



GlobalChurch: Reshaping Our Conversations, Renewing Our Mission, Revitalizing Our Churches

Available January 2016
\$45, 511 pages, casebound
978-0-8308-4085-4

Before long, two-thirds of Christians will live in Asia, Africa and Latin America. What does this mean for global Christian mission? What does it mean for worship, theology, faith and evangelism in the West? In *GlobalChurch*, Graham Hill engages with more than one hundred high-profile Majority World Christian leaders to find out what they can teach the West about mission, leadership, hospitality, creation care, education, worship and more.

Those of us in the West need a new narrative.

It's time to abandon our flawed Eurocentric and Americentric worldviews. We need a new, global and missional narrative. We must turn to the churches of Majority World and indigenous cultures. They can help us explore what it means to be a global missional community. Many Christian communities in Majority World and indigenous contexts have been wrestling with these issues for generations. Marginalization and persecution and alienation have been their lot. Yet somehow, in spite or because of that, they have flourished. In fact, they've grown exponentially.

So, who am I talking about when I refer to Majority World and indigenous Christians? *Majority World* Christians are those in Africa, Asia, the Caribbean, Eastern Europe, Latin America, the Middle East and Oceania. I use the term *Majority World* because the majority of the world's population is in those cultures today. The majority of the church is in those cultures too. I don't use the terms *non-Western* or *Third World* or *Developing World*. These terms use Western cultures as their point of reference. They imply Western superiority or centrality. The term *Global South* is too limiting, given the breadth of the group I am engaging. *Majority World* seems to work best.

In 2004, The Lausanne Forum for World Evangelization in Pattaya, Thailand, voted unanimously that the phrase *Majority World Church* replace other terms. People from all over the globe participated in this forum. Timothy C. Tennent agrees that this is the best phrase. "It helps to highlight the basic point that Africa, Asia, and Latin America are where the majority of the world's Christians are now located." I expand the phrase *Majority World* beyond Africa, Asia and Latin America, to include the Caribbean, Eastern Europe, Oceania and the Middle East.

Indigenous and *First Nations* peoples are "those ethnic groups that were indigenous to a territory prior to being incorporated into a national state, and who are politically and culturally separate from the majority ethnic identity of the state that they are a part of." This includes people groups like the Australian Aborigines and American Indians.

The aim of this book is to help Western churches rediscover what it means to be salt, light and a city by engaging in global missional conversations. To do this, Western Christians need to enter into conversation with Majority World and indigenous Christians. Listening to others helps us grow in our understanding and practice of mission and church and theology. For far too long, we've marginalized or ignored Majority World and indigenous voices. We must truly become a *GlobalChurch*.

– Taken from the introduction, "Being Salt, Light and a City"

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