



NEW WINE

# The Missionary God: An Introduction to Missions



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Welcome to  
***The Missionary God:***  
A Brief Introduction to World Missions



1. **Course Overview:** This course is designed to . . .introduce you to God and what He is doing in missions today. In it you will learn about. . .

- *The Biblical Basis for Missions*
- *Those Who Have Gone Before Us*
- *What is Currently Happening Today*
- *What Opportunities are on the Field Today*
- *The Money Factor*
- *The Culture Factor*
- *How To Partner with God Today*

2. **Follow-up Study:** To obtain full credit and benefit from this class, you must complete the following two assignments:

Read the follow-up reading on the website [www.prepareinternational.org](http://www.prepareinternational.org)

Write a 3-5 page paper answering the two following questions:

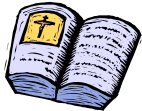
- ✓ What were the three most important things you learned in this course (list and describe them).
- ✓ What is your part in the Missionary Calling of God? What will you do about it?



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## HOW TO USE THIS MANUAL

This manual is full of valuable information and is designed to be interactive in nature, that is, it is designed to have you, the student stop, and learn on your own by interacting with God, His word, others, or the training materials themselves. Below is a set of icons which you will find utilized throughout the manual. Each time you see the icon, you should stop and engage in the activity prescribed.



**Bible Study**

When you see the Bible Study icon, pause for a few minutes, read the given passage or verse and then record your thoughts as to what God may be saying through His word.

As you see the Personal Reflection icon, stop, and answer the question given reflecting on the information you have just heard.



**Reflection**



**Discussion**

When you see the icon for discussion come up, spend a few minutes with a partner discussing the questions given in the discussion box.

The Application icon will come at the end of each lesson and will usually be accompanied by several questions aimed at your applying the teaching/training to your personal life. Take a few minutes and think through how the truths apply to your life and ministry.



**Application**



**Follow-up Study**

At certain points in the training manual, you will be directed to several types of follow-up study that you will be required to do after the teaching portion of the course is completed. These will usually come in the form of a short evaluation paper, an appendix of scripture study, and then the reading of several articles off the Prepare International website at [www.prepareinternational.org](http://www.prepareinternational.org).



## Lesson 1: The Missionary God

Notes

☞ Opening questions: When you hear of missions or think of missionaries, what pictures come to your mind? Is that really what being a missionary is all about today?

God is Crazy about people

1. We are created for His possession, companionship w/ His Son
2. We are His inheritance Eph. 1.18
3. **All People –Dan. 7.13,14, Matt. 24.14 Rev. 7.9-10**
4. **So that the earth will know. . .**

**God's real desire is. . . To redeem from this world people from every language, every group, every village, who will love, serve, and worship His Son, so that Jesus Christ might come to have first place in everything.**

5. Destroying the works of darkness ( 2 works)

God has always been committed to His world

∞ Abraham: God's Prototype Man & the Nations

**Gen 12:1-4** "Now the LORD said to Abram, "Go forth from your country, and from your relatives and from your father's house, to the land which I will show you; And I will make you a great nation, and I will bless you, and make your name great; and so you shall be a blessing; And I will bless those who bless you, and the one who curses you I will curse. And in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed." So Abram went forth as the LORD had spoken to him. . ."

If God spoke to someone today and said, "Leave your family, your home, your comfortable life and follow Me to a land I will show you and I will bless you and all the families of the earth shall be blessed through your life. . ." what kind of calling would you say this was?

What does it mean, that God intends to bless all the families of the earth through Abraham?

Heb. 11.8 " . . .and Abraham obeyed and went out. . ."

After Abraham offered up Isaac, God said to him, "By Myself I have sworn, declares the LORD, because you have done this thing, and have not withheld your son, your only son, indeed I will greatly bless you, and I will greatly multiply your seed as the stars of the heavens, and as the sand which is on the seashore; and your seed shall possess the gate of their enemies. "And in your seed all the nations of the earth shall be blessed, because you have obeyed My voice."  
Gen 22:16-18

In His first Covenant Man, God makes a tremendous promise to the world: through this man, I will bring My blessing to **all the families of the earth!**

Now, God extends this promise of blessing all the families of the earth to Abraham's seed, his descendants.

### The Calling of Abraham

#### The Call =

Leave . . .

- Your Place
- Your Family
- Comfort/ease
- Be My "Sent One"

#### The Promise =

- I will make you. . .
- I will bless you
- I will fight for you
- You shall be a blessing
- In you, all the families of the earth shall be blessed.



- Your seed will possess. . .
- in your seed all. . .

### ≈ Israel – The Seed of Abraham & the Nations

The first fulfillment of this promise was to come through Israel, the descendants of Abraham. It was God's will and plan that He would so bless them, that they would carry that blessing to the world so that they would know Him and receive His salvation. Listen to the Scriptures. . .

***Exod 19:6 and you shall be to Me a kingdom of priests and a holy nation.' These are the words that you shall speak to the sons of Israel."***

***Ps 67:1-7 God be gracious to us and bless us, {and} cause His face to shine upon us. 2 That Thy way may be known on the earth, Thy salvation among all nations. 3 Let the peoples praise Thee, O God; let all the peoples praise Thee. 4 Let the nations be glad and sing for joy; for Thou wilt judge the peoples with uprightness, and guide the nations on the earth. Selah. 5 Let the peoples praise Thee, O God; let all the peoples praise Thee. 6 The earth has yielded its produce; God, our God, blesses us. 7 God blesses us, that all the ends of the earth may fear Him.***

***Isa 49:6 He says, "It is too small a thing that you should be My servant to raise up the tribes of Jacob, and to restore the preserved ones of Israel; I will also make you a light of the nations so that My salvation may reach to the end of the earth."***

It was clearly God's will that the children of Israel would walk with Him in such a way that He could radically bless them and they in turn would then be a kingdom of priests for God in the world who would carry that blessing to the nations. In God's mission for Israel, you find phrases like. . .

- *Your are a kingdom of priests to Me. . .*
- *I want to bless you so that My way will be known on the earth. . .*
- *I want to bless you so that My salvation might go out among the nations. . .*
- *I want to bless you so that all the nations might fear Me. . .*
- *I make you a light to the nations so that My salvation might reach to the end of the earth. . .*

God is NOT some tribal deity who is to be worshipped only by a few. He is the God of the whole earth, the only way of salvation who has always been reaching out to the nations. The only problem was, that Israel saw Him as only their God and interpreted His word to say they were to separate themselves totally from the nations or they would be defiled.

☐ Discussion Questions: ***Did Israel fulfill God's purpose for them in bringing His blessing to the nations? Why or why not? Do you see these same problems in the church? In your church? What about you?***

### ≈ Jesus – The Seed of Abraham & the Nations

*What does it mean for God to bless the families of the earth through Abraham and His seed? Just what is this salvation He speaks of and His blessing He is looking to bestow?*

***Gal 3:8, 16 And the Scripture, foreseeing that God would justify the Gentiles by faith, preached the gospel beforehand to Abraham, {saying} "All the nations shall be blessed in you. . .16 Now the promises were spoken to Abraham and to his seed. . .that is, Christ."***

Notes



## Notes

Jesus Christ is that special seed of Abraham that has possessed the gates of His enemies bringing in the Kingdom of God and dispensing the great blessings of God upon man. God has always been a God of Missions and has always had the entire world in His sights. Let that phrase, *“All the families [nations, people groups] of the earth would be blessed in you. . .and your seed,”* sink into your hearts.

The blessing God spoke about to Abraham and to his descendants after him was none other than Jesus Christ Himself.

God’s twofold plan is simple:

#1 Jesus Christ and His followers would have the power to possess the gates of their enemies, that is, they would have the power and authority to push back darkness and the powers of the Evil One who now control, blind, and torment people and move in to the realms held by darkness and capture men out.

#2 He would then spread God’s great blessings of salvation, love, peace, and prosperity to men.

At the cross of the Lord Jesus, God makes the ultimate revelation of His commitment to the peoples of the world in surrendering and sacrificing His Son for the nations. The Bible says, *“But God demonstrates His love for us in that while we were still sinners Christ died for us. . .for He is the payment for our sins, but not ours only, but for the sins of the whole world!”* Romans 5.8, 1 John 2.2

### ∞ You are now the Seed of Abraham & the Nations

Gal. 3.26 – *“You are the seed of Abraham . . .who also follow in the steps of the faith of our father Abraham. . .”* Rom 4:12

Now, let’s look one step further: *“And if you are Christ’s, then you are Abraham’s seed. . .”* God gives us one last word of how He is determined to bring His blessing to the nations of the world – through YOU! All children of God have become Abraham’s seed through Christ and now the promise that *‘through your seed, all the nations of the earth shall be blessed’* has passed to us.

