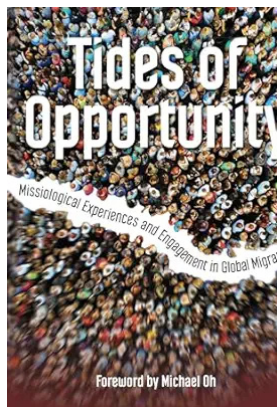


BOOK REVIEW

Tides of Opportunity: Missiological Experiences and Engagement in Global Migration

Donna Castillo-Tan



Sadiri Joy Tira, Damples Dulcero-Baclagon,
Lorajoy Tira-Dimangondayao
William Carey Publishing, 2024. pp. 201.

Human migration, or the movement of people from one place to another, is a complex human experience that can no longer be ignored or seen simply as changing locations. It calls for a deeper understanding. This phenomenon is dynamic in nature and global in scope. Crossing cultures and merging cultures are now so common that we often don't even realize they're happening. Human migration has certainly turned the tides of modern civilization. People are no longer staying put; they are almost constantly crossing cultural borders, oceans, mountains, and landmasses. The world is now more interconnected than ever, with this human movement compared to "a sizable wave [that] could reach as many as one billion people by 2050" (Oh, xi).

This book explores the growing and evolving phenomenon of human migration and its impact on cultures, cities, people, values, and behaviors, whether on a global or local scale. It especially examines migrant communities that settle abroad, forming social groups known as diaspora communities. As social migration continues to increase, existing diaspora communities multiply, while new ones emerge. Central to this book is the important role of diaspora missions in today's evolving migrant landscape, because it is no longer just about the global migrant experience but also about local spaces, as "diaspora missions encompasses both local and global aspects" (Wang, 181), which can influence each other. An important challenge is how to mobilize migrant churches and diasporic churches to make an impact on their fellow diaspora members and the local communities they are part of (Tan, p. 112).

This book is divided into two parts. The first part, "Understanding the Realities of Tides of Opportunity

in Global Migration," explains the different contexts and experiences of diaspora communities and multicultural sectors in major North American cities, along with the cultural encounters among diverse groups of people in these cities. The chapters include the role of urban gateway cities (Carr), diaspora communities and their experiences (Carr, Ybarrola & Harvey), multiculturalism (Ybarrola & Harvey), pluralism (Harvey & Tira), hybridity, and intergenerational conflicts (Zaretsky & Clapp).

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The second part of the book, "Responding and Engaging the Tides of Opportunity in Global Migration," explores how to take action on the opportunities we face as the Body of Christ both locally and globally. It discusses how we can effectively engage with the increasing movement of people across cultures. It begins with Tan's five models of diaspora communities, highlighting the complexities of these communities, which are essential to understanding and shaping our mission strategies to reach these migrant groups or mobilize them for mission work themselves. Cook emphasizes the impact of migration on rural ministries. While not as prevalent as migration to urban areas, it is still a growing tide of opportunity (p. 118), underscoring the need for more academic studies and literature in this area, which is described as "the rarest among scholarly work" (p. 117). The book then presents chapters with case studies showcasing ministries and mission strategies in action, such as hospitality and gospel outreach among refugees in Canada (Kraft), "contextualized, Christ-centered ministry" to survivors of sex trafficking (Geer, p. 149), and efforts to assist victims of labor exploitation and trafficking (Carson). In the final chapters, we learn about the missional transnationals who can be mobilized to intentionally bring the gospel back across borders to their homeland (Tira, p. 173). The book concludes with the

story of Dr. Thomas Wang, who “seized the opportunities” (p. 183) of his time, and whose cross-cultural and cross-border ministries impacted communities, movements, and individuals in the years that followed.

This book is an essential resource as we navigate “new kinds of social spaces” (Rouse in Tan, p. 113) and borders, fulfilling the Great Commission and demonstrating the Great Commandment of our Lord Jesus. Our “world has become glocal, so must our mission . . . people [are] on the move in all directions, blurring the boundaries between local and global” (Wang, p. 181). The option to go is no longer limited to buses, boats, or planes to reach the nations. Sometimes, all it takes is taking a few steps outside our homes, and the nations are already within reach. However, we must recognize that these migrants and diaspora communities are not homogeneous; they are diverse in many ways. This small book is packed with valuable insights and challenges from contributors of various cultures, mission and ministry experiences, and educational backgrounds.

An important takeaway is that we can no longer be just wave-watchers enjoying the scenery, cheering from the other side of the fence, or criticizing from the shadows. We can no longer be ethnocentric, concerned only with our own communities, but must now be willing to embrace both ourselves and others outside. The reality today is that our neighborhoods may be multicultural without us even realizing it. We must get on board and take advantage of the opportunities that the migration movement offers. We also need to engage with migrants and diaspora communities, training and mobilizing them to connect with those they are empowered to reach.



