The background of the slide is a composite image. It features a close-up of a person's face, specifically their eyes and mouth. The person has striking green eyes and is looking directly at the viewer. Overlaid on the person's face is a world map, with the continents in shades of brown and green and the oceans in a deep blue. The map is positioned such that it appears to be part of the person's facial features, with the eyes looking through the map's 'holes' and the mouth visible below it. The overall effect is one of global unity and international perspective.

Theology in a Global Context

Stanley John, Ph.D.
Alliance Theological Seminary
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Vision

- Depth and beauty of God's work in the world
- Understand the history and the rich theology emerging from around the world
- Develop a rich appreciation for your own background and context
- Reflect deeply on how emerges in historical and cultural contexts

Jesus Act



Human Auditorium

- “We can only see, and it is essential that we do see, the Jesus Act in the theatre in relation to the play of life as a whole and in terms of the area of the stage we can see. That is, it is necessary that we hear the Gospel under, and in relation to, the conditions of our experiences and relationships, our environment and society—our culture in fact. *Others seated elsewhere in the world theatre will see the same action, hear the same words; but their seating will enable them to see parts of the stage that we do not and will obscure some things which may seem to us crystal clear.*” Andrew Walls, *Missionary Movement*

Map of the Middle East







Kuwait City



I. Mission and Theology

- What is Missiology?
- “Missions at sunrise, missiology at sunset”
- Mission is the actual practice; Missiology is reflection on it.
- When Mission occurs, and the church encounters new settings, new questions are asked, that needs to be dealt theologically.



Missiology is an intentional reflective practice:

- Missiology is the intentional and ongoing reflection on the practice of missions. It seeks to reflectively assist the church in aligning itself with God's redemptive work in the world. -Tennent



Integrative Discipline

- Christian History: Not just church history
- Theology: Systematic, historical, dogmatic, ethics, apologetics etc
- Social Sciences: Cultural Anthropology, empirical research, linguistics

Mission, Mother of Theology

What is the relationship between mission and theology?

“Mission is the mother of theology.” (Martin Kahler in 1908)

Theology began as “an accompanying manifestation of the Christian mission. The New Testament writers wrote in a context of an “emergency situation” of a church which, because of its missionary encounter with the world, was forced to theologize” (Martin Kahler in 1908)



Theology Missiologically

- The creeds that were crafted throughout church history were in response to a cultural clash that challenged some key church teaching forcing a more definitive theological formulation.
- Theology was formed when church planters and waterers (1 Cor 3:6) reflected upon God's will within specific cultural contexts. -Kostenberger
- Theology began as “an accompanying manifestation of the Christian mission. -Bosch



- “Paul’s most profound theological statements derive from thinking on his feet while on the mission field. In the mission to the Gentiles, the apostle is forced to think through the deeper implications the gospel has for the lives of his Gentile converts, for his own ministry and how he relates to the concerns of Jews and Jewish Christians he encounters along the way” (Bird 2008: 20).



II. Globalizing Theology: Translatability of the Gospel

- Significance of Context in global Theology
- Incarnation: teaches us that God encounters his people through culture and context
- Jesus- Christos, Kyrios, Logos, Pleroma



