

Cross-Cultural Perspectives from the Director



I Had a Dream!

A sprawled slogan on the back of a taxi in an overseas major metropolis caught attention and stirred thinking. It boldly proclaimed, “I Had a Dream.” Surely it was a mistake. Everyone knows the famous words from Martin Luther King’s renowned speech “I Have a Dream.” On second thought, maybe the taxi owner meant just that. He had a dream: and the rag-tag vehicle was the prize. Not much of a dream. Wonder how many of us, as we embark into 2008, would be brave enough to admit, we *had* a dream. We left it behind in the lost and found department. What ever happened that faded, sidelined, or shipwrecked our God-given dream. Check out conversations with ministerial friends. If most of the discussion is on past accomplishments rather than future projections it is time to wake up...your dream! H. Dale Burke in *Less is More Leadership* stated, “When your memories are more exciting than your dreams, you’ve begun to die.” Charles Hedges in *Getting the Right Things Right* said, “a dream is not something that you wake up from, but something that wakes you up.” Impossible things begin with extreme dreamers. Consider King’s dream of a colorblind civilization. We have high aspirations—global impact, a reached world, pace-setting evangelism techniques that break through closed doors, churches abounding, and millions transformed.

Walt Kallestad in *Wake Up Your Dreams* said, “Great dreams require digging beyond surface limitations or past failures or easy-way-out distractions....Dreams can help us see the invisible, believe the incredible, and achieve the impossible.” He went on to say, “The only waste of time is to live a lifetime and never take the time to dream—to focus it, to plan for it, to live it.”

Achieving dreams is tough business. It is much easier to live in mediocrity. But, you never accomplish much in the stagnant, safe sector. Kallestad advises, “Every great dream

involves tough climbing, but every great dream outlasts the tough climb." So, get up, pick up your dream, and start climbing!

Mission Possible: I challenge you to write down your ministry and personal dreams on three-by-five cards, or display them on a laminated sheet; read often, and work toward accomplishment daily.