

Go Glocal!

By

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No, that is not a typo in the title. We need more 'glocal' preachers in the United Pentecostal Church International. The word 'glocal' is a combination of 'local' and 'global' and was coined by Roland Robertson. We need a bifocal vision: one that encompasses the local community but never loses sight of the broader global context. Like Jesus said, our field is the world (Matthew 13:38).

Aubrey Malphurs in *Planting Churches for the 21st Century* claims that a 'Great Commission Vision' is the first of 'seven biblical signs that should characterize all churches.' Such a vision begins at home. A cultural shift exists in even our smaller cities. They are filled with sights, sounds, and smells from all over the world. Each year more than half a million international students enroll in our universities. These are the next generation of world leaders. Reach a leader; impact a nation. Timothy Tennent in "Becoming a Globally Minded Preacher" explains our communities are made up of people from around the globe. Evangelize locally; impact globally.

The vision of a 'glocal' preacher doesn't stop with his community. He opens his eyes and looks on the whitened harvest (John 4:35). We appreciate our pastors hosting, supporting, and praying for missionaries.

Glocal-minded churches are pastored by glocal-minded pastors. A 'glocal' pastor is concerned that his people catch the vision; looking beyond the temporal to the eternal. One pastor said, "You can't pass on what you don't possess...My people know that I'm training them to be a harvesting church. We have to be outward focused more than inward."

Set the example for others to follow. Take an occasional life-transforming and priority-redirecting trip to the mission field. Take a team with you. The momentum and passion generated by hands-on missions will contagiously boost a 'glocal' vision; locally and globally. Encourage young people to get involved in short-term missions adventures like Associates in Missions, Next Step, and Youth on Mission.

Stay local. Go global. Be glocal!