

THINKING OUTSIDE THE WINDOW STUDY GUIDE

PART MEMOIR, PART MANIFESTO. THE MISSION OF CHANGING THE WORLD HAS CHANGED... A LOT!

ABOUT THE BOOK

This masterpiece, which is mysteriously a memoir and a manifesto, reveals not only how the mission of changing the world has changed...a lot, but also how to respond appropriately.

Nobody in 1910 would've imagined a book like this coming from an African medical doctor now pastoring an English-speaking Chinese church in a French city in North America.

In three scintillating parts Dr. Yaw Perbi shares yesterday's story of global mission and his personal call from medicine to mission and from Ghana to the global stage; today's realities of a changed world and how to face a future that starts with you, here and now.

Your heart will be thrilled as we get in, on, over, under, around, through and beyond boxes—even no boxes! The mission of changing the world has significantly changed and you will want to as well, after reading *Thinking Outside the Window*.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Dr. Yaw Perbi is a physician, pastor and president of International Student Ministries Canada, with over 100 staff and 500 volunteers from coast to coast in the second widest country on earth. He is the founder and global CEO of The HuD Group with operations in over a dozen countries.

As a medical doctor he has practiced medicine in both his home country, Ghana, and as a military captain with the United Nations Operation in Cote d'Ivoire.

Dr. Perbi's 15 books include titles like *YouthPower!*, *seXsense* and *Financial Whizzdom*. He's spoken in 22 countries on five continents and has been the toast of media groups worldwide, including CNN, the National Press Club (Washington DC), VOA, CBC and BBC.

Yaw currently resides in Montreal, Canada with his dear wife Anyele and four delightful children: Agyina, Ashede, Adwenepa and Ahotew. He owes all this to Christ Jesus.

PART III

DON'T GET BOXED IN

The future starts with you, here and now

The Third and Final Part of this book looks into TOMORROW.

- a. What has been the most challenging thing to grapple with for you in the final part of this book? What has been the most exciting? Can you hazard a guess as to why (for both)?
- b. The world has changed...a lot! So are the faces of those doing the changing. How do you intend to build relationships with people from 'the majority world' who are in your city today, especially for education purposes?
- c. Which of the issues raised or approaches to dealing with majority world missionaries and leaders appeal to you the most? What don't you agree with? Is there something you could dedicate yourself to addressing, either locally or globally? How?
- d. Would you consider taking a course (eg. Perspectives, Kairos etc.) to understand other world religions better from a biblical worldview?
- e. At the beginning of the book Yaw mentions that, "I was praying about the famous "10/40 window" when the Lord spoke clearly to me, "But Yaw, *I am thinking outside the window.*" Now that you've read the entire book, what did God mean by that? Why did He say that?

Chapter Twelve—Easy Ministry or Strategic Ministry?

Box deliveries—the right stuff to the right people at the right time in the right places

1. Dallas Willard's opening quote is loaded. What is he trying to say and do you agree?
2. Why does the author call the ministry/mission to internationals 'easy?' Enumerate at least three things that make it 'strategic' on the other hand? Do you find a tension between these?
3. The author uses at least three major metaphors in this chapter: 'Mordecais', 'midwives' and 'Rafikis'? Do you understand why? How are these roles important in the ministry to international students?
4. Another tension in the minds of many people is one between 'discipleship' and 'leadership' (making disciples and developing leaders). Is there a real difference?
5. One Pastor Mac Lake makes a very good attempt to distinguish 'discipleship' and 'leadership'. See below and discuss your thoughts.

"Fundamentally, the process is the same, but the focus is different."

DISCIPLESHIP	LEADERSHIP
Discipleship, I learn to <u>live</u> like Jesus	Leadership development, I learn to <u>lead</u> like Jesus

Discipleship is primarily about <u>character</u>	Leadership development is primarily about <u>competencies</u>
Discipleship is about leading <u>self</u>	Leadership development is about leading <u>others</u>
Discipleship is about cultivating intimacy with <u>God</u>	Leadership development is about cultivating influence with <u>people</u> .

6. See ISMC's strategic engagement cycle below. What would you like to change in this cycle?



7. The writer asserts that “the cry of creation (from archeology to zoology) is for godly, effectual servant leaders to rise up and take care of issues.” In which areas of life and society, locally or globally, do you feel we need most godly, effectual leadership in right now? Why?
8. What do you make of “Coleman’s Counsel” on pages 172-173?
9. With the shift in global missions today, Yaw speaks of a “neo problem” in global mission leadership. Do you see what he means, does he have a point here, or is he just making it up?
10. Read 1 Samuel 16 and study Luke 6:13 and 2 Timothy 2:2.