Theological: Translatability

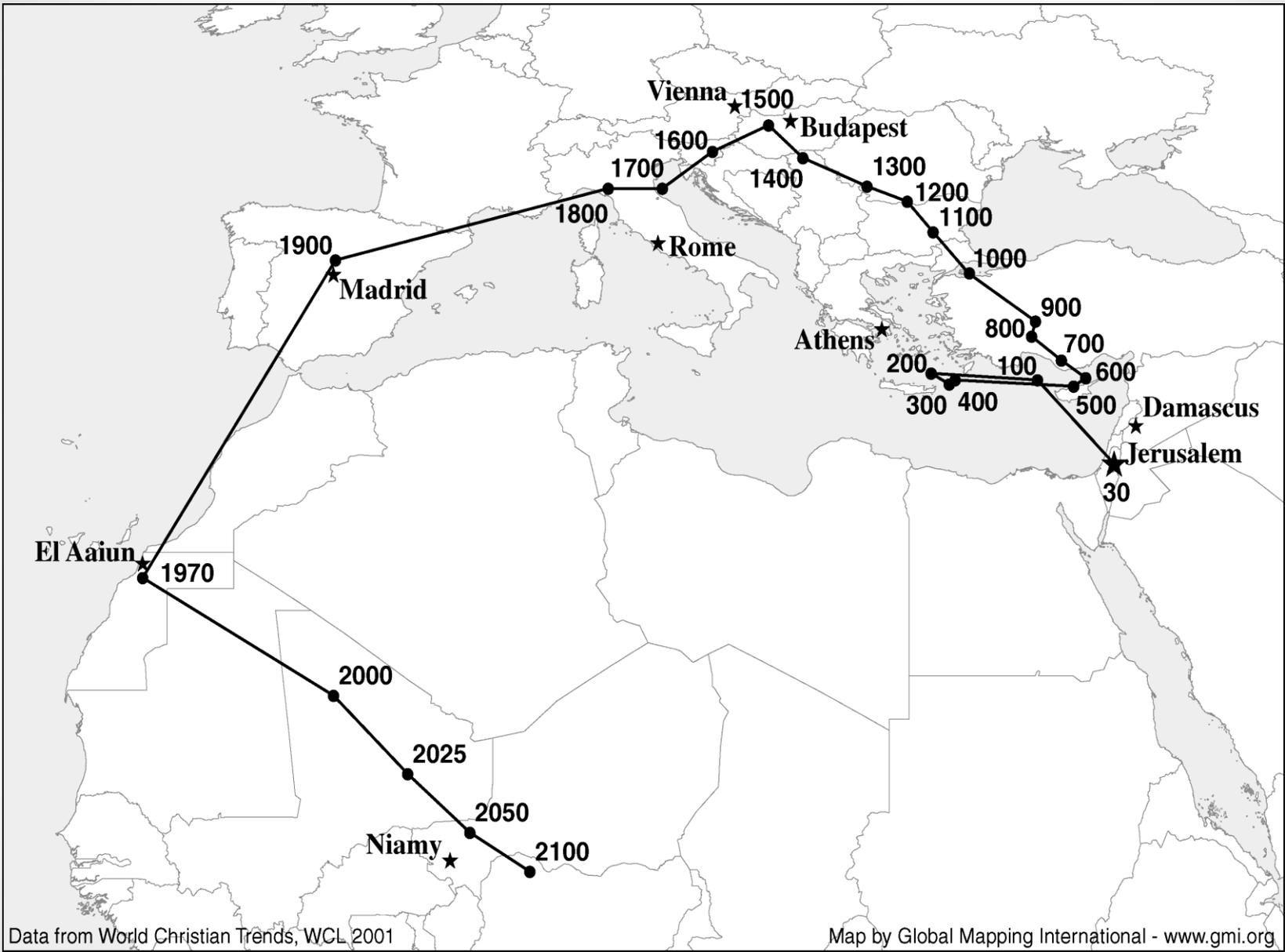
- “Christian faith is not only culturally translatable, but also theologically translatable. It is the ability of the kerygmatic essentials of the Christian faith to be discovered and restated within an infinite number of new global contexts” Tennent 16.
- Translatability:
 - Linguistic
 - Cultural
 - Theological



- When Christianity takes root in a new cultural context, it is not only the outward form of the faith which is affected... but also its content that is challenged and reshaped in that setting. Not only is Christianity adapted to the new context, but there is a deeper level, and long term interaction between the new faith and its new cultural surroundings which results in fresh expressions of the Christian gospel.
- Christianity is not imported as a package, but the local people encounter the person of Jesus Christ for themselves and respond according to their own cultural patterns and thought forms.” (Kim 16).

