

## 6 Global Trends in Contemporary Missiology

This presentation will cover some of the megatrends in mission today-the great global expansion of evangelicalism since 1989, the decline of Christendom (its causes, and possible responses), the millions still unreached (especially the Muslim world), the sharp global increase in persecution, the impact of the diaspora, and the need for deeper discipleship to combat Prosperity Theology and other heresies.

**Lindsay Brown** is a native of Wales. He studied European History at Oxford (MA) and Theology at the Free Faculty of Theology at Vaux-sur-Seine, near Paris, under Henri Blocher. He has been involved in student ministry with IFES for over 30 years, serving variously as European Regional Secretary, International General Secretary and currently heads up the newly formed FEUER (Fellowship of Evangelists in the Universities of Europe) - a network formed by a joint effort of UCCF, the British student movement and IFES, the international evangelical student body - which has as its aspiration the renewal of public communication of the gospel in the universities of Europe. Its current goal is to host 36 university mission weeks in 36 cities in 36 countries in 36 months and to develop a Europe-wide network of at least 60 university evangelists. He is also currently seconded to the Lausanne Movement for World Evangelization, which he serves as the International Director. He will be leading the Evangelism Network.

I. The Global Evangelical Church today : Habakkuk 2:14 ; Rev 7:9 (image 1)

II. Trends:

1. **Expansion of the church:**

A. Impact of fall of Berlin wall

B. Dramatic growth in various countries

C. Growth in southern hemisphere missionaries

2. **The decline of Christendom :**

A. External threats are:

- a. Growth of religious fundamentalism
- b. Pluralism
- c. Persecution
- d. Hostile New Atheism

B. Internal threats are :

- a. Ethnic divisions
- b. Lack of evangelical statesmen
- c. Lifestyle failure

**3. Future Challenges:**

- A. The challenge of the unreached

- a. Bible translation still lacking
- b. Oral learners
- c. Diaspora
- d. Growth of mega-cities
- e. Deeper discipleship
- f. Renewed concern for societal relevance
- g. Use of technology / media
- h. Partnership without dependency

#### **4. Growing Hostility and Persecution**

**5. Mission has come to us:**

A. Diaspora

B. International students

**6. What to do**

A. Mission as privilege not as burden