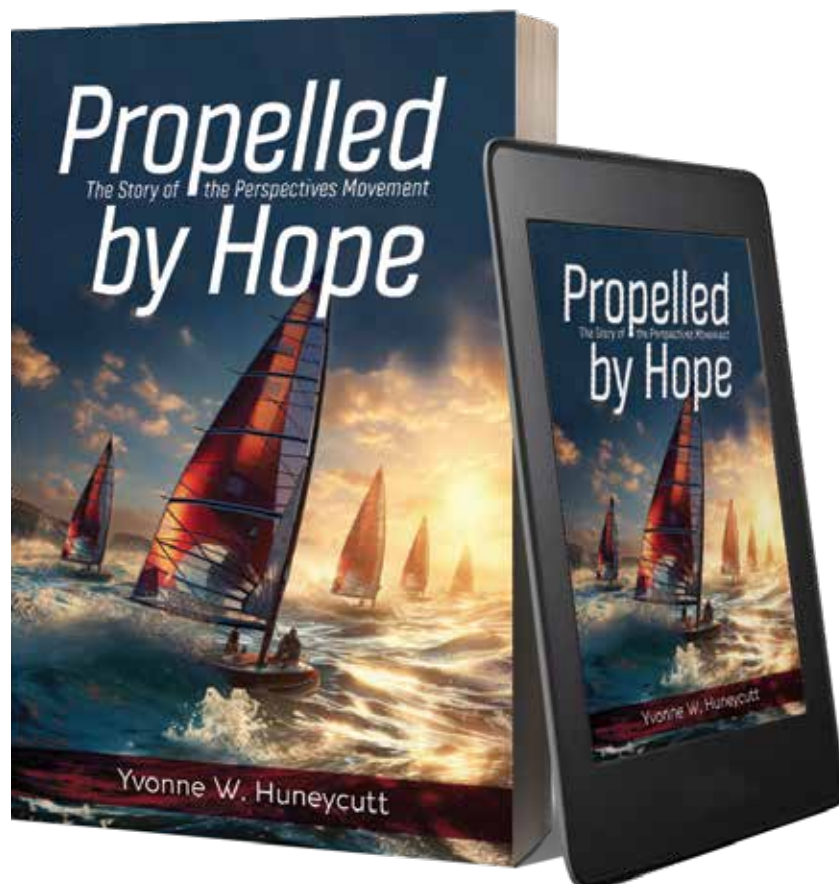
The Perspectives movement continued to mature and expand. The rapid momentum of classes and students brought with it struggle, restructuring, and new initiatives to develop tools and people. The transformative paradigm for which Perspectives is renowned was more clearly defined, enabling the students to engage in even richer ways. Deepening theological and missiological insight, now not just from the West but from many regions of the world, contributed to further curriculum development. Global growth focused on the need for a stronger course identity. Picking back up with the Perspectives story, I trace the developments from 2000 to 2020 in the North American course and organization. A significant section is given to the wonderful spread of Perspectives globally, most of which occurred in just the past decade.

The three years of 2020 to 2022 is forever etched in our memories. The global pandemic impacted Perspectives as it did everything else. During this time, Perspectives USA restructured once more to position itself for future growth. Despite national lockdowns, many global programs reported surprising advances. The challenge of recovering from the pandemic is where we conclude our story.

I often encourage my Perspectives students to be history-makers. But it is more than that. As we engage God's global purpose, we're not just making history—we are fulfilling it. The hope for which we labor is that heaven is richer and fuller and God is more glorified because of our praying, giving, going, supporting, and living for God's eternal purpose: that all tribes and tongues will know, worship, and adore him. 🏡

Adapted from "Introduction" in Yvonne Huneycutt's *Propelled by Hope*. Published by William Carey Publishing, 2024. Used by permission. Missionbooks.org.

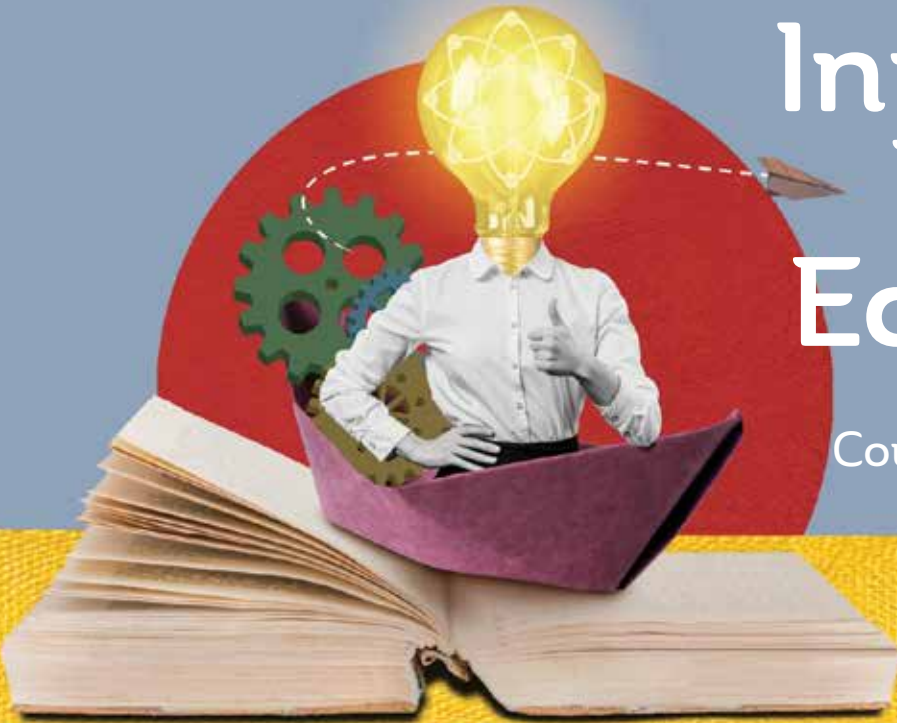
LEARN MORE



The fascinating connection between the Perspectives movement, the frontier mission movement, and church planting movements is a story rarely told yet vital to understanding the spread of the gospel to unreached populations. Yvonne Huneycutt's *Propelled by Hope* unfolds the hidden tapestry of these interconnected movements through 60 personal interviews and inspiring anecdotes.

Propelled by Hope traces the development of Perspectives in the context of seemingly every major mission milestone during the past 50 years! It is the story of Perspectives becoming a global movement, changing the lives of course-developers and leaders just as radically as it transforms students into missional world-changers.

DOUG LUCAS, DBA
President, Team Expansion and
Founder/Co-Editor, *Brigada*



Innovating Missions Education:

The Perspectives Course's Innovative Journey

By **PAUL DZUBINSKI**

Paul Dzubinski is the Innovation Catalyst of Frontier Ventures and the Director of the Winter Launch Lab. He started ministries and churches in Europe and is fascinated with all kinds of innovation.

Over its 50-year history, the Perspectives on the World Christian Movement course has integrated various different kinds of innovation. I am in the same organization as Perspectives USA and Perspectives Global and, over the past 10 years, it's been a joy to watch these developments.

Game-Changing Beginnings

Initially, the Perspectives course represented a game-change in the field of missions education. Spearheaded by Ralph Winter, it made advanced missiology accessible not only to professors but also to university students and churchgoers. This approach created a new audience for Christian education, addressing a new group with a simpler, more accessible entry point into missions. This type of change is called a radical or disruptive innovation. Radical innovation is when a new product, service, or technology disrupts an existing market. It creates a new one or considerably alters an existing market. The course challenged traditional views about missions and opened up missions education to a broader segment of the church.

