

# Diaspora Missiology

Enoch Wan

## I. INTRODUCTION

In the disciplines of social sciences (e.g. sociology, ethnic studies, demographics, migration, etc.) researchers often describe and analyze the phenomena of people then try to manage or strategize accordingly (e.g. human geography, applied sociology, government policy, etc.).

In recent decades, the increased frequency and explosive scale of people moving either internally within a country (“migration”), and long distance or internationally crossing national border (“international migration” or “immigration”) are notable and impressive. The reasons behind these phenomena of people can be voluntary (e.g. economic improvement, educational or career advancement, family reunion, etc.) and involuntary due to natural disasters (e.g. earth quake, tsunami, etc.) or socio-political causes (e.g. war, economic crisis, political instability, etc.).

The term “diaspora” historically (from Jews of the OT & NT) and etymologically (from Greek), there is a negative and passive notion of people being forced to be scattered and dispersed. However, in contemporary literature, the term “diaspora” is being used in a neutral and generic sense of describing the phenomenon of “people on the move or being moved” regardless of reason (natural or socio-political causes) or attitude (voluntary or involuntary). “Diaspora missiology” is the systematic study of and missiological strategizing for the phenomenon of people moving.

## II. PAST PUBLICATIONS OF “DIASPORA MISSIOLOGY” IN “GLOBAL MISSIOLOGY”

Since early 2003, there has been a section in the “Resource Links” section on “diaspora studies” to aid researcher and students of missiology as shown below:

### Resource Links

Agencies & Organization	Church Planting & Evangelism	Country & People-Group	Diaspora Studies
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Education & Training	Research & Resource	Miscellaneous	Old Books & Dissertations

In the October issue of 2003, there was a report on FIN (Filipino International Network - [www.filipinolinks.com/Filipino\\_Diaspora/](http://www.filipinolinks.com/Filipino_Diaspora/)) to introduce a specific case study of “diaspora missiology” as shown below:

**FEATURE REPORT: RUNNING WITH THE VISION**

October 2003

Lorajoy T. Dimangundayao

In the October 2004 issue, a paper and a book review were published on the case study of Filipino “diaspora missiology” as shown below:

**FILIPINO INTERNATIONAL NETWORK: A STRATEGIC MODEL FOR  
FILIPINO DIASPORA GLOCAL<sup>®</sup> MISSIONS**

**Sadiri Joy B. Tira**

Senior Pastor of First Filipino Alliance Church (Edmonton, Alberta, Canada) and  
International Coordinator for Filipino International Network  
Published in Global Missiology, Featured Article, October 2004, [www.globalmissiology.net](http://www.globalmissiology.net)

**Review**

*Scattered: The Filipino Global Presence*

eds. Lius Pantoja, Jr., Sadiri Joy Tira, and Enoch Wan  
Life Change Publishing, Inc.: Manila, Philippines, 2004


Reviewed by Dr. Jonathan Exiomo  
President of Alliance Biblical Seminary, Manila, Philippines

Published in Global Missiology, Review & Preview, October 2004

In addition, there were many papers, related to missiological study of “diaspora”

phenomena, that can be easily tracked by using the search function within “Global Missiology” (see the sample page below)



  
powered by

Search the Web  Search [www.globalmissiology.org](http://www.globalmissiology.org)

### III. NOVEMBER CONSULTATION

In November 2006, there will be a **Global Diaspora Missiology Consultation** to be held Nov. 15-17. This gathering is endorsed by Lausanne and Dr. Ted Yamamori will be the keynote speaker (see the flyer below).

All participants are specialists in the respective field and most of them have published books/articles on the people-group as listed below:

### **List of Participants**

#### List of Invited Participants:

1. Dr. Terry Casino (Ph.D. & Th.D.) - Filipino diaspora in Europe
2. Dr. Kim Kwong Chan (Ph.D., Th.D.)
3. Dr. Gi-Sam Cho (Ph.D.) - Korean Missionary Society
4. Dr. Allan Effa (Ph.D.) – Nigerian/West African diaspora
5. Dr. George Gitahi (Ph.D.) – Kenyan/East African diaspora in the USA
6. Dr. N. Jawahar Gnaniah (D.Miss.) – Ministry/Evangelism Hindus
7. Rev. Geoff Hartt (M.Div.) - Hispanic diaspora
8. Dr. Nabeel Jabbour (Th.D.) - Muslim evangelism
9. Dr. Than Le (D.Min.) - Vietnamese/Canadian
10. Dr. John Leonard (D.Min.) – North African Arab diaspora in France
11. Dr. Paul Marindale (D.Min.) - Arab diaspora in USA
12. Rev. Dave Olson (D.Miss. Cand.) - Tibetan diaspora
13. Rev. Jorge Osorio (M.Div.) - Hispanic diaspora
14. Dr. Cindy Perry (D.Miss.) – Nepalese Diaspora
15. Dr. Jojo Remigio (Ph.D.) - Filipino/Canadian
16. Dr. TV Thomas (D.Min.) - South Asian
17. Dr. Sadiri Joy Tira (D.Min.) - Filipino/Canadian
18. Dr. Enoch Wan (Ph.D.) - Chinese diaspora
19. Dr. Bill Wong (Ph.D.) - Chinese/Canadian
20. Dr. Ted Yamamori (Ph.D.) - Japanese/American
21. Dr. Tuvya Zhariski (D.Miss.) - Jewish diaspora

#### IV. NEW ORGANIZATIONS: INSTITUTE OF DIASPORA STUDIES

There is a newly formed “Institute of Diaspora Studies” at Western Seminary for North America and another in Manila at Alliance Graduate School of Theology as an Asian center. More information will be forth coming in the near future.

# Gathered to Scatter Scattered to Gather



**Dr. Ted Yamamori**  
International Director,  
Lausanne Committee  
for World Evangelization

Nov. 16, 2006, Thursday  
Taylor University College and Seminary  
11525 - 23 Ave., Edmonton, Alberta  
(780) 431-5200

9:30 am  
"Critical Issues in Global Mission Today"  
(Chapel Service)

12:00 pm  
"Business as Mission"  
(\$11 luncheon; to reserve, call 431-5246)

Open to  
the public



**Dr. TV Thomas**

Director, Centre for Evangelism  
and World Missions

Nov. 17, 2006, Friday  
First Filipino Alliance Church  
10115-79 St., Edmonton, Alberta  
(780) 468-1743

7:30 pm  
"Gathering of the Nations"  
Celebration Event  
(free refreshments)

## By Invitation Only Global Diaspora Missiology Consultation

Taylor University College and Seminary  
Nov. 16 - 18, 2006, 8 am - 5 pm



Convener  
Sadiri Joy B. Tira, D.Min.  
International Coordinator,  
Filipino International Network



Convener  
Enoch Wan, Ph. D.  
Director, Doctor of Missiology Program  
Western Seminary



Host  
Allan Effa, Ph. D.  
Associate Professor, Intercultural Studies  
Taylor University College and Seminary

Participating diaspora groups: African, Chinese, Nepalese, Russian, Spanish,  
Korean, South Asian, Arab, Jewish, Filipino, Tibetan, Vietnamese, Japanese, Westerner, Brazilian