

## EXCERPT



### ***The Barnabas Factor*** *How Crosscultural Partnership Amplifies Global Mission*

June 30, 2026 | \$21.99, 224 pages, paperback | 978-1-5140-1576-6

*“Veteran crosscultural missionaries, leaders from Zambia, Bosnia, Australia, India, Ghana, New Zealand, Latin America, and the USA have come together to offer their perspectives on what Barnabas teaches about serving together in multicultural collaboration. In so doing, they have provided this valuable tool for missionary practitioners, crosscultural senders and receivers, and any church leader who wants to help the church engage effectively in this ‘from everywhere to everywhere’ world.”*

—Paul Borthwick, author of *Western Christians in Global Mission* and *Mission 3:16*, from the foreword

## A New Era of Missions

In late eighteenth-century England, William Carey faced a church indifferent to the rest of the world and inactive in the Great Commission. Yet Carey was moved by the fact that “the far greater part of the world . . . [is] still covered with heathen darkness!” (*An Enquiry into the Obligations of Christians to Use Means for the Conversion of the Heathens*). With his words, with his energy, and with his life he sought to change this reality. For this he is considered the father of the modern mission movement. But how does the reality and task of this era of missions compare to the time of William Carey?

First of all, the “greater part of the world” is no longer covered with “heathen darkness” but with the light of Christ’s church. The continent of Africa, which had an estimated 9.6 million Christians at the start of the twentieth century according to the “Status of Global Christianity, 2024” report by the Center for the Study of Global Christianity at Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary, now has 734 million Christians. There could be more church attenders in China by 2030 than in the United States. The Iranian church is the fastest growing in the world with hundreds of thousands coming to Christ in the past two decades despite stiff punishments for conversion. In India, where William Carey served, there are 84 million Christians, of which 32 million are evangelical. And this number doesn’t include millions of “secret Christians” who are outside of the established denominations. The modern mission movement succeeded in planting the seed of the gospel in almost every corner of the world.

Second, the Majority World is now sending missionaries at an increasing rate. If you search the internet for “missions and Costa Rica,” you will find many opportunities to take a short-term trip to the Central American nation. What you might not find is FEDEMEC, Costa Rican Evangelical Missionary Federation, which currently has sixty-two missionaries from Costa Rica serving in twenty countries. In 2005, evangelical churches in Nigeria launched an initiative called 50:15, which seeks to train and send missionaries to the least reached countries on the globe. As of 2020, they had sent four thousand missionaries to thirty-one of these countries. This does not include the countless “faith missionaries” who move to Europe as bi-vocational pastors and missionaries. This new era of missions, unlike the modern mission movement, includes people from everywhere going to everywhere.

Last year I answered the door of the church where I share an office. I was greeted by three Korean missionaries who were organizing a program to encourage and train American pastors. I invited them to my house for a coffee to hear more of their stories. One of them is living in the United States to organize large conferences and network with pastors. The other two were recent graduates who were part of a short-term team. One of them was fairly weak in English. I couldn’t help but think of the many short-term teams I have led to and received in foreign countries. Twenty years ago, I would not have imagined such a knock at the door.

One response I have heard to this success is that missionaries from the Global North are no longer necessary. There are too many problems at home to engage with issues around the world. This argument is not dissimilar to what William Carey faced among his peers in the eighteenth century. However, the mission practitioners and leaders I have interacted with around the world share a consistent message: stay involved. But staying involved does not mean the same kind of involvement. In this age of multidirectional and polycentric missions we, more than ever, need to partner in new ways. We need to reject the urge to lean on any dominance of culture or resources. We need humility, generosity, and mutuality. We need the Barnabas Factor.

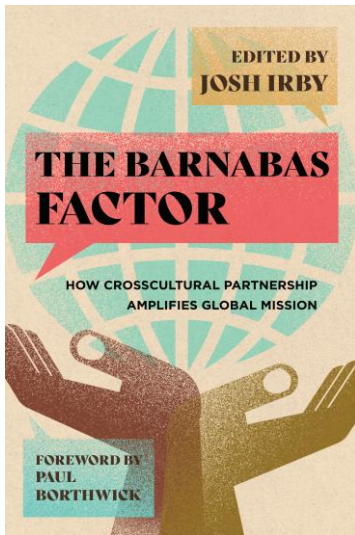


Anna Tjernstrom, print and online publicity  
atjernstrom@ivpress.com

Krista Clayton, author interviews  
kclayton@ivpress.com



ivpress.com/media



## EXCERPT



### ***The Barnabas Factor*** *How Crosscultural Partnership Amplifies Global Mission*

June 30, 2026 | \$21.99, 224 pages, paperback | 978-1-5140-1576-6

*“Veteran crosscultural missionaries, leaders from Zambia, Bosnia, Australia, India, Ghana, New Zealand, Latin America, and the USA have come together to offer their perspectives on what Barnabas teaches about serving together in multicultural collaboration. In so doing, they have provided this valuable tool for missionary practitioners, crosscultural senders and receivers, and any church leader who wants to help the church engage effectively in this ‘from everywhere to everywhere’ world.”*