We have become God’s great commitment to His world! We hold within our very being, the very destiny and power of God to carry His blessing to all peoples. Missions is built into your makeup – it is your destiny

*“It is insufficient to proclaim that the Church of God has a mission in the world. Rather, the God of Mission has a Church in the world.”*

Tim Dearborn

### God’s Mission Equation

As we study the Bible, we discover that God has a very simple equation of His Mission for the world:

**SENDING + GOING = BLESSING TO ALL THE NATIONS**

### The Big Ideas

\*God has made a radical commitment to the World – to bless all the nations (ethne)

\*Jesus Christ is the reality and door into His blessing

\*It is the power of sacrificial, voluntary love that releases the blessing

\*Abraham and his seed – YOU and I - are the channel of that blessing

\*Nations, cities, and villages are within you waiting for God’s blessing



## Notes

There are two great factors in God's world mission equation – someone has to send and someone has to go and then God pours out His blessing of salvation, freedom, love and light upon people.

- *The Father SENT the Son because of His Mission*
- *The Son WENT (go) because of His mission*
- *The Son SENT the Spirit*
- *The Spirit WENT to the world*
- *The Holy Spirit SENT Peter to Cornelius and Peter WENT*
- *The Church of Antioch SENT Barnabas and Saul and they WENT*

Every single man and woman must join the great Missions Equation of God. Either you are called to GO or you are called to SEND, but you ARE the seed of Abraham and you are to carry out God's great mission agenda for the world.

***Either GO or SEND a substitute!***

**Oswald J. Smith**

God's Mandate to the Church is Mission

The Supreme Task of the church is to fulfill the Great Commission

***Matt 28:18-20 And Jesus came up and spoke to them, saying, "All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. "Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age."***

WE often get sidetracked on side issues –church music, good sermons, offerings, home groups, etc, and we miss the main point – God's Mission of blessing all the nations of the earth through Jesus Christ.

**📖 Bible Study:** Read the following scriptures and discover more of God's commitment to His world expressed in the church.

Luke 14.23, Mark 1.38, Mark 16.15-20, Acts 1.8



## Lesson 2: Those Who Have Gone Before

Notes

### *Introduction*

Ever since the Fall in the Garden of Eden, God has been concerned about bringing people back to Himself. God chose Abraham and his family to be missionaries to all nations. Through them, these nations would learn about God's salvation. This lesson tells a few of the stories of those who have joined God in His great commitment to the world. They are normal men and women who have encountered Jesus Christ in such a way that they lived a life **COMMITTED TO GOD'S WORLD**.

**Heb 12:1** *Therefore, since we have so great a cloud of witnesses surrounding us, let us also lay aside every encumbrance, and the sin which so easily entangles us, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us"*

### The Fullness of Time

During the first few hundred years of Christianity, many factors helped to spread the Good News. Rome had conquered lands from England to Babylon, and the Roman occupation brought a long period of peace known as the "Pax Romana." This era of Roman rule created a great setting for the launching of God's plan.

God chose to bring forth His Son and launch His great missionary in-gathering church in the midst of the time and the lands of the Roman Empire. Why? What were the conditions like that He chose this time and this place for the Bible says, "*But when the fullness of the time came, God sent forth His Son. . .*"

**Peace:** Because of the powerful Roman rule, the lands of the empire enjoyed a period of peace and stability.

**Greek Language:** Before the Romans, Alexander the Great had conquered territory as far as India. This together with the Romans gave the world the common language of Greek. An ideal setting for the Gospel. When both the Old and New Testaments were available in Greek, it was easily understood.

**Travel:** Under Roman rule a vast network of 250,000 miles of roads were created from Babylon to Spain to move armies and for trade. These roads provided safe travel for the expansion of the Gospel.

These factors -common language, peace, good roads- were part of the "fullness of time" into which Jesus was born .

### Jesus' First Followers

*The Dream Team?* Were those original twelve men the real dream team of Apostles that we really see them as today? Look at who He chose: 4 fishermen, a doubter, a tax-collector, a known terrorist, a few other common men, and a traitor. This was that original *dream team* that would change the world.

In Acts 4, it says that they were ordinary, untrained men, but they were turning the world upside down.

**Are We Living  
in the  
Fullness of  
Times again?**

Travel  
Communication  
Money  
Global Village





## Notes

The key: *they had been with Jesus and were totally committed to His cause – bringing the Kingdom and blessing of God to ALL men!*

These men were so transformed by Christ's power that history reports that John walked into the Temple of Diana, the most worshipped deity of the empire, and confronted the dark powers in the name of Jesus. The statue of Diana crumbled, much of the temple fell down and within 50 years, the worship of this evil power was almost non-existent. God had won a mighty victory and the gospel exploded to the nations.

Most of these men were martyred for the sake of the dream, but not before they had totally turned their world upside down.

### Paul & His Band

In Acts 9, we find a hater of the church and of Jesus Christ being apprehended by the Risen Christ. Saul, who is known today as Paul is totally transformed and is completely consumed with Jesus Christ and God's commitment to the world.

Few people have understood God's unchanging purpose for all people to be blessed through His followers like the Apostle Paul. Paul wrote: "*The scripture...announced the Gospel in advance to Abraham: 'All nations will be blessed through you'.*" Gal. 3.8

He came to understand that Jesus Christ and the good news of His Kingdom coming to individuals, villages, and whole people groups was the essence of the entire blessing of God to the world. It was the Gospel! Because of this, Paul and all of his followers became radically committed to God's Missionary plan for the world. Even entire churches joined Paul in this great mission endeavor. (See book of Philippians)

### *Ways People Fulfilled God's Commitment*

As time progressed, hundreds, and then thousands began to experience new life in Jesus Christ and God's blessing began to flow into their hearts and lives. They were caught up into God's great commitment to His World. As they were, they found many ways to reveal God and bring His blessing to others.

**Evangelism and Church Planting:** Many began to express God's compassion by the powerful preaching of the Gospel and planting many churches. Entire cities, towns, and villages would be transformed by the power of Christ and His Kingdom entering their lives.

**Compassion and Mercy Ministries:** Another powerful emergence to bring God's blessing to the earth was the growth of compassion ministries - ministries that would incarnate Jesus' love for the world by tangible acts of kindness and mercy.

**Reformation and Theological Transformation:** As time went by, there was a divergence from the pure seed of the Gospel and the word of God. God has raised up men and women throughout history who lived heroic lives in the fight for a return to the faith of the Bible and the purity of the gospel.



## *Early People Committed to God's World*

**1. Patrick (389 AD):** Pagan Celts (from what is now called Ireland) invaded the Christian settlements in Wales and Cornwall and killed many of the inhabitants. On one such raid, they captured Patrick, whose father and grandfather were believers. Patrick was converted while in his slave days and his faith grew even stronger as he served an incredibly cruel master. God eventually helped Patrick to escape in a ship and providentially he landed at a monastic house where he stayed and studied God's Word becoming a mature man of God. He went back to England at which time he had a vision in which a man from Ireland said, "*Holy child come and walk amongst us once more.*" After his Macedonian-type call, Patrick returned sending his followers out to tell the Gospel from place to place and perform many works of power. The nation responded to the gospel over 100,000 were baptized and 200 churches were planted.

**2. The Reformers:** John Hus, Martin Luther, John Calvin and others initiated reforms, but civil or ecclesiastical authorities often persecuted them. Many church leaders were corrupt. This contributed to the need for the Reformation. The Reformation was not an Evangelistic movement. It was more of a return to the faith of the Bible and the priesthood of all men. Some reformers believed that the Great Commission did not apply to them. Although this was the case, many of these men and women lost their lives for the sake of the Gospel, and because of them, we are experiencing the blessing of God today. They were brave men and women who were *Committed to God's World!*

**3. John Wesley & His Followers:** Just before the American and French revolutions, the preaching of John Wesley and George Whitefield began the "Great Awakening", which fueled missionary expansion. Wesley and Whitefield taught people that they could have an assurance of the salvation. This provided a catalyst for the spread of the Gospel and thousands were converted. Under Wesley, a mighty church planting and reformation movement began in England and spread to much of the known world in the years to come. Thousands of normal men and women took up the cause of Christ and laid down their lives in daily service for the gospel. A nation was transformed and a mighty movement was begun by those *who carried out God's Missionary Plan in their own nation!*

**4. Zinzendorf and the Moravians:** Count Nicholas von Zinzendorf, a contemporary of Wesley, left a life of nobility and in 1722 founded a small refuge for persecuted believers from Moravia on his German plantation which became known as Herrnhut. People heard of the place from across Europe and fled persecution to join Zinzendorf and his Moravian friends. In 1727, the Spirit of God brought revival into their midst and the '100 year prayer meeting' began. As a result of this new spiritual impetus, the spirit of missions was fueled and a great missionary army was mobilized out of Herrnhut and the Great era of Protestant missions was launched. In the next two decades, the Moravians sent forth more missionaries than all of the rest of the Protestant faiths combined. Thousands were saved and many churches and works of God's mercy were begun by this incredible group who became *God's Missionary force in the nations!*



## Notes

### *A Few Faces from the Modern Era*

1. **William Carey: (1792-1834)** - When William Carey was 27 years old, he began to take up God's Missionary Commitment to His world. He addressed a group of senior ministers and challenged them to take the Great Commission seriously. He was severely rebuked by an older minister who said, "When God chooses to win the heathen, he will do it without your help or ours." He was not able to speak on the subject again and so he put his thoughts on paper, *An Enquiry Into the Obligations of Christians to Use Means for the Conversion of the Heathens.* The little book stirred the hearts of some of his friends and they created a tiny missions agency. It was a fledging and weak agency that provided minimal support for Carey to go to India. However, this man's example touched many throughout the English speaking world, and his little book became the Magna Carte of the Protestant Mission Movement.