Continuous Refinement

Alongside its radical innovation origins, the course also showed a commitment to continuous refinement by

adapting and evolving. That process is called *incremental innovation*. Perspectives leaders continuously improved the teaching methods, course materials, and operational processes. Over time, the course adapted to changing educational landscapes and student needs, incorporating digital platforms and online learning, especially during the COVID-19 pandemic. These adjustments were meaningful for missions education, although they were not revolutionary in the broader educational realm.

Integration of Innovation Types

In their book *Ten Types of Innovation: The Discipline of Building Breakthroughs*, Keeley, Walters, Pikkell, and Quinn offer an excellent description of types of innovation. Of the 10 types they describe, Perspectives saw continuous refinement in five.

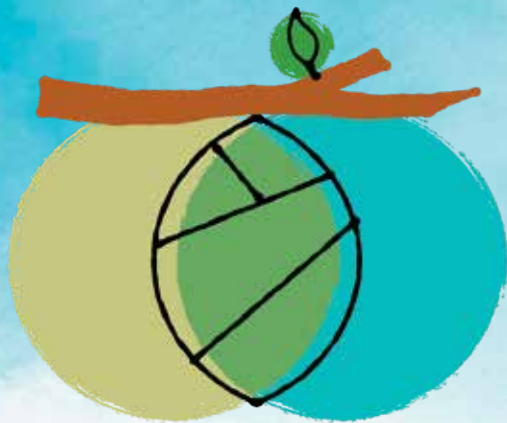
- 1. Process Innovation:** The team worked on improving teaching methodologies and operational processes. Those enhancements guaranteed that the course remained efficient and effective in communicating the four main parts of the course.
- 2. Product System Innovation:** Their development of a complete educational system is particularly impressive. The system includes various teaching materials and

methods, a structure for scheduling and maintaining instructors, and a method to connect interested people who desire to explore missions more deeply. This innovation represents a significant shift in how missions education is structured and delivered.

3. **Service Innovation:** The course has consistently improved its usefulness and value and, therefore, continues to make missions education more accessible and impactful for students.
4. **Channel Innovation:** Like many organizations and churches, Perspectives also went online during COVID-19. That was a channel innovation because they applied online platforms, leveraging digital communication channels to their unique audience. In that way, Perspectives has expanded its reach, making missions education more accessible to a global audience.
5. **Customer Engagement Innovation:** The course fosters deep, meaningful interactions with students,

engaging them in the broader narrative and purpose of global missions. But it goes further than that. The Perspectives team also fosters connections between students and organizations where they can volunteer or start a career.

The impact of these innovations is profound. The course's game-changing approach democratized knowledge in missions education, setting it free from the seminaries and professionals. And its continuous refinement ensured its relevance and adaptability. This blend of innovation continues to enable Perspectives USA and Perspectives Global to be a dynamic presence in Christian education and to meet the growing needs of the global church. The Perspectives course is a model of innovation in educational programming, especially in the area of missions education. As it moves forward, the course inspires and equips new generations of believers, ready to engage the complexities and opportunities of God's mission in the world. MF



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—2022–23 Participant

Telling Our Story in His Story!

By **CLAUDIA BUSTAMANTE**

Claudia Bustamante serves with the Perspectives Global Spanish Service office in Buenos Aires, Argentina. She is the Director of the Integral Missionary Support Network, author of *Advice for the Care of Missionaries*, founder of the School of Missionary Mobilization, and co-founder of Frontiers Argentina.

“The Lord does whatever pleases him, in the heavens and on the earth, in the seas and all their depths.”
(Ps 135:6, NIV)

In March of 2006, I visited the William Carey Library in Pasadena, California. As I browsed through the books, I found a few Spanish books. Some titles were well-known and used in Latin America. Right next to them were the English *Perspectives* books. I remember holding them close and praying, “Lord, when will we have this in Spanish?”

A few days later, I had the honor of meeting Ralph Winter as he delivered a devotional to his leadership team. He said, “We must learn to give the best of our resources for the extension of his kingdom and learn to live with what’s left.” I hid that truth in my heart, and it has guided my life decisions ever since.

Seven years later, I got a call from Tony Vazquez, a well-known Latin mobilizer, who invited me to join the first intensive in Spanish to be held in Lima, Peru. Montserrat Antillón, with passionate leadership, coordinated this course with 50 leaders from South America. From this gathering came the launch of the first translated Spanish curriculum based on the 4th edition. I wept for 10 days as I studied God’s abundant mercies, his perfect timing, and his Word revealed in the paradigms of each lesson.

Meanwhile, God brought to my mind the names of some 350 Argentinian leaders with whom I could share about the study program. When I returned, I wrote to invite each of them to a meeting where I’d tell them about the revival I just experienced. Sixty people responded to that invitation, and I’m grateful to Jeff Adams for sharing with them about Perspectives via Skype.

It was impressive! The group unanimously supported the initiative to bring the program to Argentina. They asked me, “What do you want us to do?” to which I answered, “Take the intensive that will be offered in Kansas City in six months!” Four decided to go: a pastor, a prayer leader,

and two field workers. Another four Hispanic partners and friends from other nations also participated. In my first experience as an instructor, I had the honor to teach lesson 2 there. It was an inner revolution!

A long silence followed, and I wasn’t sure what was happening. Finally, in 2014, I received another call from another hard-working mobilizer, Pastor Rigoberto Diguero, inviting me to participate in another intensive in Ensenada, Mexico. In parallel, the first intensive began in Cuba. It was there that Bruce Koch, Perspectives Global Director, spoke about finding trustworthy people in Latin America who could share the courses in Spanish. It was important to understand the ethos as well as the legal and ethical conditions of hosting the course in our countries. I was honored to accept them. That’s when we began this great adventure. Thank you, Perspectives Global, for trusting and investing in us, and for opening the door for Latin America!

Our Great Adventure

In 2015, I began to participate in the recently created Council for Perspectives Global Spanish (PGE in Spanish) together with the other leaders of the existing programs. The early fellowship, mutual support, times of dialogue, and monthly prayer meetings strengthened the ties of the Spanish-speaking network from the beginning.

As we dreamed about developing programs in the countries that still did not have them, we held annual consultations in strategic countries.¹ In each meeting, more and more people joined our teams. As we increasingly learned about the global movement, our local teams grew stronger and had greater vision.

¹ Consultations were held in Costa Rica (2015), Mexico (2016), Colombia (2017), Orlando, Florida, USA (2018), and Brazil (2019). After the pandemic, we met in Panama (2023).



The worldwide pandemic in 2020 freed us to work with virtual programs, multiplying the course and students in almost all programs. In Argentina, we already had begun to use the Moodle platform in 2019 for student assignments. The global shutdown encouraged us to share this tool with PGE. In 2020, a council of leaders developed a course for 850 people on the platform. People from Argentina, Bolivia, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, and Guatemala worked together. Students from Spain, Panama, Honduras, El Salvador, Nicaragua, Equatorial Guinea, Paraguay, Uruguay, and the Dominican Republic also participated.

The year 2023 challenged us to change, adjust, unlearn, and relearn to see where and how God wanted to make adjustments in all of us. We surrendered to his will and he gave us direction. We built a new service team, which we called “A New PGE.” The Kintsel and Flynn families from the Perspectives Global Service Office (PGSO) taught us six essential basics. These principles are now being spread among many more people who serve the Spanish-speaking movement, including relevant new areas such as virtual learning, technology, tutoring, mobilization, and new stewardship of growth.

