

MISSIONARY TOPOLOGY

By Larry Dinkins, TH



Recently I have been doing a thoroughly researched scientific study of the "missionary kingdom" with all of its species, subspecies and permutations over decades of ministry in a foreign environment.

HUDSONARUS CIMITICUS

1. Victorian Mish - Recognized by distinctive pith helmet, khaki safari suit with a machete in one hand and Bible in the other. Has read every 19th century missionary biography in the William Carey Library. "I remember when.." Will remind you how they came over by ship, had 7-year terms and when there were no Short Termers.

2. Happy Camper - Life on the field is an extended Boy Scout camp. Isolation, lack of privacy/utilities is taken in stride. These

pioneers plant their own rice, bathe in public with a sarong and light fires without matches.

3. Do-It-Yourself - Prepares peanut butter with a mortar & pestle, grinds own sausage, and makes own muesli, syrup and soap.

4. "Go Native" Mish - Avoids corruptions of western culture by using baking soda for deodorant, shaving brush instead of Gillette Foamy, loin cloth for a towel and shuns wing tips in favor of flip flops.

5. Fan vs. AC Mish - Fan extols virtues of natural air, while AC Mish keeps his house at a constant 72.5 degrees with 45% humidity.

6. Missiologist - voracious reader, has been through Perspectives 5 times and subscribes to 6 mission magazines. He is on a first-name basis with "Peter" & "Ralph", and can analyze any field problem in seconds. He has just finished compiling the Lausaune VII ethnocentricity report on the non-ethnic Malay-Jawi-speaking Thai. Is constantly proposing a "New World Order" for the mission. His motto: "Have you graphed it yet?"

7. By-the-Book Mish - Every OMF committee has at least one who not only OWNS a field manual and P&P, but READS it. For crucial issues such as the regulation size for ice-cube trays they can immediately turn to a footnote for the answer.

ATTITUDUS CONTRADICTUS

8. Resigning Mish - Writes resignation letters often, but seldom sends them.

9. Homesick Mish - Day dreams of fast food chains; runs up huge phone bills and buys stamps by the carload. Plans out his HA itinerary during language school. By mid-term they have had all shots, physicals and photos taken.

10. Lovesick Mish - When the "love bug" hits, then work output declines in direct proportion to letters or visits from that certain someone.

11. Practical Joker - Did internship as a special effects expert with the *Home Alone* series. Carries a bag of rubber snakes, spiders and water balloons.

12. Grumpy & the 7 OMFers - Spiritual gift is criticizing the Super. Sees life on the field as one big party—pity party! It's either too hot/cold; too damp /dry, the Super either visits too little or too much.

13. Marmite vs. Vegamite - Connoisseurs of these yeast extracts argue over the merits of each brand. Others use it as axle grease on their mini-van.

HOUSEHOLD DOMESTICUS

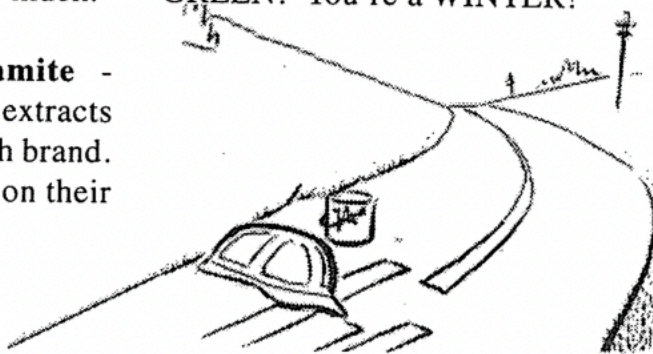
14. Housegirl Trainer - perpetual topic of conversation is the trials & perils of training house girls. We should know...we trained 7 in one term!

15. Pet Lover - Raises birds, chickens, fish, turtles, gerbils, butterflies & dogs. Likes to take the latter on holiday and claims them on board rate!

16. Focus-On-the Family Mish - owns an express package service to Chefoo and writes biweekly letters to dorm parents, headmaster, teachers & even the Malay gardener. Favorite gurus: Dobson & Narramore.

17. Hobby Mish - Can knit a sofa-size afghan during a half-day prayer meeting. Easy to locate by virtue of butterfly net, sketch board, & binoculars.

18. Color-Me-Beautiful Mish - Conversation revolves around which "season" you are: "You can't wear GREEN! You're a WINTER!"



LEISURA RECLINUS

19. Vacationing Mish - On arrival at the Bungalow, they rush to book the next 6 vacations.

20. Motorcycle Mish - Drives his family of 5 to the Bungalow on his Honda 150. Appearance is a dead give-away: Motorcycle jacket with OMF insignia on it, leather flip flops and bugs wedged between the front teeth.

21. 2nd Day Adventist (Day-off Mish) - Motto: Remember the 2nd Day and keep it holy. Disconnects phone and hides it on the "sabbath".

TECHNO DEMENTICUS

22. High Tech Mish - Arrives on field with microwave, VCR, Cam-Recorder, Toshiba 1,000,000 lap top, Nikon 250 mm zoom auto focus and sectapod (6-legged tripod).

23. Non-Tech Mish - "If a quill and lantern slides were good enough for JHT, they are good enough for me." When a High Techer speaks of apples, chips and bytes, the Low Techer thinks it's lunch time. When he talks of viruses, broken disks & bad memory the Low Techer thinks he has a medical problem.

24. Video Mish - The eyepiece of a Cam-Recorder has been surgically attached to his eyeball. Often seen

with beret, scarf, & folding chair.

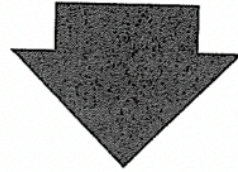
25. Linguist - Graduate of SIL, Subscribes to a Thai newspaper and reads Thai novels. In his free time he writes Thai epic poems. Often seen with computer and earphones which have been grafted into his perfect ears.

26. Temperment Mish - Makes instant analysis of people on the basis of D.I.S.C. Can tell you 10 reasons why a D would never work with a S.

27. The Correspondent Mish - Keeps up to date, computerized data base (including Social Security Numbers) on all prayer supporters. Writes all relatives and sends out monthly (not biannual) prayer letters. Has TWO mail boxes and has mail delivered in sacks.

28. Sports Enthusiast - Turns instinctively to the sports page. Can't remember the PA rate, but can quote all the stats of the Cincinnati Reds.

COMMON MYTHS ABOUT ...



MISSIONARIES!