William Carey was not the first Protestant missionary. The Moravians had been sending people to Greenland, America and Africa for years. But, the combination of the Evangelical Awakening and Carey's little book challenged and motivated men and women on both sides of the Atlantic. A second missionary society was founded in London; two in Scotland; one in Holland; and another in England.

Five college students in America were so inspired by Carey's book that they met to pray for life direction. This resulted in a meeting known as the "Haystack Prayer Meeting". More importantly, they began a student's mission's movement, which became a great example and forerunner of other student movements in which they would become radically *Committed to God's World!*

Carey's influence led some women in Boston to start women's missionary prayer meetings, a trend which led to women becoming major partners in missions. Women even began to go to foreign fields as single missionaries. By 1865, unmarried women established women's mission boards, which, sent out single women as missionaries and were led by single women at home.

The Great Wave of lives that committed themselves to God and His dream for the world that emerged out of William Carey's life is known as the *Era of Coastal Missions* - a movement of thousands that brought the gospel and blessing of Christ to many around the world.

2. **Hudson Taylor (1854-1905)** - Hudson Taylor was a young man like Carey under 30 who was given very little attention, but brooded over charts, maps and statistics. This young man suggested that the inland people of China needed to be reached. He was told you could not get there, and asked if he wanted to carry the blood of young men and women on his hands. This troubled the young man until God spoke to him and said, "You are not sending young people in the interior of China. I am." Immediately, the load lifted and he realized this was God's project, not his alone. With no university experience, no missiological training and only trade school medicine, this young man was one of the weak things God used to confound the wise. Hudson Taylor had the sovereign God accompany him as he went to China, and began the China Inland Mission – that eventually served over 6000 missionaries, predominately in the interior of China.



## Notes

Taylor not only started an English Frontier Mission, but also challenged many others to do likewise. As a result, over 40 new agencies took shape to compose the faith missions that rightly should be called Frontier Missions as the names of so many of them indicate. During this time, student movements were also born – the Student Volunteer Movement for Foreign Missions, histories single most powerful mission organization. The Student Volunteer Movement netted 100 000 volunteers who gave their lives to missions. 20 000 of these went overseas while 80 000 served in large capacities expanding the gospel within their home nation.

**3. Amy Carmichael (1890-1950s)** - Amy Carmichael was a young English girl who was rejected by everyone she sought to serve the Lord with. She failed in Hudson Taylor's bible school and was rejected for service with his group. She eventually ended up in India as a traveling evangelist but began to take up the cause of young abandoned children and little Indian girls given as temple prostitutes for the Hindu faith. She began to rescue these children risking her very life and over the years, the Dohnavur Foundation was established through which homes were created for the rescue and Christianization of children. During her life she wrote many hymns and over 55 books. She is one of the great heroes of our world today because she was *Committed to God's World*.

**4. Jim Elliott (1952-1956)** - Jim graduated from Wheaton College in USA and soon after went as a missionary to the Indians of Ecuador. During Jim's college years, He made a total commitment of his life to God's World. He and four other men made a covenant to reach a savage tribe known as the Aucas. This tribe had proven again and again to be hostile and fatal to all who would approach them. Jim and four other men were eventually martyred as they went to the Aucas, but Jim's wife Elizabeth and one of the other men's sister soon after went to the tribe and won them to Christ because of the men's great sacrifice.

**5. Cameron Townsend & Donald McGavran – (Unreached People Group Movement)** - This movement was started by two young men from the Student Volunteer Movement: Cameron Townsend and Donald McGavran. **Cameron Townsend** didn't finish college, because he just wanted to get to the mission field. He went to Guatemala as a "Second Era" missionary, building on the achievements of past missionaries. Townsend noticed that most of the Guatemalans were not Spanish speaking. He realized that these people would not be reached with Spanish Bibles. One day an Indian man asked him, "If your God is so smart, why can't He speak our language." This really drove the point home to Cameron Townsend. Many of the older missionaries had also realized the indigenous "Indian" populations needed to be reached in their own languages. He was only twenty three when he started motivating this philosophy of missions.

Townsend saw that their were unreached frontiers, and for half a century was the voice for these people. He started Wycliff Bible Translators, which is dedicated to reaching these new frontiers. At that time he thought there were about 500 languages in the world. Later he revised this figure to 1000, then 2000, and up to this point, it is more like 6500. His organization grew dramatically and today numbers over 6000 adult workers.

*"He is no fool who gives up what he cannot keep to gain what he can never lose."*

*"I do not seek a long life, but a full one like my Savior."*

*"May we who know Christ hear the cry of the damned. . . May we shed tears of repentance for those we have failed to bring out of darkness."*

*.Jim Elliott*



## Notes

As Townsend was discovering tribes; McGavran discovered a more nearly universal category he termed "Homogenous Units", which today are called "people groups".

The third era is characterized by what has been called "unreached peoples" - socially isolated groups. Because the concept has been so difficult to define, this era has had a slower start than the previous one. Townsend and McGavran called attention to "unreached peoples" 40 years ago, but until recently, little attention was given them. Tragically, we have forgotten many of the pioneering skills of the first two eras, and almost need to start all over again in learning how to approach and evangelize "unreached peoples".

We know there are approximately ten thousand "unreached people" groups in the world. Each group requires a unique and strategic approach and each group must be reached with the Gospel.

**6. Bob Pierce & Mother Teresa (Mercy Ministries)** – One last movement worth noting is the revival of Compassion Ministries through people like Bob Pierce and Mother Teresa. Pierce was stationed in Vietnam during the Vietnam War and prayed the simple prayer of “*God, break my heart with the things that break Yours.*” Later as tangible compassion mounted in his heart, Pierce started *World Vision*.

### The Modern Apostolic Church Planting Movement

Jesus, after a great night of ministry in a village, looked at His followers as they urged Him to continue the work there and said, “*I must go to the next towns, for that is why I came.*” Within these thoughts of the Lord, we find the birth of another great movement in our days – the national church planting movement.

Around the world today, men and women are giving themselves to missionary life and mission within their own nations as they take on the NEXT TOWN mandate of Jesus. They are recognizing that there are huge pockets of their own nations that have no viable witness or ministry. They are committing themselves to live with the same missionary zeal and pioneering spirit as they go into town after town, and village after village seeing pioneering works for God opened up.

*There have been many who have gone before us. They have sacrificed and risked their lives for the sake of the Gospel. We have such a rich history and great witnesses calling out to us to run the race, but the real question is:*

- *Will we get in the race and make our contribution?*
- *Who will be the next Patrick, Wesley, Zinzendorf?*
- *Will our nation see breakthrough?*
- *Who will give their life for the Cause of Jesus Christ?*



## Lesson 3: The World Christian Situation

📖 Opening Questions: How far have you come in fulfilling the Great Commission in your community? In your nation, through your church? What is the situation in your nation today? The nations around you?

### *How Far Have We Come?*

1. Christianity is growing at at least 3 times the population growth rate today
2. 2.7 Million converts per year to Christianity
3. 11% of the Pop of earth now claim to be Born-again, evangelical Christians
4. Muslim world – 600 **Christophanies** recently
5. JESUS film – 4 bill have seen it – 129 Mill response to Christ

### The Challenge Before US

1. China today – 200 more years at the current rate to reach it
2. 500,000 more churches in Europe to even touch the continent (1% born again)
3. At least 4000 unreached people groups that have never heard (2 billion people)
4. Millions die each year, never once hearing the name Jesus

### Conclusions from 2002 World Mission Statistics:

#### 1. Money

Only 1.8 % of Christian's income is given into Ministry per year  
Only 5.7% of that or .1% total is given to Missions to fulfill the great commission beyond your city  
95% of all who feel a call to Mission will never make it due to lack of funding

#### 2. Growth of Cities

The Challenge of Urbanization: In 1900 about 30% of the worlds population lived in cities with fewer that ten cities worldwide numbering more than 2 million people. At the close of the 20<sup>th</sup> Century, 70% of the worlds population lived in cities many of them in very poor circumstances. Additionally there are now at least twenty-five cities with a population exceeding 10 million, some with populations well over 20 million. This has created a brand new challenge.

**Urban Poor and ministry strategies to them (40% will be Urban poor and 20% will be Urban Slumdwellers)**

**Diversity of cultural ministry** within the large cities (in one city there will be 50 languages spoken with diverse ethnicity and cultures) Our mission strategies must be aimed at cities

#### 3. The Globalization of Islam

Islam is an aggressively missionary faith. Financed by wealthy oil rich nations Islamic propagation centers are being built throughout the world. In Europe, immigration has brought large numbers of Islamic people into nations that only fifty years ago had virtually no Muslims at all. Islam is growing rapidly in countries





that are nominally Christian. Christian missionaries need an awareness of this fact and specialist Muslim outreaches are proving successful.

