This research aims to rediscover mission as taught by the Old Testament and to show how that mission is consistent with God’s loving and just character as reflected in the whole Bible. Toward this end, the research surveys assumptions that influence Old Testament mission theology and evaluates ways in which current theologies of mission and theological currents relate to the unity and continuity of the Bible. With this background, the study then proposes a comprehensive theological framework that preserves the unity of God’s character and his mission.

Chapter 1 shows how the traditional understanding of centrifugal and centripetal mission is often based on uneven assumptions and indicates the need for a balanced approach to God’s character and to his mission.

Chapter 2 reviews the main mission theology works of the twentieth and twenty-first centuries that deal primarily with the Old Testament. The chapter shows that the development of mission theology was influenced by an array of events and extra-biblical assumptions that affected God’s mission by assigning a different type of mission to each Testament, thereby missing the unity of Scripture.

Chapter 3 analyzes the basic assumptions of theological currents such as dispensationalism and covenant theology and shows how belief in the superiority of the New Testament over the Old affects the understanding of mission in the Bible. The chapter also shows how the outward focus of
ecumenical mission leads to a distortion of the biblical text.

Chapter 4 looks first at basic biblical assumptions that should inform the reading of the text and uses these assumptions in an attempt to discover a comprehensive framework for building a mission theology. The second part of the chapter proposes the cosmic conflict as an all-encompassing framework that preserves the unity and continuity of Scripture. It addresses main thematic concerns of previous mission theologies and restores mission’s rightful motivation and purpose.

Chapter 5 concludes the study by summarizing correctives to the popular understanding of God and mission (missio Dei) in the Bible that come from recognition of the universal dimension of the cosmic conflict framework. This chapter also suggests some further missiological implications of that framework.

A Strategic Model of Short-Term Missions for the Andrews Korean Seventh-Day Adventist Church

Won Young Bong

Adviser: Wagner Kuhn, PhD
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Problem

The Andrews Korean Seventh-day Adventist Church has played its missional role in Berrien Springs, Michigan, since 1977. In the current situation, more than 70 percent of the church members are students and their families and most Koreans in the Berrien Springs area are Adventists. There are hardly any non-Adventist Koreans in the local community. It makes it tough to do adequate and effective evangelistic training for each member. As a result, very few members have had the experience of sharing the gospel or their personal spiritual testimony with those outside the church.

Method

A biblical and theological analysis, literature review, contextual analysis of the Andrews Korean Seventh-day Adventist Church, and its in-field experiences related to short-term mission programs of the church were pursued to design a strategic model of short-term missions for the Andrews Korean Seventh-day Adventist Church.
Results

A model of short-term mission for the Andrews Korean Seventh-day Adventist Church will be set up for training participants strategically. All participants of short-term missions will be exposed to a missional environment and they will experience the joy of sharing the gospel. A home mission will be developed in order to provide experienced church members with the opportunity to do short-term mission for continuous missional experience. All church members will be trained to be active Christians.

Conclusion

Short-term mission is a good method to provide church members with missional experience. Through this experience, participants can become contagious Christians. Accordingly, the church should utilize this program, design a strategic development curriculum for the training of participants, and apply it to them successfully. In this project, I suggest a strategic model of short-term mission for the Andrews Korean Seventh-day Adventist Church. If the local church adopts it, considering its present situation and resources, it will be a helpful element for the growth and revival of the church.