

Why Does Missionary Work Fail? How to do Transnational Ministry

In Matthew 28:19, Jesus commissioned His followers to make disciples of all nations. What strategies are most effective when we seek to serve Christ in a new place and culture? How do we establish effective and healthy cross-cultural partnerships? In this session, Sam Ko will share practical lessons learned from decades of transnational ministry experience in Europe.

Sam Ko serves as the Director of Global Ministries at SaRang Church in Seoul S. Korea, where he has been since 1995. Additionally, since 2011 he has been serving as chairman of the board for Union School of Theology and has been leading the “East Meets West”; a ministry that is committed to praying for and has served over 140 church plants in over 23 countries in the UK and Europe. He translated Rick Warren’s “The Purpose Driven Life” for its Korean publication and studied theology at Westminster Seminary in Philadelphia. He is married to Jennifer and has two grown up sons, Calvin and John.

I. The Importance of Prayer in Transnational Ministry

A. Prayer is vital, not just individually but as a church together.

1. At SaRang church, a committed group of 1200+ prayer warriors pray daily for our partners in Europe. This creates a sense of unity among the ministry leaders and the supporting church.

II. Serving Behind the Scenes

A. Encouraging the local churches from the side-lines, serving through prayer ministry, and facilitating support through sending financial help from time to time.

B. Seeing the name of Christ exalted and not our own. We want the focus to be on Christ and his kingdom rather than on individuals.

C. A colonial mindset has created some difficulty for missionaries around the world in recent times.

III. Encouraging Local Leaders

A. Encouraging and supporting local leaders and pastors to raise up indigenous disciples, leaders, and workers for the local churches

B. Seeing local people empowered to reach their own people with the Gospel