Do you find the selection of who to mentor/train/develop as a leader challenging? How do you go about it currently? Of the things the author mentioned, from prayer right to going through the 'FAITHful' criteria, which do you find most 'tricky'?

11. For each of the following “nine principal pillars [which] must be present in order to intentionally and properly develop godly, effectual global emerging leaders,” study the related scripture, state the underlying principle and write a couple of practices which will help make this a reality in your context.

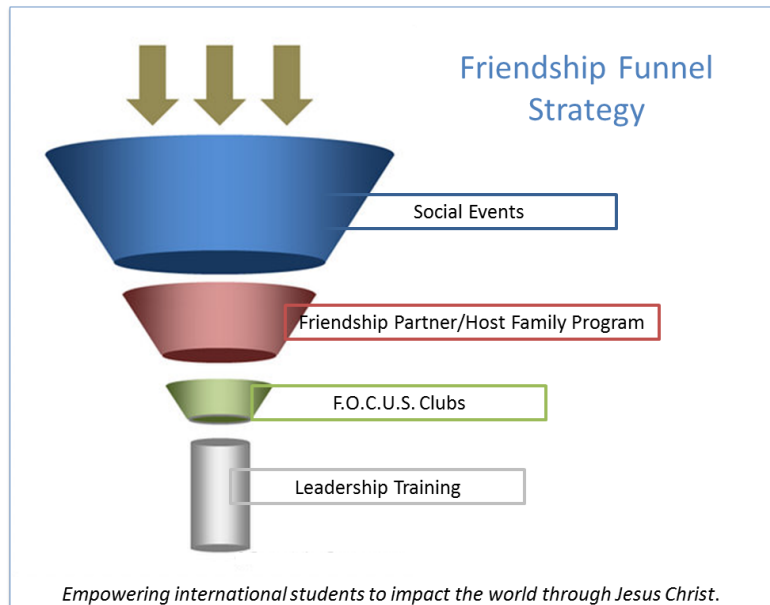
PILLAR	SCRIPTURE	PRINCIPLE	PRACTICE
1. PROCESS	Matthew 4:19		
2. PROXIMATE	Mark 3:14a		
3. PRACTICE	Luke 10:1		
4. P A R A D I G M - SHIFTING	Matthew 5:27-28, 31-31-34, 38-39, 43-44 Romans 12:2		
5. PURPOSE-DRIVEN	John 20:21b		
6. P R I N C I P L E - CENTRED	John 3:3, 14:12 etc. Matthew 28:18-20		
7. CHARACTER-BASED	Matthew 5:13; Galatians 5:22-23		
8. HOLISTIC	Luke 2:52		
9. S P I R I T - EMPOWERED	Acts 1:8, 10:38		

12. Every intentional and strategic international student ministry “H.E.L.P.S. international students to H.E.A.L. the world.”

What are the elements of ministry represented by both acronyms? Is there something you would like to add or take out?

13. The ‘friendship funnel’ (see below) gives a good picture of the entire process of handling international students intentionally, holistically and strategically.

Get creative, list the various things and various ways the elements along this funnel can be executed/achieved.



Chapter Thirteen—There Goes My Independence!

Out the window! You mean I have to ASK for money?

1. “Money and missions are Siamese twins,” says the writer. Do you agree?
2. How do you feel about missionaries having to “raise their own support”? Are you aware of anyone who gave up becoming a missionary because of this? Do you know any missionary who LOVES to support-raise? What will you say made or causes the different outcomes for the two groups?
3. Are you, like the author, wanting your “financial independence” from people? What might God be saying to you too?
4. Why does the author find the phrase “raising your own support” flawed?
5. Yaw talks about five paradigm shifts that “blew me out of my window.”
 - a. What are they and how may they apply to you?
 - b. Which of these do you find most challenging and why?
6. Is there a mission(ary) you support (financially and/or by prayer) to but don’t feel like you are a ‘real partner’ of as Yaw describes here? What will you attribute to this? Is there something that you can do about it?
7. Go to the Endnotes and study what it means to “L.O.V.E. my partners, L.E.A.D. them, L.I.N.K. them and L.I.F.T. them.” Is there someone you could share this with?
8. In financial partnership for missions, there is a part the missionary and financial supporter both play in this ‘faith exercise.’ Which of those summarized by Bryan Hehr do you find most challenging; which do you find most exciting? Why?
9. If you are a missionary, what has been your major takeaway from this chapter? If you are not, how can you become more invested in missions?