—Paul Borthwick, author of *Western Christians in Global Mission* and *Mission 3:16*, from the foreword

The principles found in Barnabas’s life should also apply to mission agencies sending from countries that were once a mission field. Now is the time for the Global South to decide not to repeat the partnership mistakes of the Global North. When Barnabas moved out from Jerusalem, he was traveling from the outskirts of power toward its center. Yet as a man “full of the Holy Spirit” (Acts 11:24), he demonstrated a spiritual power that is seen not in its dominance but in its calm confidence. I hope that no matter your country of origin, you can find encouragement in the example of the “son of encouragement.”

—taken from the introduction



---

Anna Tjernstrom, print and online publicity  
atjernstrom@ivpress.com

Krista Clayton, author interviews  
kclayton@ivpress.com



ivpress.com/media

***The Barnabas Factor****How Crosscultural Partnership Amplifies Global Mission*

June 30, 2026 | \$21.99, 224 pages, paperback | 978-1-5140-1576-6

**Josh Irby** (MDiv, Reformed Theological Seminary) is a partnership director for Cru where he develops crosscultural collaboration between the United States and Europe. He is the cohost of the Mission Shift podcast, coauthor of *Cross on a Hill*, and author of *Meeting Miss Irby*. He found a love for the Balkans while living for thirteen years in Croatia and Bosnia-Herzegovina. He and his wife, Taylor, have five children and live in Atlanta, Georgia.

## Confidence to Partner Cross-Culturally

**What motivated you to write *The Barnabas Factor*?**

**Josh Irby:** Both during my time as a missionary living overseas (thirteen years) and my time developing mission partnerships from the States, I have seen overzealous partners do more harm than good. I have also seen Western churches withdraw from partnering globally in fear of doing harm. In talking with mission leaders around the world I hear a desire for global cross-cultural partnership to continue, but for it to be done in a new way. I think Barnabas represents that different way of partnering.

**What is the central idea of your book and what is distinctive about your approach?**

**Josh:** Many people go into global missions to be like Paul—the pioneer taking the gospel to places where people have never heard. However, in an era of mission where the global church is truly global, we need more people like Barnabas. His generosity and gentleness, encouragement and exhortation, determination and deference, sponsorship and suffering laid the groundwork for the first missionary efforts of the early church and can help shape our cross-cultural partnerships today.

**What do you want readers to take away from your book?**

**Josh:**

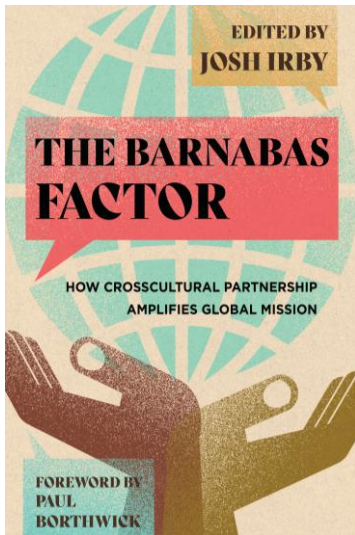
- I hope they will realign their partnership mindset to the current reality in global mission.
- I want them to feel confident to partner cross-culturally while avoiding common mistakes of the overzealous and uninformed.
- I want them to be more attentive to global voices (especially from the Global South) and learn from them.
- For Western readers, I want them to use their influence, power, and resources to lift up others rather than retain control.
- For Global South readers who are taking up the mantle of global mission, I want them to avoid the problems we in the West have created through our leadership.
- Barnabas was more than just an “encourager,” he was a lynchpin of the early church’s mission movement.



---

Anna Tjernstrom, print and online publicity  
atjernstrom@ivpress.com

Krista Clayton, author interviews  
kclayton@ivpress.com



BIO



***The Barnabas Factor***  
*How Crosscultural Partnership Amplifies Global Mission*

June 30, 2026 | \$21.99, 224 pages, paperback | 978-1-5140-1576-6

*In The Barnabas Factor, mission practitioners from around the world unpack the life and ministry of Barnabas, an exceptional model of mission service. Contributors from Zambia, Bosnia, Australia, India, Ghana, New Zealand, Latin America, and the United States provide diverse experiences, global viewpoints, and best practices for effective mission partnerships that embrace humility, generosity, and mutuality.*

## Global Voices on Global Mission

### CONTRIBUTORS

#### **Josh Irby**, editor

Josh Irby (MDiv, Reformed Theological Seminary) is a partnership director for Cru where he develops crosscultural collaboration between the United States and Europe. He is the cohost of the *Mission Shift* podcast, coauthor of *Cross on a Hill*, and author of *Meeting Miss Irby*. He found a love for the Balkans while living for thirteen years in Croatia and Bosnia-Herzegovina. He and his wife, Taylor, have five children and live in Atlanta, Georgia.

