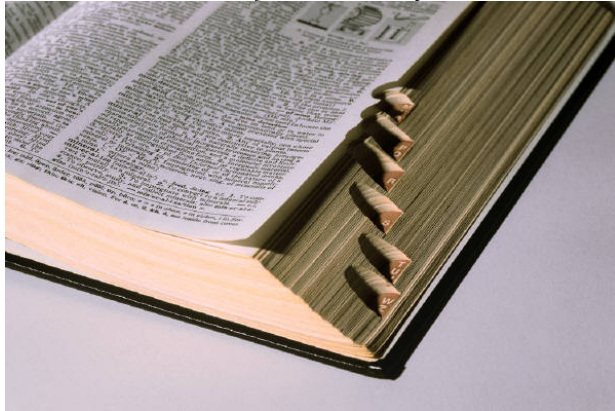


## *Cross-Cultural Perspectives from the Director*



### *Big Words – Big World – Big Vision*

It's been several months since I received an e-mail highlighting a new slant on old words. Normally this type of e-mail was a prime candidate for File Thirteen. However, browsing through it, several things caught my attention. Readers take any word from the dictionary, alter it by adding, subtracting or changing one letter, and come up with a new definition.

Here are a few of my favorites—

**Hipatitis:** Terminal coolness.

**Decafalon:** The grueling event of getting through the day consuming only things that are good for you.

**Beelzebug:** Satan in the form of a mosquito, that gets into your bedroom at three in the morning and cannot be cast out.

**Caterpallor:** The color you turn after finding half a worm in the fruit you're eating.

When you stop chuckling, you may ask, "What does that have to do with cross-cultural perspectives?" Well, I've been to a few places where folks bring new meaning to old words. But, it is more than that. The mission's dictionary is also coming up with a few words too. Some are big, but that is okay, because we have a big world, and a big vision. New mission terms are being coined daily. Here's a few—

**Majority World:** This refers to the non-Westernized world and is the recent spin-off of two-thirds world, developing world, underdeveloped world, and my least liked—third world.

**4/14 Window:** You've heard of the 10/40 Window (I hope!) The 4/14 Window refers to one of the largest unreached people groups on the face of the planet: **children**. Most decisions to serve God are made right smack in the middle of the ages from four to fourteen. I trust you are doing your best to develop programs and ministries to reach the world's children.

**Nonresidential Missionary:** A missionary who for whatever reason is unable to permanently live in the country or area that is the main focus of his or her ministry. This is usually the case in:

**Creative Access Countries:** formerly referred to as a "closed country." No country is closed to the gospel, but rather closed to some of our approaches. We must find creative ways to gain entry into these nations. You may be thinking right now, "But the Wise Man said there is nothin' new under the sun!" Our God doesn't only exist under the sun, but above it too, and He can give us new ways to reach people (without changing or compromising truth).

**Indigenous Missionary:** You've heard of the indigenous church. Now there is the indigenous missionary. Within our Foreign Mission's policy, we call such a minister a "regional missionary." These missionaries are from what was once considered a receiving nation. Now, they have matured into sending ones.

That is all for our word-building encounter today. Consult the *Evangelical Dictionary of World Missions* by A. Scott Moreau to build your mission's word muscles. I did, and feel stronger already! I'm committed to putting the words to use by reaching the majority world and beyond with residential, non-residential, and indigenous missionaries and cross-cultural ministers; using creative access methods. These big words reflect a big world and our big vision.

One more word for the road since it is income tax time—

**Intaxication:** Euphoria at getting a tax refund, which lasts until you realize it was your money to start with.