Since then, the complete course, including instructor videos, has been accessible in a completely online format. Other countries, like Mexico and Peru, used Zoom. During that year, the online course had 318 students and a team of 141 volunteers serving them. God gives greater grace where there is greater weakness! What a life lesson! What threatened to close everything down made way for greater glory—*his glory!* The online program is here to stay and accessible to all without excuse.

The cost of the work and fatigue was high, but the joy of the fruit was greater. So many gifts were used! So many people were served! So many received these truths! For the first time, our workers in cross-cultural fields could study at a distance. So many testimonies were told about the grace they experienced as God guided them to redirect their projects, labor, and attitudes. The Perspectives lessons crossed unthinkable frontiers using wireless technology.

For the first time, the national program began to serve neighboring countries that did not yet have the course,

thus forming a critical mass of certified students. Many of them are now members of initial teams developing the program in Ecuador, Venezuela, Uruguay, El Salvador, Honduras, Nicaragua, and the Dominican Republic.

We are challenged at every moment to renew, create, and produce what God tells us.

Ten Spiritual Principles We Learned

1 God’s timing had arrived for our land and the Spanish language.

With the help of Jonathan Lewis’ edited volume *Misión Mundial*, the Ibero-American Missionary Movement had been mobilized since the first Ibero-American Missions Congress (Comibam 1987 in São Paulo). *Misión Mundial* was “the course” that grounded mobilization efforts during that time. While this tool was good for its time, we slowly plateaued and needed a fresh focus from God.

The Holy Spirit blew on Costa Rica in 2011, then Mexico, and then the launch in Lima, Peru, in 2013. A new understanding was infused with a clear vision and unique passion, which I call “a personal revival that invites others to experience God.” The 15 lessons in Perspectives awakened us all to biblical, theological, and missiological insight and called us to surrender to Christ’s lordship. Today, Perspectives is a focal point that affects the local church, the national church, mission agencies, and even field workers.

There is a new understanding that the timing of when a course starts is subject to the fulfillment of God’s global objectives. Therefore, it must be governed by his perfect will. Without pushing, we check the intentionality of the Lord who goes ahead mobilizing and preparing everything with visible signs of the *kairos* moment.

2 Relationships prepare the way.

Each of us already had work networks mobilized in different ministries. We had experienced the cooperation and fraternity of doing things together. These relationships reinforced our confidence in what we were presenting in our countries. We had national and continental partnerships in the three Americas and elsewhere in the world, such as Spain and Equatorial Guinea. It was not difficult to inspire them to be part of Perspectives because God was in it.





Encuentro Panama 2023

They all recognized the need for renewal and redirection in mission work and in life itself. We called several significant men and women personally to say to them, “God says you should be in this course. There is something special from God for your life and ministry.” *And they said yes!*

3 The initial team models fellowship.

It was natural to honor, respect, value, and support each other, even amid the pain and difficulties we faced. That has not changed. We learned that leadership renewal opens doors for growth and expansion. Significant changes came as new generations participated.

We’ve sought to put a few principles into practice: be transparent with each other, mature together, minister directly or indirectly, give ourselves to the fullest, and enjoy the synergy of gifts and abilities being put into action. Above all, we’re to be siblings and friends. Relationships are vital. Everything starts with healthy relationships. We learned that without a team there is no program.

4 What kind of leaders are we looking for?

We understood Perspective Global’s (PG) expectations from the beginning. We understood our roles and responsibilities. We achieved gradual autonomy but always in interdependence with both the Spanish council and global leaders. PG told us, “We are

looking for servant leaders, humble servants with towels in hand.” These words reflected their genuine attitude.

In Perspectives, there is no room for arrogance, fame-seeking, or power because we are called to embody the message. We are called to his purpose—to be a blessing to others, having the attitude of Christ (Phil 2).

5 A sense of consecration

We’re all volunteers but we give ourselves fully to the program, maxing our time and covering our expenses. We also meet others’ needs as God directs us.

Also, our resources must be managed with the consciousness that we are stewarding resources for God’s kingdom. That awareness makes a significant difference. It opens doors to supernatural provision. It also is a generous expression of love to invest in travel to support courses in other regions that are in the process of growth and consolidation.

6 Quality instructors matter

The quality of the instructors—their lives, teaching skills, biblical depth, experiences, and background—enrich the lessons. We always remember that we are the message even before we speak. We must be zealous when delivering the paradigms discussed in each lesson. Being so can make each lesson a learning and transformational experience. We pray for classes with anointing and revelation. We seek men and women who reflect with their lives the lesson itself.

7 Prayer is more than a duty.

We pray for one another. During the process of a course, many personal situations come up in conversation. Through prayer, we cover each other's health, families, finances, churches, hearts, and character. We pray for all the Spanish programs and the entire global movement, its 40 national programs, its leadership, its regions, and its challenges.

8 Annual National Retreats

To strengthen the communion of our national program, we create annual spaces to resolve pending conflicts: to forgive, ask for forgiveness, heal relationships inasmuch as it depends on us, laugh and cry together, worship and minister together to the Lord in spirit and truth, and better know each other and the families of those we serve. We see ourselves as one big family that grows organically.

9 When the best ones leave...

Loss can strike at any time. We lost some because God called them to eternity and now rest from their labors. We lost Victor Ibagón, whose life fell like a seed in Barcelona.

With his departure, we had to reorganize. Many things depended on him. This loss helped us become more aware of our vulnerability; it also encouraged us to live intentionally, more focused, and with a sense of destiny more than ever before. We lose others because of their wholehearted obedience to the Lord when they go to their mission fields, and so we must cover their tasks. Our loss is a gain for his harvest.

10 We do not work in isolation.

Listening to all God is doing around the world, our teams have stronger vision. The global feeds and empowers the local. Working cross-culturally with others follows the model of Jesus who chose to minister *with others*, not just to them.

There is no doubt that Jesus led Perspectives for his Father during his time on earth. He was the first coordinator, the first instructor, the first corrector of lives, and the one who launched disciples to bring about the fulfillment of his eternal purposes.

We come from that history... and we are part of his history still.


A Note from the Translators



This article was translated by Ken and Glynis Kintsel. The following note gives further background to the work of Perspectives in the Spanish-speaking world.

Our vision for seeing the Perspectives course in Spanish began in 2003 when we took the course in English in Oklahoma. After finishing the class, the Lord gave us a vision to share the course with our Spanish-speaking friends. We were aware that God was working mightily with the Spanish-speaking church in the area of missions and was calling many people to get involved in cross-cultural ministries. We also realized that Perspectives would be an important tool for preparing believers from that part of the world for that kind of work.

However, when we checked with the Perspectives home office about how to get connected with the Perspectives program in Spanish, they told us that the course did not exist in that language yet, so they invited us to join them in praying for the translation of the materials. We began asking the Lord to give this tool to the Spanish-speaking church as well. After eight years, Perspectives Global contacted our ministry, King's Way Center for World Mission, asking us to oversee the translation of all of the materials into Spanish!