#### 4. Church Planting

From 400 000 to 3.6 Million congregations from 1900 – 2000 which is great progress. BUT Europe alone needs 500 000 more NOW.

Slogan: ***The Gospel for Every Man and a Church for Every Village!***

#### 5. The Rise of Post-Modernism

This is a growing world view that thinks very differently than our Christian world-view. This poses an entirely new need for us to rethink our ministry styles, strategies, and talk.

In order to help understand post-modern thought M.P. Gallagher in a book called "Clashing Symbols" published by DLT in London (1997) lists the ten commandments of Postmodernism. They are:

1. Thou shalt not worship reason. (All reality is open to many conflicting interpretations)
2. Thou shalt not believe in history. (Everything happens by chance)
3. Thou shalt not place hope in progress.
4. Thou shalt not believe in "big stories". (Christianity is invalid because it attempts to encompass all aspects of life)
5. Thou shalt focus on self. (Hedonism)
6. Thou shalt not agonize about values.
7. Thou shalt not trust institutions.
8. Thou shalt not bother with God.
9. Thou shalt not live for productivity alone. (Leisure is more important)
10. Thou shalt not seek uniformity.

#### 6. The Cross Pollination Affect in International Ministry Today

Missionaries are coming from everywhere and going everywhere today. All the traditional rules of who is a missionary sending nation and who is a receiving nation are being broken down. Every nation on earth is beginning to see that it has a calling to the other nations of the earth and beginning to send. Each nation has redemptive gifts that they are bringing to the earth such as. . .

- Africans & Latin Americans bring faith for miracles and evangelistic fervor
- The Asians bring a passion for prayer and multiplication through small groups
- Back to Jerusalem Movement Today out of China . . .



## Lesson 4: Strategic Mission Thinking

Notes

### *Current Mission Thinking for Most of the World*

Raise up the Indigenous people of the nation to do the work. It is . . .

- \$ Cost Effective
- Language Effective
- Culturally Effective

Even in light of this there is still a great need for missionaries and many different kinds of mission works today, but the big key is that we must learn to think strategically.

Strategic thinking asks these questions:

- What is God doing and how can we best join Him?
- How can I most successfully use my SENDING abilities to further the Great Commission in?
- What things can I best do to further?
- What is the best ways to use our time, money, resources, etc?

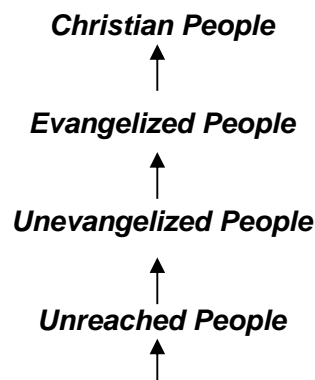
### *Strategic Thinking in Missions Today*

Many of those who went before us were pioneer missionaries, but there are many other key things happening on the earth today in the mission world! In Light of where the world is and some of these great forces happening right now, how should we proceed when we think of missions and international ministry?

The Key is to be strategic: ***Doing the right thing, with the right giftings, with the right people, at the right time!***

#### 1. Understanding Your People Group - The Five Levels of a people group being "Reached"

Mission experts from around the world have determined five levels of where a people group is in terms of being reached in the fulfillment of the Great Commission.







## **World A People**

## **Notes**

### **Definitions:**

World A People = An unreached people for which the majority have little or no access to the gospel of Jesus Christ.

Unreached People = A people in which there is no viable indigenous church movement with enough strength, resources, and commitment to sustain itself and grow.

Unevangelized People = A group for which the majority have never heard the Gospel with personal and cultural relevance so that they might gain enough understanding to receive and follow Christ.

Evangelized People = A people in which a majority of the people have encountered the gospel in such a way that they have had opportunity to respond to Christ or reject Him.

Christian People = A people for which the majority have believed in and began to follow Christ.

☐ **Activity:** What stage in these levels is your current nation? Why do you say that? Try to list a nation in each of these levels and why?

### 2. Understanding Your Role: The Five Stages of Strategic Mission Activity:

1. **Pioneer Stage:** The missionary is the only believer amongst a World A People Group.
2. **Paternal Stage:** The missionary has made progress, people have responded to Christ, but now the people group have moved into the Unreached People category.
3. **Participation Stage:** Believers begin to grow in their faith and gradually begin to engage in ministry alongside the missionary, but still the vast majority of the population have yet to hear the Gospel. They are still an Unevangelized People.
4. **Partnership Stage:** The national church now has its own leaders and is maturing and growing in strength. The missionary is only a minor partner now in what is happening doing specific things to help.
5. **Propagation Stage:** The people group is now sending its own missionaries into the field and is a mature, living church.

Q? How would knowing what stage a people group is in help you determine what you would do in mission within that people?

☐ **Group activity:** *Break the class into 5 groups and give each one one of the following situations and have them come up with the missionary activities that would be most strategic:*

1. Pioneer – People group of Nepal who have never heard the Gospel.
2. Paternal – Mayan Indian group of 20 brand new believers in N. Guatemala who have no prior Christian experience.
3. Participation – Gypsy Church in S. Serbia of young believers who have begun to share in God's work.



## Notes

4. Partnership – Movement of 25 churches in Slovakia but most of the nation is unchurched.

5. Propagation – Called to be a Missionary to the UK

**Class Activity:** List on the Marker Board all of the different kinds of activities you could engage in in each of the situations listed above and the kinds of mission work that would be needed.

### 3. Understanding Types of International Missionaries Today

**Long-term Resident Missionaries:** People who live on the field and work daily with the indigenous people to see the Gospel work accomplished. They may work in a variety of jobs with many different skills or do one very particular thing.

**Mid-Range Missionaries:** Those who go for a specified period of time to serve in some mission capacity to see the work of the Great Commission fulfilled. Time frames go from 1 year to 5 years.

**Short-Term Missionaries:** Those who go for a short period of time (1 week – 3 months) to serve in the work of the Great Commission.

**Non-Resident Missionaries:** Those who live in one nation, but serve as a full-time missionary to one or more nations. They may travel back and forth or they may work entirely on the home front to see the Great Commission fulfilled abroad.

**Mission Mobilizers:** One who gets other people involved in Mission work worldwide. Help rally \$, Time, Missionaries, and other resources for the cause of Christ in the nations.

**International Senders & Suppliers:** Those who don't actually go on the field but are the supply line for others who are there.

**David & the Spoil** *“The share of the man who stayed with the supplies is to be the same as that of him who went down to the battle. All will share alike. David made this a statute and ordinance for Israel from that day to this.”* 1 Sam 30:24-25

**Principle:** Those who stay by the supply will receive the same reward as those who go into the battle.

The Scripture teaches that when we participate in God's mission strategy we will all share the reward. Not all are called to GO, in fact many are called to SEND and SUPPLY those who go. They must stay by the SUPPLY! The key is the amount of commitment we have made to the Great Commission and how faithfully we are doing our part! We must help those great mission supplies see their critical role in God's plan for the world.

### ***The Rope Down the Well Illustration***

4. Understanding Types of Opportunities of the Field Today

#### ***Pioneer Evangelism & Church Planting***

1. Unreached People Groups



2. Muslim Nations
3. Many Cities and villages of Europe Today
4. English Language Training as a Door into the nation

### ***Mercy Missions***

#### **1. Jackie Pullinger Story**

2. Mercy Mission Ships - YWAM
3. Organization Like Mother Teresa's in India
4. Worldwide Organizations for nursing & Health care (Aids in Africa)
5. Organizations for the care of Children (World Ophans)
6. Work with the Poor in Urban Centers

### ***Leadership Development & Training***

#### ***Partnership Ministries with National Movements***

1. Leadership Training
2. Evangelism
3. Church Planting
4. Administrative/other

#### ***Technology & Missions Today***

1. Computers
2. Linguistics - JAARS
3. Multi-media
4. Printing

#### ***Prayer & Spiritual Warfare***

1. Story of JO Frazier w/ Lisus Indians
2. Europe today
  - a. Poland
  - b. Belgium
3. Prayer Journeys
4. Missionaries of Prayer
5. Story of Daniel Nash
6. Erecting of International Tabernacles of David

The Key: BEING STRATEGIC – finding the right work, with the right people, using the right ingredient of gifts and resources at the right time!

**Notes**



## Lesson 5: The Money Factor

Notes

☞ Opening Questions: *Where does the money come from for Missions? Does your church give into missions? Are you giving and doing your part of giving in Missions? Is there enough money in Missions today? Why?*

### *Missions Costs Money*

D. L. Moody once said: Along side those who have been martyred for Christ, the next in line for reward in God's Kingdom will be those who have raised money for the sake of Christ's great Gospel Expansion dream – World Missions. {For they have died a thousand deaths while doing it.}

Statistics tell us that 95% of all who commit themselves to go, never will because of a lack of supply. God's will is held up from a lack of finances. It is very easy to say that if it is God's will, it will always work, but there are two sides in the great mission's equations, those who GO and those who SEND. Both must do their part in the Money Factor.