#### **Nydia R. García-Schmidt**, “The Generosity Factor”

Nydia R. García-Schmidt is originally from Monterrey, México, and has served on the mission field in the Philippines, Indonesia, and México with Wycliffe Bible Translators. Nydia currently leads the fundraising department with Instituto Lingüístico de Verano in México. Nydia is in a PhD program at the Oxford Centre for Mission Studies, researching factors that influence generosity and stewardship. She and her husband, Jim, have three adult children and live in México City.

#### **Paul Borthwick**, “The Advocacy Factor”

Paul Borthwick (DMin, Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary) serves on the board of Development Associates International, a training group dedicated to the development of leaders in the under-resourced world. In 2015, Paul concluded over 30 years of teaching at Gordon College in the area of Global Christianity. He also served as an Urbana/Missions Associate with InterVarsity Christian Fellowship from 1999-2015. He is the author of many books, including *Mission 3:15*.

#### **Ron and Star Nelson**, “The Encouragement Factor”

Ron and Star Nelson are a husband-and-wife team who founded Sowing Seeds of Joy Ministries in 2007 to mobilize and equip people of color for crosscultural mission work. Ron serves as a mission mobilizer and Perspectives course coordinator and instructor. Star coleads mission mobilization efforts and coordinates numerous teams. Together, their passion has taken them to dozens of countries, and they’ve inspired churches, particularly those among underrepresented communities, to actively engage in global missions.

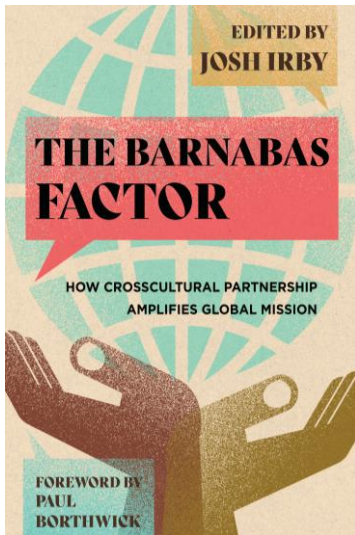


**Anna Tjernstrom**, book reviews, excerpts, and original articles  
atjernstrom@ivpress.com

**Krista Clayton**, author interviews  
kclayton@ivpress.com



ivpress.com/media



BIO



***The Barnabas Factor***  
*How Crosscultural Partnership Amplifies Global Mission*

June 30, 2026 | \$21.99, 224 pages, paperback | 978-1-5140-1576-6

*In The Barnabas Factor, mission practitioners from around the world unpack the life and ministry of Barnabas, an exceptional model of mission service. Contributors from Zambia, Bosnia, Australia, India, Ghana, New Zealand, Latin America, and the United States provide diverse experiences, global viewpoints, and best practices for effective mission partnerships that embrace humility, generosity, and mutuality.*

**Jay Mātenga, “The ‘Alongsiding’ Factor”**

Jay Mātenga is a contextual theologian of indigenous Māori heritage with over thirty years of experience serving crosscultural missions. As executive director of the World Evangelical Alliance Mission Commission and opinions editor at Christian Daily International, Jay’s passion is to promote participation in God’s purposes in the world, especially in light of a maturing world Christianity.

**Mary Lederleitner, “The Trustworthiness Factor”**

Mary Lederleitner (PhD, Trinity Evangelical Divinity School) is an associate professor at William Carey International University, where she also serves as director of the Women’s Institute. Mary worked in global leadership with Wycliffe for twenty years and started Missional Intelligence LLC. She is the author of *Navigating the Complexities of Money and Mission*, which is precedent literature in the field of global mission collaboration.

**Lazarus Phiri, “The Koinōnia Factor”**

Lazarus Phiri is a globally recognized Zambian scholar and leader deeply invested in Christian mission, theological education, and anticorruption advocacy. Lazarus serves with Pioneers and leads integrity-focused initiatives that call the global church to ethical, justice-oriented engagement. His comprehensive international academic training and leadership roles—including at Lausanne congresses and in higher education—equip him to contribute to the missiological reflection of the global church. Lazarus Phiri is married to Rachel, and they have two grown sons.