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It is with great joy that we announce the upcoming **15TH TRIENNIAL CONVENTION OF THE ASIA MISSIONS ASSOCIATION (AMA)**,
to be held at Onnuri Church, Incheon, Korea, from September 14~18, 2026.

The theme of the Convention is “*Gospel and the Future of Humanity.*”

This timely theme invites mission leaders, scholars, and church leaders to discern how the Gospel speaks to a rapidly transforming world shaped by Artificial Intelligence and technological innovation, and to seek together new strategies for the future of global mission in this emerging era.

The Asia Missions Association (AMA) was founded out of a vision to unite Asian churches for the advancement of the Gospel.

In 1971, Dr. David J. Cho initiated a series of consultations across Asia that led to the historic All-Asia Missions Consultation in Seoul, 1973, and the formal establishment of the AMA in 1975, representing fourteen nations. Since then, the AMA has hosted Triennial Conventions across Asia, fostering unity among churches and mission agencies through shared resolutions and cooperative action.

The 14th Convention, held in Jakarta, Indonesia, in 2023, celebrated the 50th anniversary of the AMA – a milestone marking five decades of collaboration in advancing the Gospel across Asia.

Now, as we look toward the 15th Triennial Convention in Seoul in 2026, we stand at a pivotal moment in history – a time to reaffirm our calling, renew our strategies, and reimagine the future of mission together.

We warmly invite you to join this historic event, to celebrate God’s faithfulness, and to participate in shaping the Gospel and the Future of Humanity.

We pray and hope that you will be able to come and join us for this significant gathering.

VISIT <https://ama2026.asiamissions.net/>

ASIA MISSIONS ASSOCIATION



The 15th Triennial Convention



2026, Incheon

September 14-18, 2026
Onnuri Church, Incheon

www.ama2026.asiamissions.net



ASIA MISSIONS ASSOCIATION

The 15th AMA Triennial Convention | September 14-18, 2026, Incheon, South Korea
Website: www.asiamissions.net | Email: ama2026convention@gmail.com

The Theme of the 15th AMA Convention

“The Gospel and the Future of Humanity”

In the 21st century, we are entering a great period of transition in which existing values and social orders are being reorganized amid unprecedented changes such as those brought on by artificial intelligence, digital civilization, transnational economic systems, and the climate crisis. These changes are not merely a part of a temporal trend but part of a great wave that may fundamentally reconstruct the future of humanity.

At such a time, the Asian Church—which stands at the center of the world in terms of population economy, politics, and religion—must once again reflect on the essence of the Gospel and raise serious missiological questions regarding how the Gospel can present hope and answers to humanity within our rapidly changing society. The Gospel does not remain merely at the level of individual salvation but is the power of God that heals, restores, and transforms every area of human life. Therefore, based on the wholeness of the Gospel, the Asian Church must reestablish gospel-centered missiological theology and strategies suitable for the coming age.

The 15th Asia Missions Association Convention, under the theme “The Gospel and the Future of Humanity,” seeks to explore together the missiological alternatives for the rapidly changing society of Asia. In particular, this convention will discuss the missional calling of the Asian Church for the future centered on the following seven core areas.

a. AI and the Future of Asian Missions

What changes will the development of AI and advanced technology bring to the Asian Church’s mission paradigm? And what creative and innovative mission models and strategies can the Asian Church imagine in this era?

b. Diaspora and the Future of Asian Missions

What missional potential do diaspora communities—such as refugees, migrant workers, and other immigrants—spreading across Asia possess? And through them, what new horizon of mission can the Asian Church envision?

c. Religious Pluralism and the Future of Asian Missions

What changes and challenges will the multi-religious society of future Asia (Buddhism, Hinduism, Islam, Shamanism) face? And in such a society, how can the Church maturely and wisely proclaim the Gospel beyond exclusivism and syncretism?

d. Justice and the Future of Asian Missions

In the face of social justice issues emerging in Asia—such as the gap between rich and poor, inequality of resources, stateless persons and refugees, oppression and human rights violations of minorities and the socially marginalized—how can the Church raise a gospel-centered voice and practice the righteousness of God?

e. Healing and the Future of Asian Missions

To Asians living amid deep wounds such as depression, anxiety, and trauma caused by pandemics, wars, disasters, and social violence, how can the Church fulfill the mission of holistic healing and restoration?

f. The Created World and the Future of Asian Missions

In an era of intensifying climate crisis and environmental destruction, what is the gospel-centered response to God’s created world? And how can the Asian Church practice sustainable creation care and proclaim the vision of restoration?

g. The Next Generation and the Future of Asian Missions

What are the ways to continuously pass on the Gospel to Generation Z and Alpha—the digital-native generations—and furthermore, to mobilize them for missions and nurture them as mission leaders?