**What is the money used for?** Usually it costs a great deal to live and operate a ministry on the mission field. Some of the typical costs are. . .

- Set-up Costs – the costs of relocating and setting up life and ministry
- Living expenses - Housing, food, utilities, transportation
- Language training and culture assimilation
- Ministry budgets for outreach, rental of halls for meetings, etc
- Hosting of teams and visitors into the mission station

Where does this Money come from?

**Denominational Funding** – In some countries or movements, the denomination or movements (Baptist, Presbyterian) takes sole responsibility for the full funding of their missionaries. All churches contribute to a central funding pool and then distribute the funds to those who are called to GO.

**A Local Church Funds the entire Mission** – In other movements or nations, they are so committed to missions that the local church of the person who GOES either fully funds the mission expense or sees that the money is raised. For example in the church of Finland, when a person commits to the mission field, if the church cannot fully support the person, the church will enlist other neighboring churches to help them SEND and SUPPLY so that the missionary does not have to worry about it. In S. Korea, this is often the case and many people contribute sacrificially by selling land, cars, homes to send the missionaries. They believe that the missionary is sacrificing so much, that they should do their part in sacrificial service to the Great Commission abroad.

**Personal Funding** – These people are often called Faith Missionaries, for they are called to believe God for their finances and see that their own support and ministry costs are raised from many sources. Areas these monies come from:



Individuals      Businesses      Churches      Miracles

**Notes**

## *What does the Bible Say About Money & Ministry*

God is the Source of All

- For the SENDER & For the one who GOES
- The first Lesson Of Jesus to His men when He sent them out as missionaries was to learn to trust God for supply (See Matt 10.9-11 & Luke 22.35-36)

### 📖 Bible Study: Examples of Fundraising in the Bible

1. Levites (the Tithes of the People) Num 18.21-24
2. Moses & the Tabernacles (Ask the people for a Free will offering)
3. David & the Temple (1 Chron. 29.1-20)
4. Jesus & the 12 (Luke 8.1-3) (Personal support of people)
5. Miraculous Provision (Elijah) (1 Kings 17.1-16) (God commanded the provision, once it just came and once he had to ask for it!)
6. Paul Asks for assistance in the ministry (Rom. 15.24, Phil 4.10-19)
7. The Worker is worthy of his wages (1 Cor. 9.7-14)

### Approaches to Biblical Fund Raising

1. The Prayer of Faith Only – George Muller, Hudson Taylor
2. Invitation to Partnership – Oswald J. Smith, CH Spurgeon
3. Begging or Manipulation

### Practical Advice for Partner Raising

1. Determine your view of lifestyle & Money
  - Poverty Mentality
  - Prosperity Mentality
  - Prosperity w/ Stewardship Mentality (simply, well, generously)
2. Determine your budget for setup, living & for the ministry
3. Examine your spheres of opportunity for partner raising
  - Individuals
  - Businesses
  - Churches
4. Be convinced that you are good soil with a God calling & vision
5. Personally sow into missions
6. Cast you net with as many people, groups, and churches as possible
  - Dinners @ homes
  - Letters
  - Church mission boards
  - Be direct & honest
7. Correspond with your partners all the time (10-15 hrs per month)
8. Deal with worry – learn to trust God and rest in your spirit, but do your part of the hard work too! Don't worry, but don't be lazy either.
9. You don't work for your partners, you serve God



## Who Should give into Missions?

1. Everyone! We are the seed of Abraham and the nations should be blessed by us.
2. The Purpose of Wealth is to confirm God's covenant on earth Deut. 8.16
3. Know the difference between bread & seed (2Cor. 8.1-4, 13,14; 9. 10-11)
4. **Examples of Who SENT AND SUPPLIED**
  - Widows in the Bible: 1 Kings 17 – Zaraphath, Luke 21 at the Temple
  - The Wealthy & Powerful: Nehemiah & the King
  - Churches: Phil. 1.5, 4.10-20
  - A group of ladies for Jesus and the 12 (Luke 8.1-3)
5. Giving only locally always has a personal string attached for you to get something in return. Missions is giving purely for the harvest.

**Notes**



## Lesson 6: The Culture Factor

Notes

### *The Power of Culture*

**Rev 5:9** And they sang a new song, saying, "Worthy art Thou to take the book, and to break its seals; for Thou wast slain, and didst purchase for God with Thy blood {men} from every tribe and tongue and people and nation.

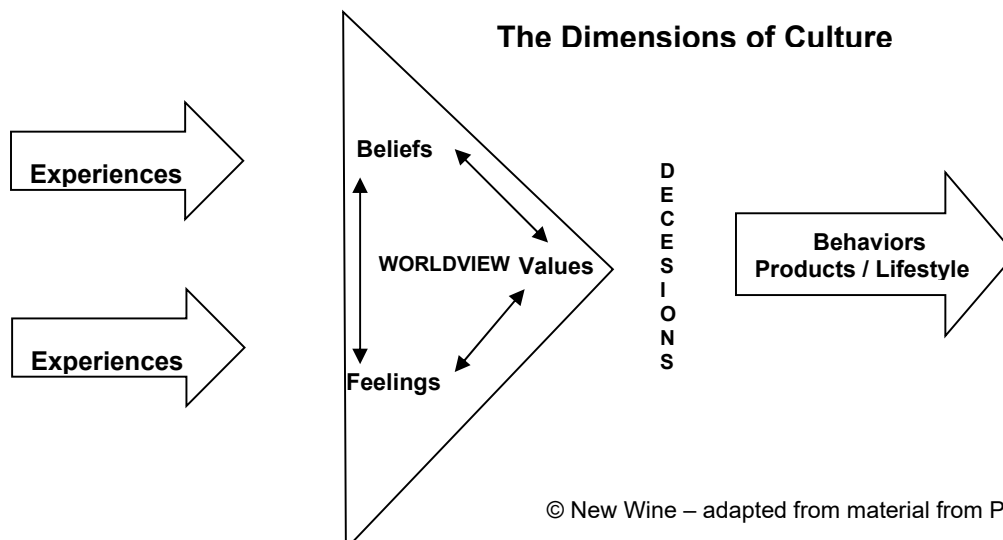
Here we see a great scene in heaven of people from many different cultures and places, languages and tribes worshipping the Lamb. This is the final picture of the fulfillment of the promise given to Abram thousands of years ago, ". . .in your seed, I will bless all the families on the earth."

If we are to reach these people whether they are in our own nation or the nations beyond, we had better understand their Culture.

**Culture is** . . .The totality of socially transmitted behavior patterns, arts, beliefs, institutions, and all other products of human work and thought. It is the predominating attitudes and behavior that characterize the functioning of a group or organization.

Culture is who we are when we are not trying. It is the powerful force lying both on top and beneath the surface which drives societies! It determines how we dress, our entertainment, our money spending, our view toward education, our family norms, our religious tendencies. Culture is that visible and hidden driving force of every society and if we DO NOT learn to use it to our advantage, we will NOT reach the people God has called us to.

Culture has two sides to it like a coin. On the top or surface, it shows forth in types of living dwellings, foods that are ate, how eating is done, dress, types of occupation, material possessions, the use of time, etc. These are the easier cultural manifestations to discover, but lying underneath the surface is a mighty river of beliefs, feelings, and values that drive the society and unless you discover and work together with these, you will struggle being successful in the ministry. This underlying aspect of culture is often called a people's "worldview." It is tremendously powerful and cannot be overlooked.





## Notes

Culture is a people's *mental map* of their world. It is not only a map of their physical world, but also a map for determining action. It provides them with a guide for decisions and behaviors. Our culture, or inner worldview, is not what we *think about*, it is what we *think with*, and unless we discover the culture or worldview of those we work among, we will be very ineffective in sharing the gospel and making disciples!

### REFLECTION QUESTIONS

1. *Is your church culturally relevant? Is your evangelism culturally relevant?*
2. *Are you the friend of sinners? Do you understand their worldview or have you become a part of the great 'Christian Ghetto' that has cut itself off from the world?*
3. *What would a culturally relevant church look like in your culture?*
4. *Do you have to sacrifice the power of God and His gifts to be culturally relevant?*

### *The Key of Culture*

Culture is one of the huge keys to all ministry, but especially to international ministry. Many of us are out of sink with the culture of our own city, our own village and our own people. We live in "Christian Ghettos", speak "Christianeze", and are sheltered from the culture and life of the godless around us. If we don't find a way to get into the culture of our nation or in international ministry, we will never reach this generation. We must develop culturally relevant churches and church planting movements in our own nation and then send out missionaries who have been trained as students of the culture to the nations abroad.