The Lord put together a team of believers in Texas, along with translators in Costa Rica, Spain, Argentina, and Mexico who worked with us for two years on the project. It was a huge effort that was completed in 2013 when we then opened a service office to help the emerging programs during those first years. This work now functions under the the direction of the Spanish Perspectives Council. We had the privilege and opportunity to help plant Perspectives in Mexico, Cuba, Argentina, Colombia, Spain, and the United States. We've also served other new programs in the 12 countries where the Perspectives Study Program now operates. All glory belongs to the Lord for what he has done and will do through this valuable material. 

Every Step of the Way!

By **TIMOTHY O. OLONADE**

Timothy Olonade, PhD, served on the leadership team CAPRO and was appointed the Pioneer Executive Secretary of Nigeria Evangelical Missions Association before founding El-Rehoboth Global Leadership Foundation and M2414 Initiative for Final Harvest where he serves as President and Int'l Coordinator, respectively. Timothy is a priest in the Anglican Communion where he serves as a Canon. He is the Founding Coordinator of Africa Mentoring Initiative, a network of Christlike leadership development leaders across Africa.

A Generation-Long Series of Encounters

My romance with Perspectives started in 1982. I was undergoing missiological training in preparation for full-time service with an indigenous mission group when someone brought a copy of the Perspectives *Reader* from the USA. I was fascinated by the articles on people-group factors in world evangelism—that was what we cared about in our work in Nigeria.

In 1989, I received cross-cultural communication training in Bulstrode, England, and spent time at Worldwide Evangelization for Christ (WEC International) headquarters. I had a discussion with Patrick Johnstone, then editor of *Operation World*, on the paucity of sound motivational and inspirational missiological materials that can spark mission interest. I had just published my first work, *Motivation for World Missions*, a small book calling for immediate frontier mission involvement from the Emerging African Mission Force. My response to Patrick was this: If Perspectives crossed the Atlantic, it could be one of God's instruments to spur zeal and motivation for world missions for a long time.

In 2000, I was appointed the Pioneer Executive Secretary/CEO of the Nigeria Evangelical Missions Association (NEMA), a networking association committed to mutual encouragement and accountability to spread the gospel to the ends of the earth. The Association was birthed in 1982 by five Nigerian indigenous missions groups that wanted to expand the involvement of Nigerians in world missions. After

assuming office at NEMA, I visited the US Center for World Mission in Pasadena, the home of Perspectives and the *International Journal of Frontier Missiology*. Greg Parsons arranged for me to meet Ralph Winter.

“If Perspectives on the World Christian Movement is about the world Christian movement, why have you served it as an American menu?” I asked Winter. His answer was quite profound, “We are waiting for people like you to take it further.” He went on to show me a couple of abortive moves in India, Ethiopia, Brazil, and Latin America. In each, “We wanted to ensure Perspectives did not come across as an American imposition.” To deal with “this American thing,” it seemed they killed the fire by removing wood from the fireplace. They were careful that the food didn't smell like charcoal, and they ended up having uncooked food that couldn't be served.

Winter was legitimately interested in seeing Perspectives transcend America, but his position on some of his articles was sacrosanct. Maybe we could drop some articles and get locals to write a piece or two. I saw his dilemma and supported his vision for a culturally adaptable Perspectives in Nigeria. I counseled, “We can't begin to change the content or replace articles until we've interacted with the present content.” To that, Winter graciously replied, “Then let's make it happen.”

Within weeks, a plan was made for the first-ever PSP (Perspectives Study Program) intensive course on





the continent of Africa in Jos, Nigeria, in 2002. That trip brought Steve Hawthorne and Bruce Koch on their first African visit—to Nigeria! Fifty-six key leaders from over 30 denominations and mission agencies came for the maiden two-week intensive class in May 2002. Their testimonies were electrifying. The content, delivery, and atmosphere refreshed these leaders, some having traveled 500 miles on poor roads to attend the training. After the class, I invited 14 of these leaders to a post-study review session to strategize development for the future program in Nigeria. We looked at the course, hosting costs and logistics, travel challenges, the development of local facilitators, and the affordability of the reading manual. We mapped out our strategy and enlisted help where needed. We scheduled classes across Nigeria and expressed the ambitious desire to step into other African nations ASAP!

Bad news travels fast, but good news travels far. Classes across various regions were held quickly one after another. From that mustard seed planted in 2002, there are now tens of thousands of alumni in Nigeria and other African countries. We introduced PSP as an in-service training and leadership-development course on world evangelization for serving and emerging leaders. And it worked. In the days before Boko Haram invaded and stained the land, even senior government officers, who were bi-vocational pastors and missionaries, fought to get a seat in the class.


So, intentional efforts were made from inception to target participants who could hasten the impact of the program. One such participant was the regional leader of Foursquare Gospel Church, Isaac Komolafe. Following the Perspectives class in 2002, Komolafe trailblazed his denomination's incursion into the unreached people groups of northeast Nigeria. In his words, "Perspectives turned things around—the right way!" He was among the first leading pastors to train as facilitators and traveled with me to facilitate several classes.

Perspectives had an immediate impact on two Anglican Bishops—one in the East, the other in

Central Nigeria. Bishop Sam was an active leader in the Scripture Union Movement in Nigeria before he was elected Bishop. Upon becoming a bishop, he sought the Lord for the best way to bring the deep-rooted mission and evangelism zeal to his area. Hearing of Perspectives, he invited us to run a class for 46 of his senior clergy and fellow bishops. Before the class ended, they resolved to have another larger class. Three months later, 10 bishops, an archbishop, and 89 carefully selected, very senior clergymen from 10 dioceses took the Perspectives intensive class.

The intensive nature of the classes contributed to PSP's growth in Nigeria. For busy leaders, it is much easier to sacrifice a little time over a week than to stretch the course out over a longer period. Such flexibility thrilled Bishop Nyom of Central Nigeria. Rather than send 10 people to Jos for the class, Bishop Nyom pleaded to host a class of their own. Within a year of this discussion, 64 of his close associates and regional leaders took the course. Nyom told me four years later, "The church planting passion and practice that followed the class is remarkable and fruitful."

Various associates were urged to step up their involvement in missions, including two young architects, Sam Olatunbi and Victor Idakwoji. To be on staff in NEMA then, you needed to go through PSP. It was my prescribed baptism into serving and running errands for the Nigeria mission movement. So, Sam and Victor experienced two separate classes that changed the course of their lives permanently. Thereafter, Sam coordinated PSP nationally under my watch for five years before Victor took over and has served in that duty post for over a decade. What started as a mustard seed grew leaps and bounds through the yielded and focused involvement of these two, along with my successors in the NEMA leadership.

I shared with the maiden class in 2002 my vision to see thousands of church leaders take Perspectives. The first five foundational years attracted about 2,000–3,000 people. Another 10 years of moderate growth followed. In a recent analysis of the program, Perspectives has attracted more than 6,400 participants from all the states in Nigeria in the past eight years. Our dream of impacting other African countries has not yielded the desired result. But the program continues to showcase the reality of the world Christian movement that is driven by Nigerians, resourced by Perspectives, and extends the gospel's reach—to the glory of God. 



Hoodwinked

This Is a Missions Program!

By JAY MĀTENGA

Jay Mātenga is the Director of Missions Interlink, the missionary alliance of Aotearoa, New Zealand. He also leads the Mission Commission with the World Evangelical Alliance. See his blog and article archive at jaymatenga.com.

