

GAP 15: POLYCENTRIC RESOURCE MOBILIZATION

Driving Question for Collaborative Design

How might Christians in the church, parachurch, and workplace collaborate to ensure equitable sharing of funds and wisdom to reach and disciple others?

Description

Although the percentage of Christians in the world remains steady, the regional demographics of Christianity have radically changed. In the past decades, the church has shifted from the majority of Christians living in the global north to the majority of Christians living in the global south. Today polycentric resource mobilization for global missions is facing significant challenges, primarily due to deep-rooted inequitable resource distribution patterns from the global north to the south, creating unhealthy dependencies between ministries and funders and more.

This historical bias has resulted in an imbalance that neglects the rich diversity of global perspectives and contributions. To overcome these hurdles, churches, ministries, missional businesses, and philanthropists around the world must collaborate more closely, adopting a more inclusive and decentralized approach to sharing resources. Such collaboration can address current disparities and enable the global Christian community to accelerate the fulfillment of the Great Commission.

Acknowledging this misalignment, this conversation prayerfully explores what global polycentric resourcing and wisdom sharing looks like, by asking:

Collaboration Questions

- How might insights from culture, workplace, and resource mobilizers shape practices to resource global mission?
- What do polycentric fundraising models look like for ministries in different parts of the world? What is the strategic pathway for getting there?
- What are the necessary actions to establish polycentric financial structures and wisdom-sharing channels?

Sub-Topics

- Polycentric fundraising
- Polycentric financial structures
- Resource mobilization in the global south

Preparation before Seoul 2024

Please read these sections of the State of the Great Commission Report:

- Introduction from the Theology Working Group
- Part I, on the State of the Great Commission globally, captured by text and graphics
- Part II, with the article on 'Polycentric Resource Mobilization', also drawing on 'Rise of Asia', 'Rise of Africa' and 'Majority World Mission Movements'
- Part III for your particular region in which you primarily work or serve in church or parachurch