### God Uses the Cultural Key

#### **Jesus and Culture**

Jesus was called the "Friend of Sinners" (Matt 11.19) because He was a master of relating to people in their world, in their cultural setting, and in culturally relevant ways to bring them the gospel and reconcile them to the Father. He could be found in the culture of the Pharisees debating the law in the morning and then in the afternoon be eating with Zacheus with a bunch of tax collectors. Later that night, we could find Him relating to others when a sinful woman comes in and finds forgiveness and new life. With Jews, He always used parables about culturally alive things like farming and fishing to illustrate the truths of the Kingdom. He was a Master of understanding and using culture to communicate the good news of the Kingdom.

#### ***The Example of Jesus & The Woman At The Well John 4.5-29***

*QUESTIONS: How does Jesus use culturally relevant issues to introduce who He is and the Gospel to this Woman? How does He use the supernatural gifts to work together with His understanding of her cultural beliefs and traditions?*

Jesus uses the well of Jacob to touch her culturally. He relates to her on the basis of a culturally appropriate value and asks her if she would like living water from





## Notes

the well of life. Then He presses home to her real need of forgiveness & new birth. Notice that He does this through supernatural ministry (a word of knowledge). We have here culturally relevant ministry & supernatural ministry together to win this woman and then city to Christ.

### Paul & Culture

Paul said, "I have become all things to all men, that I might by all means save some" **1 Cor. 9.19-23**

. . .To the Jew, I was a Jew . . .To the Gentile, like a Gentile

Paul understood how he must understand and meet people within their culture to influence them for Christ. He had a masterful art of discovering and utilizing cultural cues for the gospel.

In his sermon to the philosophers at the Aeropagus on Mars Hill, he said, "Men of Athens! I see in every way you are very religious. For as I walked around and looked carefully at your objects of worship, I even found an altar with this inscription; To an unknown God. Now what you worship as something unknown, I am going to proclaim to you." (Acts 17:22 – 23) Paul did not condemn the Greeks for idolatry, he didn't look at the superficialities of the culture, he got straight to the heart.

### The Sending of Peter & Paul

**QUESTION? Why did God send Peter to the Jews & Paul to the Gentiles?**

At first glances, Paul would have been a much better choice for reaching the Jews because he understood their religion much better than Peter. Paul had been trained by one of the greatest rabbis of Israel, Gamaliel, and Peter was a fisherman. But God did not choose their assignments based upon their religious training, but rather upon their cultural abilities!

Peter was rural man who grew up in the village life of Israel. He understood the culture of the villages, the farmers, the fisherman – how they thought, lived, and worked.

Paul was a big city boy who grew up in the Gentile world of Tarsus, one of the great cities of the Roman world. He grew up speaking Greek, understanding Hellenistic culture, big city life, and polytheism. Paul was a Roman citizen which gave him many advantages of travel and work.

God's choice was not based upon their religious upbringing or knowledge, but upon their ability to be totally culturally relevant.

Conclusion: To reach a people, we must become culturally relevant and bring the Gospel into cultural relevance in their land.

**Q? What are some ways we must adapt in Cross-cultural ministry?**



## *The Kingdom of God is a Culture in and of itself*

Before we proceed further in our study of the importance of culture in missions, we need to understand a fact: **THE KINGDOM OF GOD IS TO BECOME A CULTURE IN AND OF ITSELF ON THE EARTH!**

It has its own worldview of God, the world, people, relationships, money, work, the use of time, etc. Over time in our Christian experience, the culture of the Kingdom must be woven into our very souls or we will never experience Christ deeply or be useful to Him. His beliefs, His values, His feelings are to be integrated into our hearts and minds and our corresponding behaviors and lifestyle will change.

In this process, it is critical to have an objective view to how much of what we believe and practice is truly Kingdom and how much is the physical culture we live in. There must be moral absolutes, faith absolutes, and lifestyle absolutes that go beyond culture. It would be very helpful to critically appraise our faith and ask the Holy Spirit and others to sort through what is Kingdom and what is my culture around me.

Having said this, we must then understand that we do not want to minister our national culture to others but that which is of the Kingdom of God. As we do this, we will see that the Kingdom can be lived out in many new and exciting ways within different cultures and different people groups. It does not have to all look the same, but it must have the culture of the Kingdom at its foundations.

## *Problems of Crossing Cultures*

As we seek to minister to the lost around us who are very different than we are or to minister to someone in another nation, we will encounter several roadblocks along the way. We will discover that these people are very different from us and something is **wrong** with them. That is because we are starting from a predisposition that *my worldview (culture) is right and theirs is wrong*. Here are some of the roadblocks we must overcome:

**Misunderstandings: differences of beliefs.** Often as we enter another culture, we think, "I can't believe they think this way" or "This doesn't make sense," or "Why do they act this way?" If the way they think, what they believe, and what they see their reality to be does not make sense to you, you can be sure that you don't make sense to them either! The Answer: Become a learner.

**Ethnocentrism: differences of feelings.** We grow up with a worldview and a way of life that we think is **right** and then we look at others around us and judge them based upon our perception or **right**. As we do this, we give off an attitude of superiority because we have made our culture and worldview the *center of the universe!* The Answer: We must repent of our egotism. God has not made our culture the center of anything. It is merely one in the midst of thousands with each having redeeming qualities and problems. We must become empathetic.

**Premature Judgment: differences of values.** If we don't check ourselves, we will enter a culture and then begin to judge it prematurely and only based upon our own worldview. We must NOT do this. We must enter it as a learner, lift it up



## Notes

to the Biblical picture, and then lovingly adjust ourselves to the culture in a non-judgmental manner.

### *The Key of Acculturation*

**Acculturation** = the process of adopting and adapting to the cultural patterns and norms of another people group in order to fit in.

To effectively communicate the Gospel across cultures means that believers must have an understanding of the world and study it, so that they can be effective in presenting the Gospel to different language groups and cultures. We must experience acculturation at several levels:

**The Life:** Communicating the Gospel begins with the lifestyle we live. We must first make our life culturally relevant. **Hudson Taylor's Example in China**

**The Message:** After our lives, we must then find cultural keys in presenting the Gospel and the message of the Bible. Missionaries need to work at communicating in culturally appropriate ways in order to impact others' worldview. We have to learn to master the use of symbols, stories, humor, philosophy, poetry and even imagery.

### Discovering External & Internal Cultural Norms

**External Norms:** Dress, Foods, Living Stds, Music, pace of Life,

**Internal Norms:** Beliefs, Values, and Feelings about - Family, \$, Values, Time, Marriage, What's really important, religious traditions and beliefs or lack of them, Ways people think (Post Modernism), Inner Worldview

- I. African tribe – spring wife-stealing
- II. African tribes – practice of multiple wives
- III. Austria – a fear of strong leaders due to past abuses
- IV. Belgium – Matriarchal society, male suicide, passivity

### Sorting Through The Good and the Bad of a Culture

As you study the culture you are called to reach, you must sort through what you can legitimately adopt, what you can utilize and what must be rejected as non-biblical and even perhaps a stronghold that must be opposed.

What is human culture and should be embraced and utilized for the Gospel?  
What is Demonic in nature and keeps people in bondage to darkness?  
What is sinful and opposed to Christ?

As you go through this process, you must ask the Holy Spirit and other wise believers around you to help you not impose your own cultural preferences in making these determinations, and remember, pick your battles wisely!



## *The Use of Culturally Appropriate Symbols*

**Notes**

### Cross-Cultural Dynamics

It's a huge misconception for missionaries to think they only need words. Many cultures do not have written systems. Some cultures respond to pictures. To be effective, we need to note the following cross-cultural dynamics:

#### **Key Dynamics of Culture and Communication**

- **Kinesics** refers to gestures, body language and facial expression, which vary in each culture.
- **Audio** sounds, such as music, laughing, whistling, moaning, etc. are all ways in which we communicate. In some countries, to whistle at a person is positive. In Latin America, it means they are jeering.
- **Silence** is important in many cultures. To sit silently in the Cameroon for say fifteen minutes signals that the person sitting in silence has something very serious to say. Remember, Job's sorrow when Job's friends sat silently for seven days (Job 2:13).
- **Touch** may be a hug, a kiss, holding hands or even casually slapping a person on the back. Paul said to give one another a holy kiss (Romans 16:16; 1 Corinthians 16:20; 2 Corinthians 13:12; 1 Thessalonians 5:26), however, in some cultures; it is inappropriate for men to kiss other men. We have to be very careful of touch and how it is perceived in other cultures. In Cameroon, it is extremely offensive to pat a little boy on the head. In other cultures, it is extremely rude to cross your legs and show the bottom of your feet.
- **Spatial** communication is the amount of space allowed between us. In some Asian cultures, you stand very close to the person when you communicate. That would be very intimidating to many Western cultures. Some cultures perceive space between two people as being aloof.
- **Time** is viewed differently in some cultures. Being late in many cultures is rude, whereas in Africa being late is no problem.
- **Oculesics** communication is use of eye contact. In the Western world, we use direct eye contact to communicate sincerity and intensity. In other cultures, that is very offensive. To stare into someone's eyes would imply you are trying to overpower them, show superiority, or give them an evil eye of intent.