Shift in the Center

- Advance and Recession Motif
 - Serial growth
 - Progressive growth
- 1. From Jewish birth to Gentile home
 - Acts 11:19- the greatest missiological moment in history?
- 2. Fall of the empire and birth of “barbarian” and byzantine faith
- 3. Missionaries and migrations
 - Catholic missionaries- Jesuits
 - Protestant Missions

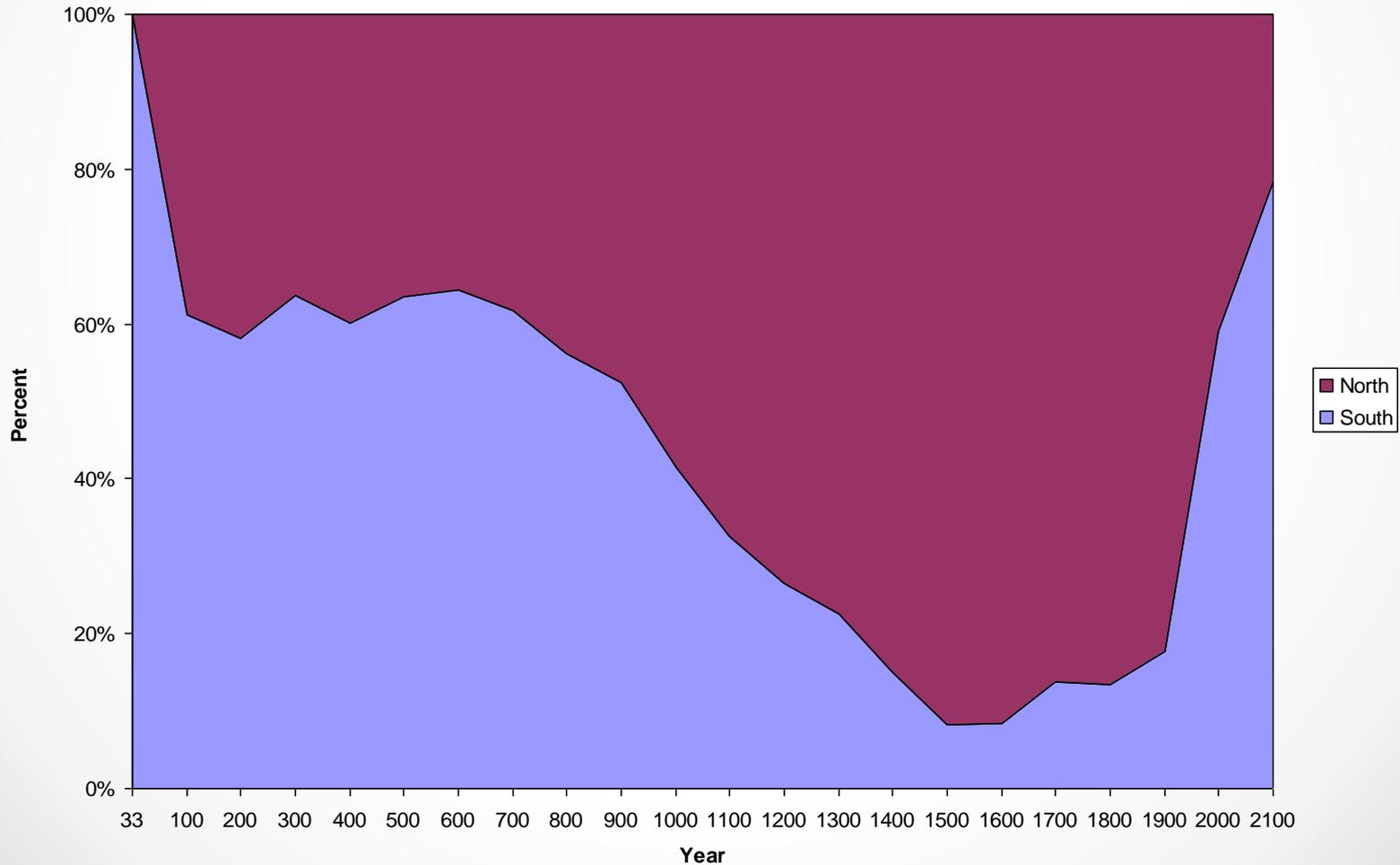


Data from World Christian Trends, WCL 2001

Map by Global Mapping International - www.gmi.org

Advance/Recession Motif

Graph 1. Christians, North and South, by Percentage, AD 33-AD 2100



Five Trends in Theology of Majority World churches- Tennent

- Authority of Scripture and theology
- Morally and ethically conservative
- Christian responsibility to poverty and social justice
- Uniqueness of the Gospel in a pluralistic context
- Corporate (holistic) dimensions of teachings of the NT