**Slavko Hadžić, “The Sent Factor”**

Slavko Hadžić is an evangelist and preacher. Slavko serves as chairman and evangelist with FEUER (Fellowship of Evangelists at Universities of Europe), is the associate director for Langham Preaching in Europe and the Caribbean, and is president of the association Good News. He lives in Sarajevo, Bosnia-Herzegovina, where he pastored a local evangelical church for sixteen years. He is coauthor of the evangelistic book *Cross on a Hill* (2018). He is married to Sanja, and they have two grown children.

**Delanyo Adadevoh, “The Empowerment Factor”**

Delanyo Adadevoh (PhD, Leeds University) is founder and president of the International Leadership Foundation (ILF). For more than four decades, he has shared insights and experiences regarding leadership development with tens of thousands of students, professionals, religious leaders, executives, diplomats, and heads of state. A citizen of Ghana, Professor Adadevoh has also lived in Nigeria, Kenya, and Zimbabwe. He and his wife, Elizabeth, have three adult children and five granddaughters. They currently reside in Orlando, Florida, USA.

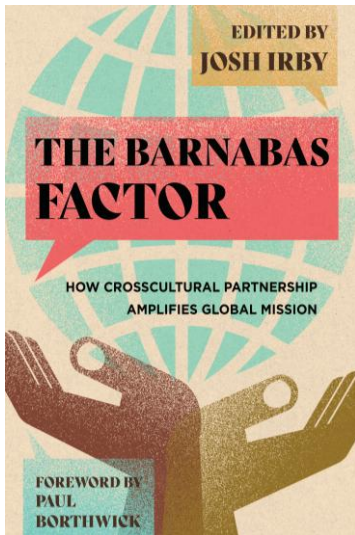


Anna Tjernstrom, book reviews, excerpts, and original articles  
atjernstrom@ivpress.com

Krista Clayton, author interviews  
kclayton@ivpress.com



ivpress.com/media



BIO



***The Barnabas Factor***  
*How Crosscultural Partnership Amplifies Global Mission*

June 30, 2026 | \$21.99, 224 pages, paperback | 978-1-5140-1576-6

*In The Barnabas Factor, mission practitioners from around the world unpack the life and ministry of Barnabas, an exceptional model of mission service. Contributors from Zambia, Bosnia, Australia, India, Ghana, New Zealand, Latin America, and the United States provide diverse experiences, global viewpoints, and best practices for effective mission partnerships that embrace humility, generosity, and mutuality.*

**Jun Tan, “The Suffering Factor”**

Jun Tan is a multicultural pastor, Bible teacher, and former rocket scientist-in-training whose journey from the tea fields of Hunan to the pulpits of Melbourne reflects a life transformed by Christ. He currently serves as senior pastor at Balwyn Baptist Church, where he champions intercultural discipleship, sacrificial community, gospel-shaped transformation, and incarnational mission. Jun holds three master’s degrees—two in theology and one in materials science—and lectures part-time in theological education.

**H. Ladislao Leiva, “The Visibility Factor”**

H. Ladislao Leiva is originally from El Salvador. He serves as the regional facilitator for the Leader Strategies Network, coordinating twelve Campus Crusade for Christ ministries that seek to reach and mobilize leaders and influencers in the major Latin American and Caribbean cities. For almost five decades, Ladislao and his wife have discipled, taught, mentored, and coached multiple generations of missionaries, students, professionals, executives, politicians, and entrepreneurs. Happily married to Luchy since 1981, they have three adult sons and reside in San José, Costa Rica.

**Kate Pocklington, “The Mutuality Factor”**

Kate Pocklington (PhD, Fuller Seminary) is the Regional Facilitator for Leadership Development & Mission Formation within the Pioneers Oceania Region. She is a third-culture kid who grew up in the Philippines and spent almost 8 years working with a slum community in India before serving for 7 years in the Pioneers of Australia Mobilisation office, overseeing Training & Development. She is the author of *Shaped by the Spirit* and lives in Melbourne, Australia.

**Madan and Deepali Valvi, “The Unity Factor”**

Madan Valvi (MDiv, Alliance Theological Seminary) and Deepali Valvi (MA, Alliance Theological Seminary) serve with Cru City Global as South Asia Partnership Director. They have worked as missionaries for nearly thirty-five years, beginning in the mission field of North India then moving to Minnesota in 1999. They travel globally and do missions through evangelism, discipleship, and training. Madan and Deepali reside in Minnesota along with their four children and two grandchildren.



---

Anna Tjernstrom, book reviews, excerpts, and original articles  
atjernstrom@ivpress.com

Krista Clayton, author interviews  
kclayton@ivpress.com



ivpress.com/media