### Concept Fulfillment

When any missionary goes to another culture, they clearly stand out and often the people they minister the Gospel to perceive it has a foreign Gospel. The New Testament way to communicate the Gospel seems to be through what Don Richardson terms "concept fulfillment".

Consider – Jewish people practice lamb sacrifice for the forgiveness of sins. John the Baptist preached to the people and proclaimed boldly, "Behold the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world." This is "concept fulfillment"



## Notes

Consider – the Jewish multitude remind Jesus of Moses miraculously providing manna for the people of Israel six days a week. They suggest Jesus should repeat His miracle of the loaves and fishes. Jesus replied, “Moses gave you not the true bread from heaven. The true bread from heaven is He who comes down from heaven and gives life to the world...I am that bread of life!” This is “concept fulfillment”.

So how does “concept fulfillment” apply today? Missionaries need to discern the redemptive analogies in each culture. Let’s look at some examples in other cultures:

### **The Damal and “Hai”**

Less than a generation ago, the Damal of Irian Jaya were living in the Stone Age. A subservient tribe, they lived under the shadow of a politically more powerful group called the Dani. How could one find a redemptive analogy amongst Stone Age people?

The Dani talked of a concept called “hai”. This was a term for a long anticipated golden age, a Utopia in which wars would cease, sickness would be rare and men would not oppress each other. A Damal leader called Mugumenday had yearned to see hai. Before he died, he told his son Dem to wait for hai. Eventually missionaries went to the Damal valley and studied the language in which they eventually preached and taught. One day Dem got to his feet and told his people that hai had come to them through these foreigners. He urged his people to believe their words as they had waited so long for the fulfillment of this ancient expectation.

Virtually the entire population welcomed the Gospel. Within a few years there were churches in nearly every Damal village. This is concept fulfillment.

### **The Yali and “Osuwa”**

In 1966, missionaries went to this cannibal tribe. These cannibals killed many of them.

The Indonesian government stepped in to stop further uprisings. The Yali decided they preferred missionaries to soldiers, but the missionaries could not find an analogy in Yali culture to make the Gospel clear. In the 1990’s, some missionaries went to the Yali’s and probed around to learn more about their customs and beliefs. One day a young man shared a story with the missionaries that utterly amazed them.

“Long ago my brother Sunahan and his friend, Kahalek, were ambushed by enemies across the river. Kahalek was killed, but Sunahan fled to a circular stone wall nearby. Leaping inside it, he turned, bared his chest at his enemies and laughed at them. The enemies immediately lowered their weapons and hurried away. If they had shed one drop of my brother’s blood while he stood within that sacred stone wall – we call it an Osuwa – their own people would have killed them.”



## Notes

Now the Christian workers had a new evangelistic tool. Christ is the spiritual Osuwa, the perfect place of refuge. For Yali culture instinctively echoes the Christian teaching that man needs a place of refuge. Missionaries had noticed the stone walls, but had never understood their full significance.

### **The Gospel Respects Cultures**

Concepts like hai, and osuwa form the basis of these people's culture. Missionaries cannot ignore distinctives like these, because if they do, these people will not be reached. The Gospel respects cultures and preserves these concepts. In many areas where results are slow or non-existent, sensitive cultural probes may open up unbelievable possibilities for spiritual penetration through concept fulfillment.

### *Language*

We could speak hours about the need to learn the language if working in a country for a length of time. To live among the people and not learn their language is a cultural slap and a sign of cultural arrogance. This will take much time and energy, but it is highly worth the while if you are to be a long-term or 3-5 year mid-term missionary.



## Lesson 7: Strategic Mission Partnership

As we come to a close of our introduction to missions, we must ask the question, *What can I do? In fact, we must ask the question, What must I do?* This question must be asked on both a personal level and a corporate one as a church.

For us to fulfill the Great Commission, we must **ALL** fulfill our part in God's great global dream. We began this journey with studying God's commitment to His world, *to bless all the families of the earth through His covenant people*, and we discovered that **WE** are the channel of that blessing. If you do NOT find and carry out your role, it simply will not get done. This is one of the great privileges of God's Kingdom. God uses weak, insignificant people to carry out his great gospel mission!

### *The Power of Partnership*

In the New Testament we find a group of people and a great missionary who are changing the world together. The Apostle Paul had developed a special relationship with the people of Philippi and they had accepted the challenge of world partnership in God's great plan. Listen to his words to them. . .

*"I thank my God in all my remembrance of you, always offering prayer with joy in my every prayer for you all, in view of your [participation] in the gospel from the first day until now."*  
*Phil 1:3-5*

Paul uses a very important phrase, ***your participation in the gospel***, to describe the Philippian believers. This word *participation* is the Greek word *koinonia*. Usually we call this fellowship, but the word literally means *to share a common life and purpose*. One of the best translations for this word is **partnership**. The Philippians were partners with God and with Paul.

The only way we can carry out the fulfillment of the Great Commission is for every person and every church to enter a partnership with God and one-another so that *all the families of the earth might be blessed*. Through partnership alone can we finish the task of world evangelization and see churches planted throughout our nation and the nations beyond.

### *Opportunities for Personal Partnership*

The Bible clearly portrays two roles we might play in the world Christian movement – that of a missionary of some sort or that of a sender. Paul said in Romans 10.15, "***How can they preach unless they are SENT?***" In this statement, he clearly distinguishes two sides of the equation – those who go and serve and those who send and support. The Apostle John makes the same distinctions when he said, "***They went out for the sake of the Name,***" and then he says, "***Therefore, we ought to support such men, that we may be fellow workers with the truth.***" (3 John 1.7-8)





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### Becoming a SENDER

One of the primary ways a person might serve God in His world mission enterprise is to partner with others who are going as a SENDER. A sender is a person who has answered the call to fulfill the Great Commission abroad, but stays home on the supply line of World Missions. There must be supply flowing to those on the field. For every effective missionary, there usually needs to be twenty or more senders who pray, give, and support in many other ways. Often it is much more than this. This is a VITAL role.

The life of sending can be very difficult because sending is voluntary and most of these people stay immersed in their home culture while the work is off in some foreign field. While the missionary ministers cross-culturally, the sender ministers counter-culturally through a life of generosity and sacrifice. They must often remind themselves of what their life, prayer, giving, and encouragement are doing for the world Christian movement.

There is a very large difference between simply giving a few dollars to missions and taking up the mission role of a sender. It is too easy just to throw a few dollars into a collection plate for a missionary and then totally forget about it, but it is an entirely different thing to join God's global army as a sender. By simply giving a little money, we very likely are giving our way out of any responsibility in missions instead of buying into God's global plan. A sender is a specific mission role that someone must choose to play. It is not buying your way OUT of missions, it is buying your way IN to play your part.

Consider assuming the role of a sender in one or more of the following ways for a missionary or mission project:

- Moral Support – just being there for them
- Logistics Support – taking care of details
- Financial Support – giving, giving and then more giving
- Prayer Support – spiritual warfare over them and with them
- Communication Support – letters, newsletters, mailings, etc
- Re-entry Support – doing more than saying Hey when they get home

In many ways, the life of the missionary is clearer than that of a sender. He is clearly living and ministering cross culturally, but the sender must choose to live counter culturally while things outwardly may look very much like the lives around them. Sometimes it is easier to 'go' than to 'stay.'

Senders will probably lead fairly normal lives while inwardly they are fighting a war that most will never see. They are determined to love friends they will only see every five years or so, to give sacrificially up to ½ or more of their income, to pray diligently and long for those they will never meet, to love and speak of people groups they will never see. They will live in one world and work and labor in another far away. This is the life of a sender. *(Taken from an article by Steve Hawthorne called 'Senders' pp. 437-440 in Perspectives World Mission Course.)*

### How to Begin

- 1) Realize that this is as real a calling as that of a missionary.
- 2) Surrender and give yourself to God as a sender.





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- 3) Look for God given opportunities for genuine partnership.
- 4) Research and discover various ways of partnering with your missionary.
- 5) Choose the sacrificial level you are willing to live at so that you might give, support, pray, and serve in this capacity. Senders adjust their lifestyles to be able to give, serve, and pray. Generosity flows out of simplicity not abundance.
- 6) Give generously knowing that you are a part of the work.
- 7) Pray consistently for your missionary and with your missionary for the work.
- 8) Talk to others about your ministry as a sender, seeking to raise up others into this great role.
- 9) Finish the course and win the prize.

### Becoming a Missionary

If you feel God is leading you into a life of mission service, don't automatically assume that it will be to another nation. It may be to plant another church in a village within your nation, it may be to reach out in ministry to a people group such as the poor who have no access to care or the gospel, or it may be to go to another nation somewhere to serve in the spread of the gospel. Whatever your calling might be, there are several steps you need to undertake to successfully make it to and make it on the mission field. (Much of this information is taken from Steve Hoke and Bill Taylor's article entitled *Charting Your Journey to the Nations* in the Perspectives World Missions Course, pp. 446-448.)