The year is 1990. My new wife and I sat in the backseat of a car, returning home from our Pacific island honeymoon in Rarotonga. Driving the car was an elder from our church, a good friend who chauffeured us from the airport to our first home as husband and wife. Aside from the usual life changes, getting married also required me to get a passport. It was my first time outside of Aotearoa, New Zealand. Before this, I had no interest in leaving the country. I felt called to serve here at home.

I met my wife, Pauline, in 1988 at Faith Bible College, a small disciple-training school in Tauranga on the Bay of Plenty, New Zealand, 1,473 miles due south of Fiji. We had the same classes, except for the electives. Pauline took all the missions electives in anticipation of a short-term placement in the Philippines, followed by carrying Bibles into China from Hong Kong as part of the school's six-week practicum. I, on the other hand, planned my elective subjects around avoiding the missions classes, even to the point of signing up for Women in Ministry, the only alternative elective at one point on the timetable. For the six-week summer practicum, I served a fledgling youth ministry in a small country town.

Our different ministry aspirations proved unable to keep us apart. We simply assumed God would lead us one way or another, and so we set the future aside. With our honeymoon bags packed in the trunk and us sitting close in the backseat, our elder friend swiveled in the driver's seat and thrust a three-fold photocopied pamphlet into each of our hands. The front fold read something like, "Discover God's Plan for the World... and Your Part in It." Initially, I was intrigued. I've always been attracted to the big picture. Moreover, Pauline and I were eager to discover God's plan for our newly unified lives.



Our friend turned back to the wheel. As he pulled away from the curb, he looked at us in the rear-view mirror and blithely noted, "I've already signed you up. Because of your vacation, you've missed the first two weeks, but I'm sure you'll be able to catch up." I flipped the front page open and read the course blurb. It was as cunningly worded as the front, but it didn't fool me. "Wait," I complained. "This is a *missions* course. I'm not interested in doing a missions course."

The way I remember it, my new bride jabbed my leg, looked up at me, batting her eyelashes, and appealed, "Aw, go on... it'll be fun." I was hoodwinked, shanghaied, caught between a protagonist and an ally. What choice did I have?! It turned out that our driver was teaching the course—*Perspectives on the World Christian Movement*. The New Zealand edition was 21 weeks long. It was the start of winter. Our elder friend was Michael Simkin, a pioneering mobilizer for WEC International in New Zealand. In that car, God changed the course of our lives.

Perspectives (as the course is affectionately named) was introduced to Aotearoa, New Zealand, in 1987 by a local Pentecostal church pastor who had taken the course in the USA. The pastor encouraged another leader in the church, Don Cowey, to go to Pasadena, take the course, train as a coordinator, and bring it back to New Zealand. Don, an architect who served in missions, had a passion for starting a missionary training school.¹ While Don taught the first class using the official study guide in 1987, he asked a student in the first cohort of 45 to adapt the course for a wider New Zealand audience.

¹ Interview with Bob Hall, "Global Perspective Grabs New Zealand," in *Mission Frontiers*, March–April 1990. www.missionfrontiers.org/issue/article/global-perspective-grabs-new-zealand.

That student was Bob Hall, a sociology professor at the University of Canterbury in Christchurch, New Zealand. In a 1990 interview, Bob confirmed that the first cohort of 45 grew in 1988 to 200 over six courses, in 1989 to 600 in 20 courses, and, by 1990 my wife and I were two of 1,200 people in one of 40 courses around the nation.²

Not long after Bob accepted responsibility for (re) designing and administrating what became the “South Pacific Perspectives Study Programme,” he recruited Michael Simkin to assist with the development of a new Centre for Mission Direction (CMD), with a vision to “awaken those who are asleep to mission... mobilize those who are awake to mission... and support those who are moving in mission.” CMD became a major influence for missions in Aotearoa, New Zealand, between 1988 and 2006. Out of their homes, Bob (in Christchurch, South Island) and Michael (near Wellington, North Island) promoted and distributed all manner of missions awareness materials including the Perspectives courses, Caleb Project, Joshua Project, Adopt a People, Global Mapping material, Patrick Johnstone’s World A, B and C material, AD2000 (and Beyond), 10/40 Window, Destination 2000 (Sjogren), and Catch The Vision (Stearns) content, Global Prayer Digest, Brigada news, Friday Fax, and many other missions books, journals, and teaching videos.³ CMD also maintained a comprehensive contact database of missionary organizations sending from and ministering within Aotearoa, New Zealand. Although they wholeheartedly endorsed the development of Perspectives, CMD’s resourcing sat uncomfortably with some leaders of the New Zealand Evangelical Missionary Alliance (NZEMA, renamed Missions Interlink in May 1999). Nevertheless, NZEMA’s member agencies welcomed CMD’s ministry because it provided a much-needed boost to a waning missions vision in local churches.

In 1994, Pauline and I opted for a ix-month placement with our local church as part of our undergraduate education at the Missionary Training College in Tasmania.⁴ This allowed us to learn from and assist Michael Simkin and CMD. By that stage in our missions vision, we felt

² Interview with Bob Hall, “Global Perspective Grabs New Zealand.”


³ The CMD website is no longer active, but an archive of CMD’s vision and core services remains online: christian.net/pub/resources/mission3.html.

⁴ The WEC Missionary Training College in Tasmania is now known as Worldview Centre for Intercultural Studies.

that God was calling us to mobilization, a relatively new missions ministry promoted in Perspectives by Ralph Winter. It was just starting to catch on in the early/mid-1990s. In 1995, we were accepted by WEC International to serve at the sending base in Auckland, New Zealand, in administration and mobilization, continuing our work with CMD and coordinating the Perspectives courses in the upper North Island region.

In 2000, I became Director of the Pioneers New Zealand (PNZ)’s mobilization office, shoulder-tapped by one of our Perspectives students who was PNZ’s administrator. We continued to be involved with Perspectives while serving Pioneers until 2015. It was then that I was invited to lead Missions Interlink NZ, with the remit both to help its members position themselves for a new era of missions from and within Aotearoa, New Zealand, and to encourage interagency collaboration to strengthen participation in God’s mission. In 2020, I was invited to lead the World Evangelical Alliance’s Mission Commission.

In everything Pauline and I do for missions, we remain committed to the calling that first emerged in 1990 from our Perspectives reflections. The core of that vision is to strengthen participation in God’s mission, but not the way missions has been done in the past. From 1974–2014, enormous momentum grew for a certain vision of God’s mission, but it is time for a shift of ... perspective.⁵ Perspectives still influences much of my missions thinking, even as I have moved on from many Western biases. Within my local and global networks, we are in a careful process of reimagining missions in light of a maturing world Christianity. Pray for us.

I am honored to be among a cohort of hundreds of New Zealanders out of the thousands of students who were motivated into cross-cultural missions by the South Pacific Perspectives Study Programme. The fact that I serve in and from Aotearoa, New Zealand, with a frequently stamped passport is not lost on me. Through Perspectives, I caught Pauline’s heart for God’s purposes among the nations. As God did with me, let us pray for the Spirit to “hoodwink” new generations into serving God’s purposes in fresh ways for a world in desperate need of the gospel. 

⁵ For more on this period, see Harold Fickett, *The Ralph D. Winter Story* (Pasadena, CA: William Carey Library, 2012).



From a Packed Lunch to Great Banquet

By **RICHARD M. VERREYNNE**

Richard Verreyne lives in South Africa, training pastors, church planters, and missionaries. He leads a ministry, Church on the Move, seeking to mobilize and revitalize the Church for its global mission task. He can be reached at richardverreyne@gmail.com.