10. Study Luke 8:1-3. Why, do you think, Jesus the Son of God chose to have his ministry financially supported by friends?
11. In your own words, summarize what Jim Collins means by *the tyranny of the 'or'* and *the genius of the 'and'*? In your own life context, where do you see this playing out most? How do you think this new way of thinking should affect missions funding, going into the future?
12. If *thinking outside the window* includes new ways of processing life and mission like *the genius of the 'and'* paradigm, then 21st Century mission is:
 - a. Not either hospitality or evangelism but both in "*friendship evangelism*"
 - b. Not discipleship *or* evangelism but *discipleship onto conversion*
 - c. Not either discipleship *or* leadership but *discipleship into leadership*
 - d. Not "full-time career missionary" *or* "associate tent-making staff" but "both and"
 - e. Not local missions *or* global missions but *thinking globally and starting locally*; and
 - f. Not either "giving and receiving" *or* "buying and selling" but "both and."

Think on these things and discuss.

Chapter Fourteen—Money from Africa?

Now, that's special! Waaay out of the box!

1. The Missions Africa Trust Fund makes a very bold statement as follows: "*Today, Africa has moved from a missionary receiving continent to a missionary sending continent. It is time for African Christians to celebrate God's goodness and respond to the mission realities of the 21st Century. The time has come for the African church to become a mission giving church.*" What do you make of this?
2. Prior to this chapter, had you ever seen Africa as a missionary-sending continent? How about as a missionary-supporting continent? What will you attribute this prior thinking of yours to?
3. Which of the stories, facts and figures about Africa fascinated you most? Why do you think this was so?
4. Having read of the background, vision and mission of the Missions Africa Trust Fund. What ideas do you have for the Missions Africa Trust Fund to prosper greatly in order that global mission can be well-funded. Please write to nyoffeiawuku@lausanne.org and share them.
5. Does the rise of Africa, Latin America and Asia as missionary-senders and missionary-funders mean a halt to Western missions? If no, why? If yes, what role(s) do you think the Western church should play?

*You may want to read the book *Western Christians in Global Mission: What's the Role of the North American Church?* by Paul Borthwick, who wrote the foreword for 'Thinking Outside the Window.'

6. How do you think the Church in the West can assist and collaborate the Church in the Majority World harness the financial resources in their own context to do world missions rather than just providing direct 'financial aid'?
7. Do you think the BRICS countries are really more than just an emerging economic powerhouse—do you agree with the author that there just might be a missiological powerhouse funding global mission too?
8. Yaw has been deeply challenged since 1996 by the words of his mentor, the late Dr. Jerry Chang. What do you think of the latter's statement that "*nobody is too poor to give, nobody is too rich to receive*"? Can you support your position with historical, contemporary and biblical examples?
9. Are you willing and able to link up with Global Generosity Network and learn more about funding missions? If so, go to: <http://generositymovement.org/>

Chapter Fifteen—"Give Up Your Small Ambitions"

It really is a pathetic box you live in!

1. The essence of this chapter is well-captured by the opening quote from Steve Hawthorne: "*You can do something other than working with God in His purpose, but it will always be something lesser, and you couldn't come up with something better.*" What do you say to this statement?
2. Have you experienced being asked by God to give up a 'good thing' (like Medicine or a great life in Ghana in the author's case) in order to lay hold of a 'God thing' (like Mission or global ministry in Yaw's example)? How did you respond? What was exciting and what was daunting?
3. Read Luke 9:57-62; 14:25-33. Do you see a correlation between Jesus' words in Luke and those of Nassir, "*When you live the committed life of God, you will upset a lot of people, but no plow has ever done its job without upsetting the earth*"? How so? Can you share a real story or two about this?
4. Re-tell the story behind 'the best \$6 ever invested' in your own words. Why do we often feel God will shortchange us when we yield our lives (time, talents, money, family etc.) to Him? How have you experienced God's faithfulness and exceeding of your own expectations when it comes to surrender?

5. Who is your favourite missionary. What is his/her story? Why did David Livingstone, in addressing Cambridge University students in 1857 say, “I never made a sacrifice?”
6. Consider the way you’re living your life today. What confidence do you have that you will be able to conclude on your death bed like William Borden: “no reserves,” “no retreats,” “no regrets”?
7. See what Jesus and Paul said towards the end of their life in John 17:4, 19:30 and 2 Timothy 4:6-8 respectively. How would you like to be remembered when you are dead and gone?

Epilogue—The Abnormal is the New Normal

It really is a pathetic box you live in!

1. How have you experienced this ‘new normal’ of the globalized world? The author would love to hear from you? [write to yaw.perbi@ismc.ca]
2. So with the ‘abnormal’ now the ‘new normal’ do you think “these are the best of times or the worst of times”?
3. “Each generation must discover its mission, fulfill it or betray it.” (Franz Fannon) Do you sense that this generation truly understands its unique context, opportunities and challenges, and is fulfilling its calling in it? Why/why not?
4. Are you ready to “put your hand in the Hand of the Master” and walk into the future that He has prepared for you, thinking outside whatever box you’ve created for yourself?