

Vocation, Work, & Money in the Context of Global Christianity

One track in the [April 21, 2012 Missiology Conference](#) will feature the theme of “Vocation, Work, and Money in the Context of Global Christianity.”

Seminaries historically stressed the importance of ideas and trained seminarians to exegete the Bible and to discuss worldviews and philosophy. But they have done a poor job of preparing seminarians to engage the world of work, of business, and economics. One routinely sees an anti-economics bias in much of theological education. One sees this, for example, in C. S. Lewis’ **Screwtape Letters** where Lewis has the demon **Screwtape** tell his nephew **Wormwood** that science focuses on God’s creation and thus points to God, but that **Wormwood** should encourage students to study economics which more firmly belongs in the devil’s camp.

Western missionaries historically played a key role in the expansion of global Christianity. But their own theological training poorly prepared them to address the world of work and of economics, as did their own economic base based on gift income from back home. They were far more interested, and better prepared, to found Bible schools and seminaries across Africa, for example, than to help the new and exploding churches understand the wider world of work and vocation and economics. That is, they failed to help Christians connect Sunday and Monday. Across the world a wide array of churches are embracing new theologies of health and wealth, while some respond to the changing economic order with the suspicion that those who prosper are witches. Only recently are missiologists and theologians beginning to focus on the role of lay Christians and their work settings as a central dimension of God’s mission in the world.

This track will focus on an emerging missiology and anthropology of work and money in the context of global Christianity.

Missiologists or other scholars or leading practitioners who would like to present a paper on a theme related to this track are invited to write to Robert J. Priest (rpriest@tiu.edu) and indicate your interest in presenting, providing a title, and brief bio providing your affiliation and academic credentials or other strengths which you would bring to this.