Outside his campus abode at the US Center for World Mission, Ralph Winter and I enjoyed a packed lunch in the winter of 1982. Shaded by a big old tree, he recounted the birth of Perspectives. I concede I knew very little about global missions, especially the unreached. I was a 32-year-old pastor of an evangelical church on the east coast of South Africa.

Meaningful missionary themes emerged during my four years of seminary. The Great Commission stood out among my academic mentors, but the weight of cross-cultural missions never settled on me. Personal evangelism was my priority. As a young pastor in Cape Town, I had the joy of seeing a newly planted suburban church expand rapidly.

I started training teams in evangelism, using Jim Kennedy's popular model, Evangelism Explosion (EE), before eventually being invited in 1982 to participate in the 20th anniversary of EE to be held in Fort Lauderdale. Having never traveled to the US, I sought advice from my friends, Dave and Debbie Bliss, who said, "You simply have to spend at least one whole week at the US Center for World Mission and meet Ralph Winter!" And so, I did.

Now I was here, intently listening to Winter relate the need for a fresh new perspective on missionary training; how stacks of curriculum material shaped a compendium of reality-filled missiology; how God brought together a significantly large number of partnering professors and mission practitioners

with much to contribute through writing and live presentations. They would start training teams called to ripe mission fields among the unreached. I was hearing from the source of a dynamic story about how God shaped the Perspectives Study Program.

Before my unforgettable meeting with Winter, I walked the campus from this side to that, visited the William Carey Library, and spoke to some of the cosmopolitan students. Always in the back of my mind was the Bliss' story of how the USCWM came into being. I now witnessed the enormous faith venture to buy this vacant college campus without money and how the massive prayerful faith fundraising process came to pass.

Having talked much and eaten little, the sage then placed a ring binder with the study guide before me; on top of that was the brand new blue 1981 edition of the *Perspectives Reader*. His words were soft and uninspiring, as a deep frown marked his forehead: "See if there's anything you can do with this." Walking away from that conversation, I clutched my gift, wondering, "What would I go and do with this?"

Now, I had the opportunity to structure a new two-year missions course and decided to use *Perspectives on the World Christian Movement: A Reader*.

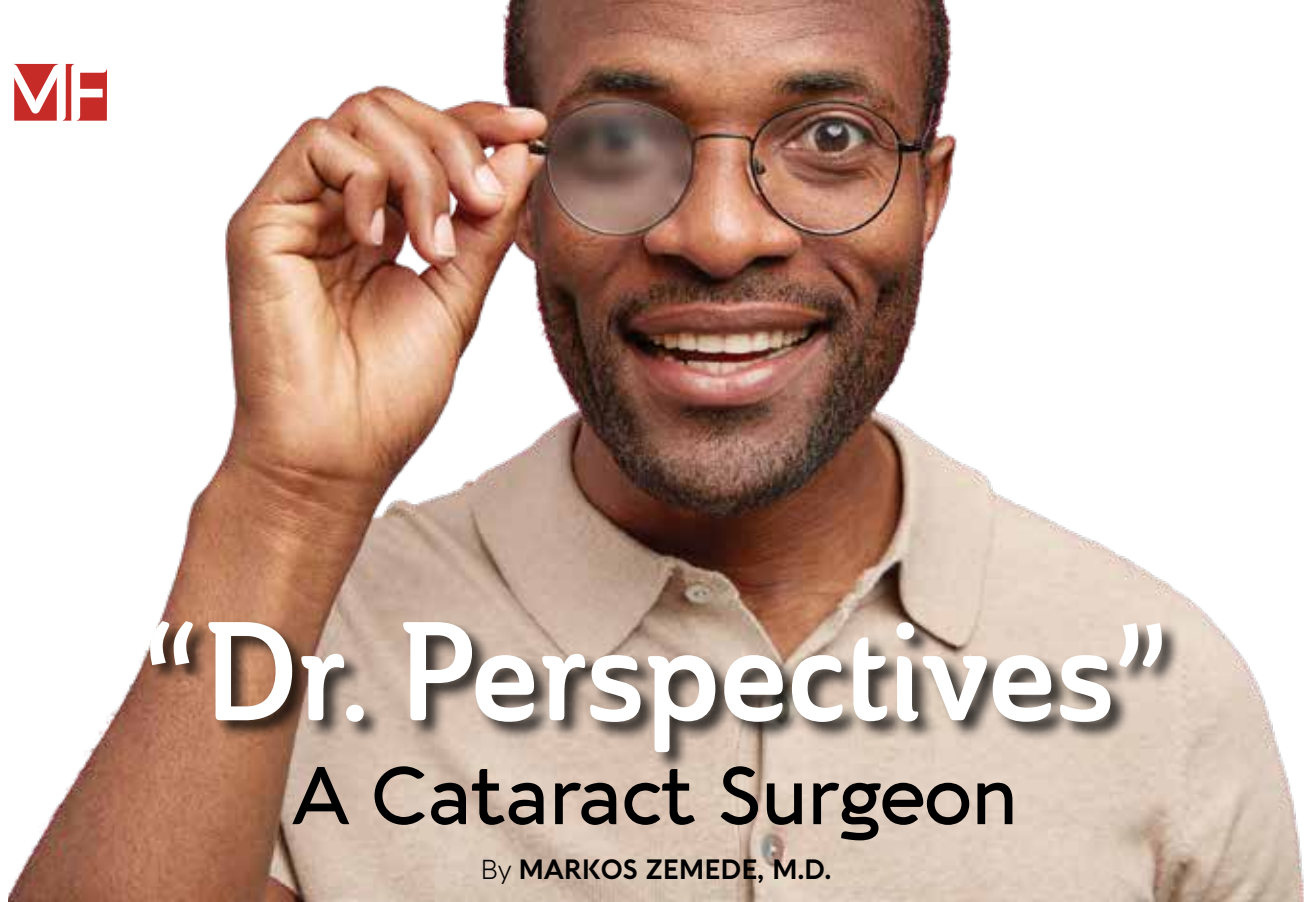
Back in South Africa, God's plans were unfolding. The second conference of the South African Action for World Evangelization (SAAWE) took place in Durban. I started working closely with this organization, inspired by their motto: "South Africa a fountain of good news to the nations of the world." In 1983, I was called to a local church east of Johannesburg, where the Christian Reformed Theological Seminary (CRTS) was also docked. I assisted as an administrative registrar and taught missiology. For decades, missions in South Africa had been caught up in the throes of apartheid. Something was needed to wrest free the study of mission from this disempowering grip of politically inspired views. Now, I had the opportunity to structure a new two-year missions course and decided to use *Perspectives on the World Christian Movement: A Reader*. In 1985,

I was appointed as CRTS president. With interest so overwhelmingly heightened for the missiology course, we structured CRTS to have a School of Theology, training pastors with a strong missional emphasis, and a School of World Mission, equipping mission candidates with a sound evangelical theology for cross-cultural mission endeavor. The results have been profound, with numerous mission candidates deployed into Africa, Asia, and the 10/40 Window. Many local churches are involved in missions and becoming sender bases from which the Lord of the Harvest can send out his called ones.

That local church east of Johannesburg became something of an epicenter church from where their own missionary testimony of prayer, faith-promise giving, and sending missionaries multiplied hundredfold and more! The 1990s saw more than 2,500 local churches in various denominations adopt a missionary vision and become involved in world evangelization. According to the *South African Christian Handbook* (SAAWE; 1989 ed.), the number of missionaries sent from South Africa into the world was a meager 285. An SAAWE estimate in 1989 stated that mission-supporting churches could be counted on one hand. We sorely wanted to see that change!

