



## **George Wieland –**

# **How God is transforming his church and world through migration and the global movements of people**

### **Discussion Guide**

This resource is designed to help your small group or college class discussion. It's shaped to inspire you to consider new ways to understand the issues discussed in this video. You don't need to answer all the questions. Please allow time for discussion and response.

## **Materials**

1. Person Interviewed: George Wieland
2. Theme of Video: How God is transforming his church and world through migration and the global movements of people

## **Preliminary discussion**

Consider the questions suggested below to start the conversation for your small group or college class. They'll consolidate the content of the video, after you've viewed it.

1. What were the major themes in this video?
2. How do those themes relate to your life and context?
3. Discuss the difficulties of the content. What was difficult to understand? Was there anything you would like to clarify with the group?
4. Theological method: How is the interviewee's theology and outlook informed and shaped by their practical ministry and context? What approaches do they take in understanding God in the context of their daily life and ministry?

## Explore and apply

Explore the major themes raised in the video. Critically engage with the theology. Consider the questions that respond to the issues raised in your preliminary discussion. Apply the answers to these questions in your own setting. Ensure the discussion is specifically drawing on your local setting. Make sure the discussion is relevant to the lives of faith for your small group or college class. Encourage relevant and thoughtful examples from each participant.

1. George Wieland is the Director of Mission Research and Training at Carey College in New Zealand. What was his journey through mission and pastoral service into this role?
2. What does this role involve?
3. Wieland initiated the Mission Track with its Intercultural Practice programme at Carey. What are the theological and practical features of this track?
4. What courses does he teach at Carey? And which courses is he most passionate about, and why?
5. Migration is bringing substantial changes to many cities. How is migration changing cities in New Zealand today?
6. How do migrant communities and more established populations experience these changes as a place of discomfort, loss, and uncertainty?
7. How do they experience these changes as a place of transformation?
8. How does the narrative of Cornelius and Peter in Acts 10-11 help us understand the role of *communitas* and liminality in the transformation of the church during such times of change? (And what do these terms mean?)
9. How do *communitas* and liminality play a necessary role in the transformation of the church, especially as it seeks to participate in God's mission as it crosses new boundaries?
10. What would be the possibilities of transformation for New Zealand churches, as they enter the liminal space created by immigrating populations, and embrace change in *communitas* with those who are already there?
11. What is the mission of the church? How does it pursue this mission?
12. How would you define integral mission?

## Informing Community

Facilitate the space for your group to respond to the discussion. You might consider this section as a personal time of written journal responses to the following questions.

1. What is God encouraging our group and me, to do?
2. In response to the issues raised in the video, what are areas I want to ask God for forgiveness in? How do I need to change? What does God want me to stand up for?
3. How do I need God to minister to me and my community, for us to better engage with the contextual issues of our community?
4. How can I gain a better understanding of the issues discussed in this video? What do we ask that God would do in our hearts?

## Prayer

Spend time in prayer over what you've learnt.

Invite the ministry of the Holy Spirit to clarify, heal, and inspire change for your participants and communities.

## Links

**Website:** [www.theglobalchurchproject.com](http://www.theglobalchurchproject.com)

**Books:**

Graham Hill, *GlobalChurch: Reshaping Our Conversations, Renewing Our Mission, Revitalizing Our Churches* (IVP Academic, 2016).

Graham Hill, *Salt, Light, and a City (Second Edition): Ecclesiology for the Global Missional Community: Volume 1, Western Voices* (Cascade, 2017).

Graham Hill and Grace Ji-Sun Kim. *Healing Our Broken Humanity: Practices for Revitalizing the Church and Renewing the World* (IVP, 2018).