The Lord blessed these efforts abundantly as the fruit of mission endeavor spread like wildfire during the 1990s. In 1997, the estimated number of missionaries sent out from South Africa exceeded 7,000, with over 1,000 local churches becoming involved in missions.

We give glory to God for mission-mobilizing being initiated in South Africa and its ripple effect throughout Africa, the 400 minority groups in China, Russia's many indigenous peoples, and the Indian subcontinent with its 2,500 unreached and unengaged people groups. Dear faithful partners in Winter's vision—by the grace of our God, we have "seen what we could do" with the gift of that vision, a reader, and a study guide. We await a great banquet with all nations as the Lord's guests. *Soli Deo gloria!* 🏡



“Dr. Perspectives”

A Cataract Surgeon

By MARKOS ZEMEDE, M.D.

Markos Zemedu immigrated to the US from Ethiopia as a teenager. His life was transformed by the Perspectives course and today he leads a mission organization called Horn of Africa Mission. He can be contacted at markos@hornofafrica.org.

I was 18 years old when I arrived in the United States in 1984. I gave my life to Jesus two years prior while a refugee in Rome, Italy. Coming to the US was a huge blessing for several reasons. Firstly, I found the freedom to love and follow Jesus. At that time, Ethiopia was under a communist regime, and it was illegal to be a disciple of Jesus. Coming to America, I was able to grow and mature in my faith. Secondly, I had a childhood dream of becoming a medical doctor. America was my best chance to fulfill my dream. Lastly, I was unaware of my need to have surgery, but I met the surgeon, “Dr. Perspectives,” in America.

In 1996, by the grace of God, I accomplished my childhood dream of becoming a medical doctor and started my medical practice. I thought, “Now I can live the American dream.” But before long, my church introduced me to the *Perspectives on the World Christian Movement* course. Though I had never heard about this course before, I signed up and took it. As a result, my life’s trajectory forever changed. It was in this Perspectives class that I exchanged my idea of the American dream with God’s kingdom dream. One Perspectives instructor defined the

American dream as “Buying things we don’t need, with the money we don’t have, to impress people we don’t like.” With this understanding of the American dream, I was so happy to exchange it for a life with meaning and purpose.

God used the Perspectives on the World Christian Movement course as a skilled surgeon to perform cataract surgery on the eyes of my heart. Now, I can see clearly and in colors. I started seeing the Bible as one book. Its grand metanarrative became apparent. Knowing God’s dream of seeing worshipers from every nation, tribe, people, and language (Rev 7:9) challenged me to exchange my small dream with God’s big dream. Living to fulfill God’s dream became my ambition. Instead of seeing people only as “saved” or “unsaved,” I started also seeing people as “reached” or “unreached.” I moved from thinking only of “what God has saved me *from*” to “what God has saved me *for*.” I started realizing all lost people are not the same. Some are lost with access to the gospel. Many others are lost without any access. All these new perspectives caused me to have a paradigm shift and created a passion in my heart to take the gospel to those who

have little or no access to the message of Christ. Those who are last to hear became my priority. With that new understanding and passion, a couple of my Ethiopian friends and I started a mission organization called Horn of Africa Mission in 2002.

It was not natural or easy to start a mission organization as an African immigrant living in the US. On the one hand, we didn't know any mission organizations that were started and run by African immigrants. On the other hand, the American mission organizations we knew needed a lot of money to be fruitful. God in his wisdom helped us to start and lead a very fruitful missions organization that is not dependent on a lot of money yet, at the same time, impacts many nations.


When we thought about where to start our ministry, being born and raised in Ethiopia, the Horn of Africa region was a natural first choice. Beyond familiarity and natural connection, it is a region where a large percentage of the population is unreached. We began our work in Ethiopia and Eritrea in 2004. We started by organizing annual missions conferences where we invited all evangelical leaders to attend. These conferences helped us to know the leaders, introduce global missions, and create partnerships with churches and mission organizations. Soon after, we started to train, support, and send church planters in Ethiopia and Eritrea. Back then, our rallying cry was to plant "10,000 churches by 2010!" To many of our friends, this was a crazy dream, as our goal seemed impossible for a newly birthed ministry. Our answer was, "We learned in the Perspectives course that our assignment is to make disciples of all nations, and the best strategy to accomplish that is to plant churches. God will help us to disciple the unreached people groups of the Horn of Africa and in the process will plant these 10,000 churches by 2010!"

God faithfully provided church planters, funding, and the strategy of CPM/DMM so that we could march full speed toward our goal. By 2010, our ministry grew beyond Ethiopia and Eritrea to include Djibouti, Somalia, Sudan, Kenya, and Tanzania. We observed the hardest places produce the greatest of harvests. We saw amazing multiplication in many of our mission fields. By the end of 2010, more than 10,000

simple churches were planted in the nations of the Horn of Africa/East Africa region. To God be the glory! Today, our ministry has expanded to include 23 nations in Africa and the Middle East. We have seen over 28,000 simple churches planted and more than 750,000 people added to God's kingdom.

In addition, God is pleased to use us as an instrument to awaken the African church for missions. A recent experience serves as an example. A few months ago, we trained church leaders in Chad with the goal of starting a mission organization there. Afterward, we encouraged the leaders to found a mission organization with a vision to reach their nation and one day send missionaries to reach their neighboring nations. Our story—African immigrants used by God to reach nations in Africa and the Middle East, ignited a fire in their hearts and increased their faith. We made it clear that it is not our intention to open a branch of *our* ministry but to help them start a mission organization that *they* lead. And this gave them great confidence. As partners, we agreed to give them training, avail ourselves for coaching, and provide them with resources including finances.

Today, they're doing a great job, making great strides to engage the remaining UPGs in their nation. We believe they will be more fruitful as an indigenous ministry led by locals than if they were a branch office of our ministry. In this way, the Chadian church will be revealed as the gift that it is and will help the African church to play its role in God's mission. We have established organizations like this in a few other countries and rejoice in what God is doing through his people in Africa and the Middle East. We look forward to the day when the African church sends a multitude of missionaries to reach the remaining hard-to-reach people groups of the world. The harvest field is becoming the harvest force.

The world came into focus for me after a successful cataract surgery. "Dr. Perspectives" (Perspectives on the World Christian Movement course) gave me a clear vision of God's Word and his mission. I am forever grateful for the course that connected me with my purpose by restoring my sight and shaping my ministry to impact nations. 



God's Impact on the Brazilian Perspectives Movement

By **ESTEVÃO MULLER**

Estevão Muller is co-founder and president of Perspectivas Brasil and director of mobilization for Frontiers Brasil (perspectivasbrasil.com; frontiers.org.br)

The Beginning

The challenge was before us. What could a small group of ordinary people do to impact the missions movement of a church of more than 50 million believers in a country the size of the continental United States? In 2008, we started by gathering approximately 70 pastors and mission leaders together to present the Perspectives vision and material. Although we dreamt of how Perspectives could move the Brazilian church, we could not have imagined the magnitude of what God would do over the next 16 years to mobilize his people for his mission.

In the late 2000s, many mission leaders were discouraged, believing that the Brazilian church was losing a vision for sending missionaries. But God had other plans and began to move into the church. Although Perspectives started slowly (with just a few

courses each year), the movement began to explode in 2014. By 2018, Perspectivas Brasil offered 50 classes a year with an average of 65 students per class. Despite the pandemic, Perspectivas Brasil has now surpassed 22,000 alumni, including more than 3,000 pastors.

A New Momentum

These statistics, however, tell only a small part of the story about how God moved in Brazil through Perspectives. A new momentum of mission mobilization began to take place and Perspectives grew into the country's largest mission mobilization movement with over 800 volunteers. Several other mobilization efforts joined Perspectives, such as the *VOCARE* youth movement (started in 2012). Together these movements began to impact Brazilian missions as a whole.

With this new momentum, God used Perspectivas Brasil's first national director, Jacó Muller¹, to influence missions mobilization. He became known for his biblical vision of mobilization, in which he states that God is the greatest mobilizer and, since God desires to engage his people in his mission, anything is possible. "Dá!," which in English means "It can be done!" or "It is possible!," became the cry of many missions mobilizers. If God is behind mobilizing his people, then the most unlikely person and the most improbable leader can be mobilized. This momentum spurred many mission mobilization organizations to finally get more engaged in mission mobilization. Today, upon entering the Perspectivas Brasil national office, you'll see this motto on the wall: "We believe in the eminence of a missionary awakening in Brazil, but regardless of how the Brazilian church responds to this, knowing that this is God's will already gives us sufficient reason to invest in mobilization." All of this was supported by a Perspectives national prayer movement that started in 2014 and currently has hundreds of alumni and volunteers praying, with coverage 24hrs a day, 7 days a week for the PSP movement and for UPGs.

Spirit of Pioneering and Sacrifice

The early coordinators and volunteers had a spirit of pioneering and sacrifice to spread the vision of God's global purpose. Among the hundreds of stories to be told, I'll share a handful. One woman moved to another state for three months to take Perspectives in order to start the course in her own state in northeastern Brazil. Two single mobilizers not only took the course over three months in another state, but they then moved six hours away to a larger city and lived in a church classroom for six more months so that they could coordinate the course there. Young Jacó completed the course in 2011, felt called to unreached peoples (UPGs), but sensed God call him to first mobilize his friends and city. In 2013, he coordinated his first course. By 2014, he served full-time, overseeing seven courses in two states. At the end of the year, he became the national director and served in that role until September of 2023, when he began serving as a church planter among a UPG.

¹ Jacó Muller is his pseudonym, for security reasons.

Influencing Churches and Leaders

Over the years, we've heard stories of God using Perspectives courses to influence local churches. One church leader was so moved that he worked to change the vision statement of his church. That same leader went on to serve as a Perspectives coordinator and regional director for nine years. In the interior of the state of Rio de Janeiro, pastors from different denominations who took the course together decided to start a city-wide mission council. Although these pastors typically do not interact, they joined forces to support cross-cultural mission efforts, both inside and outside Brazil. Their first project put together a team to reach out to the local gypsy community, among whom no one was working. Last year, one of our board members and former coordinators worked with a church not only to offer the Perspectives course but also to help church leaders adopt a mission policy that prioritizes church planters among the unreached. They've already adopted a new missionary family going to the Muslim world.

Serving Mission Agencies

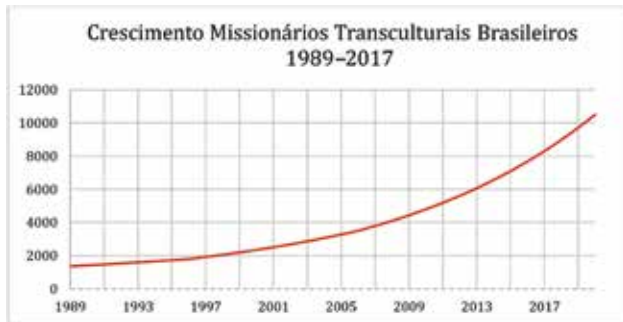
God has used Perspectivas Brasil to serve many mission-sending agencies. A well-established agency had to restructure its candidate-training course to accommodate twice as many candidates, a number they attributed to Perspectives. Recently, a large denominational sending board said that they were reaping the effect of Perspectives in the form of many new missionary candidates. Several times, God used Perspectives as a launching platform for other organizations. The director of Friends of the Gypsies, an organization planting churches among gypsies, dubbed Perspectives as their "John the Baptist." He said, "Everywhere you go, someone wants to start a ministry to the gypsies, and they call us." In 2023, the Perspectivas Brasil office gave logistical and personnel support to three new mobilization ministries as they got established in Brazil.

Growth of Missionary Sending

All of this has significantly affected the growth of Brazilian missionary sending. In their 2017 Research Report,² the Brazilian Association of Cross-Cultural

² AMTB, "Research Report of the Brazilian Cross-Cultural Missionary Force" (São Paulo, 2017), 7 and 22.
ambt.org.br/forca-missionaria-brasileira-transcultural/

Missions (AMTB) cited Perspectives as one of the key mobilization factors for the growth of Brazilian missionary sending, an increase from 6,000 in 2006 to more than 12,000 missionaries in 2017, a number that has since surpassed 15,000.³ As of 2017, 21% of the missionary force works to reach the many indigenous tribal groups within Brazil. Also, 32% of the Brazilian mission force serves the effort to reach Muslims (20%), Hindus, and Buddhists. These figures reflect a significant shift in the focus and priority of the Brazilian missions movement. God has called many Perspectives volunteers and alumni to serve overseas. For example, one young couple took Perspectives, then coordinated two classes, and now serves in North Africa as church planters!



Beyond Brazil

The movement has spread beyond Brazil's borders. Perspectives Brasil has been privileged to offer the Perspectives course in Angola for the past four years to more than 600 church leaders from various denominations, reaching 15 of the 18 Angolan provinces.

New Ministries


In 2020, God led Perspectives Brasil to launch several new mobilization ministries to serve the Brazilian church with a vision for reaching all peoples. First, Perspectives Kids was developed as an interactive Sunday School curriculum for local churches to teach the principles found in Perspectives to children from 6–12 years old. A second ministry, CONVOC, was established as a training course to help those with a vocational call to missions connect with solid mission agencies working among UPGs. Finally, SIG (Serving

the Global Church) was developed as an online resource program to aid local churches in developing strong missions engagement, building on the five principles of going, giving, sending, mobilizing, and welcoming.

A Missionary Decade

Today, Perspectives is known and respected by the key leaders of the Brazilian missions movement and by most mission agency leaders with the AMTB. The course is required or recommended by many of these agencies. At the Perspectives National Congress in 2019, 1,100 mission mobilizers came from around the country to sign the Sumaré Pact, committing themselves to mobilize their cities for God's global purpose throughout the next decade.



Although the pandemic put a slight pause to this momentum, we renewed our vision in 2022, striving towards a “missionary decade” in Brazil. In 2023, Perspectives leaders joined forces with many other mobilization leaders and AMTB leadership to launch Initiative 2033. This national initiative challenges the Brazilian missions movement to prioritize sending missionaries to UPGs and work boldly to see thousands of Brazilian church planters released to the nations. We look forward with eyes of faith, longing to hear many more stories of those who go, send, and mobilize to the nations. May God fulfill his purpose through many ordinary Brazilian believers for the glory of his name. 

³ AMTB, “Research Report of the Brazilian Missionary Force” (São Paulo, 2022), 5.
amtb.org.br/forca-missionaria-brasileira-transcultural-2022/