- 1) **Personal Spiritual Formation** – the first ingredient to successfully reaching the mission field and then having lasting success is your own spiritual formation. You must first develop yourself as a disciple of Jesus Christ before giving your life fully to make disciples in the nations. Do not ever underestimate this important ingredient. You cannot make what you are not!
- 2) **On the Job Training in your Local Church** – many of the skills and abilities you will need to serve Christ abroad should be developed by simple service within your local church. The church is the training ground for missions! Winning people to Christ at home, making disciples, serving, praying, etc. at home is the foundation of missionary service.
- 3) **Exposure to Other Cultures** – A third early ingredient is to expose yourself to as many cultures as possible and learn along the way on how to discover the culture of another, how to appreciate their culture, how do you acculturate yourself, etc. You might do this by finding another people group nearby, taking short term mission trips, or serving the poor.
- 4) **Basic Education** – At this point it is a good idea to determine a plan of basic education probably equipping yourself with a trade and basic Biblical knowledge that will serve you no matter where God leads. If studying abroad is an option, this would be a good year or two experience for you. Don't cut any formal education short because you think God is running out of time with you. It would be very helpful at this stage to have basic missionary training also in the areas of cross cultural studies, basics of linguistics, emotional and relational preparations, etc..
- 5) **Exploration of Sending Agencies** – In these early days, it is good to research different options of who might be your sending agency. Sometimes a local church can take on this task although they are often ill-equipped for this task. There are often several mission organizations that



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have a much greater realm of experience in sending and caring for missionaries on the field. Good research and good relationship building is vital at this point.

- 6) **Self Inventory of Gifts, Abilities, and Interests** – Because we live in a world where there are so many needs and opportunities in mission, we need to be realistic in the early days of what we could do. Within every follower of Jesus are a certain set of gifts, talents, and abilities that God has placed within them and that they have taken time to develop. As we move to the next step of discovering our calling and getting to the field, we must first see what is currently within us and then seek to fit that to an initial mission experience.
- 7) **Exploration of Other Cultures and Cross Cultural Ministry** – Before moving more fully into a life of mission, it would be wise for you in this journey to have several cross cultural ministry experiences. Short term mission trips, working with people of other ethnic groups, ministry to the poor would help a great deal. Over this journey, position yourself several times in cross cultural settings for living and ministering. As you do this, try to put yourself into many different ministry situations trying your hand at different things. This will not only be a time of discovering other cultures, but it will be a time of discovering yourself as well.
- 8) **Initial Field Assignment Search** – Together with the question of who will be sending me are the questions, where will I go, who will I work among, what will be my objectives, what will be my role in the work there, how long will my initial stay be?
- 9) **Hands on Missionary Training** – Once you reach this stage of your journey to the mission field, you should seek more specific training to fit you to the assignment. What will be the specific skills and abilities you will need to be successful with this people group you are going to? You will definitely need specific training in character, emotional strengthening, ministry skills, cross cultural skills, and language. But above all, you will need to understand the spiritual climate and the types of spiritual warfare that you will face against yourself and your work and be armed for this fight.
- 10) **Apprenticeships and Internships** – When you reach the field God is sending you to, you will not yet be experienced as a mature missionary. It would be very wise to enter an internship or apprenticeship to learn the area, understand the people, have time for language development, and discover the rules of the game both culturally and as a minister. Working with experienced missionaries is a great way to enter the field. Don't try to go it alone if possible.
- 11) **Life-Long Learning: On – the – Job, On – the – Field** – Once you are on the field, you have entered a life of long term service to a group of people who desperately need Christ. One of the keys is to always keep learning. Once you stop, you lose your effectiveness and cutting edge. Set yearly reading and study goals in areas of spiritual development, ministry skill knowledge, acculturation and language.
- 12) **Finishing Strong** – Throughout scripture and church history, the sad fact is that many who start well do not finish strong. Along the way, you must give attention to your soul, your family, and your finances for in these



areas, many break down. Don't be afraid to rest along the way, for we are in this for long term.

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### *Opportunities for Congregational Partnership*

Not only must each individual discover their part in God's Commitment to the World, but each congregation is called to reach their Jerusalem, Judea, Samaria and the uttermost parts of the earth. Every local church has a world mission calling upon it if they can but discover and release it. There is awesome potential for world mission in the local church but we must discover the centrality of the Great Commission again and then position our church to do their part.

As churches try to move out in a world mission experience a common error is trying to do so many things that they really accomplish little or nothing at all. It is a 'shot gun approach.' Shot guns are great for hunting birds, but they are not too useful in really making a difference in missions. *(The following comes from an article entitled: 'The Awesome Potential for Mission Found in Local Churches' pp. 449-452 by George Miley taken from Perspectives Course on World Missions.)*

### Adopting a People Group or a Major Project

One major trend around the world today is that churches are adopting a people group or a specific long term project that they can focus upon year in and year out. This is proving to be an excellent strategy in which a church can genuinely be a long term partner to one or two things and see themselves make a major difference. This is very often expressed in long term evangelization through church planting where there are no current churches and therefore no or little access to the gospel. Church planting is a wonderful way to make a lasting difference in the world and a local church can funnel money, prayer, people, service and other things into a single project among a people group to see a tangible difference made.

### The Process of Adopting a People Group or Project

As you begin to think about sending your church into the world to change it through adoption of a people group or taking on a major project, here are some things you must know:

- **Don't enter with an independent attitude** – you need to partner with others – mission agencies, churches in your region, and local leaders where you are going.
- **Count the costs** – Be in it for the whole journey. It always begins with excitement, but it will cost much over the years. You will have to sustain this before your people long term. Satan will work to distract or stop you for this expansion work into his kingdom.
- **Take Ownership** – Once you begin a project of planting a new church or helping in another way, take ownership and give it to the people of your church. It is true that the more someone owns something, the more they will invest.
- **Use Short term missions to help** – Short term mission trips can do a great deal if done well. It will change both what you are attempting on the field and your people when they return home. Don't be afraid to send your



best out for short periods of time. You can send them in prayer journeys, evangelism teams, construction or other types of service teams.

- **Learn to Pray** – Churches that wait on the Lord, hear His voice, and then test His guidance are very successful. They also have learned to schedule longer periods of intercession for their missions and missionaries that are huge catalyst for the work there.
- **Give Proper Training** – Within your church, provide the necessary training for church planting – evangelism, discipleship, prayer, service, character development, etc – that will serve those you send long term and those you send short term. Train, Train, Train!
- **Give Proper Care** – If you send or support missionaries on the field, make sure you provide excellent care for them. Plans need to be made at the very beginning on how long term care will be given for those you support on the field.

**There are so many opportunities today to make a difference both for an individual and a church, but we must CHOOSE to join God in His commitment to the world and do OUR PART in the fulfillment of the Great Commission.**

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## Lesson 8: Say Goodbye to a Peacetime Lifestyle

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As we conclude this introduction to world missions, we have established these facts:

- God is radically committed to His world and desires to bring His blessing to every people group on earth.
- His Blessing is the life offered in Jesus Christ
- We and we alone are the channel that will carry that blessing to the world. He does not have “**Plan B**”
- There has been an amazing pageant of normal men and women who have gone before us, joined God in His commitment to bless the world and done amazing things with Him.
- There are more opportunities in the world for service today than ever in the history of mankind in both quantity and variety.
- We must give great attention to the Money Factor and the Culture Factor to be successful in missions.
- We each must discover our part and our churches part in this amazing work of God around the world.

There is one last word that must be spoken. For you and I to be effective in carrying out God’s dream for the world and doing our part, we must . . .

***Say goodbye to a ‘peace-time’ lifestyle and adopt the lifestyle of war!***

### World War II

When a nation goes to war, many things change inwardly on how life is lived. The best example is World War II. The governments of many nations did not just send its soldiers to war, but rather they mobilized those who stayed at home to do their part in winning this global struggle. Thousands of men and women were SENT by their government and their faithful loved ones back home to win the conflict.

***Both those who WENT and those who SENT adjusted their life to win.***

Those who went experienced many hardships, took wounds for the cause, lived in strange places and ate strange foods, but above all, they risked lives daily for the cause.

In a similar manner in this war, those at home made major adjustments to be a strong sending army at home for their boys on the field. They simplified their lives, their diets, worked longer hours, worked second jobs for the cause. They rationed their heat, their food, gave money and adjusted their life for a wartime cause. They were not in a time of peace, they were in the days of war.

### Joining the Great Commission War Effort

The greatest problem in the church today is that so few have joined the war time effort with Jesus Christ to see the fulfillment of the Great Commission. We are



living our lives as if nothing was going on, God has no passion for the nations, and *'peace, peace when there is no peace.'*

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Listen to these words of the Apostle Paul, a man totally commitment to the war effort of Jesus Christ to his son, Timothy, ***“Suffer hardship with {me,} as a good soldier of Christ Jesus. No soldier in active service entangles himself in the affairs of everyday life, so that he may please the one who enlisted him as a soldier.”*** 2 Tim 2:3-4

This great apostle is crying out to us, “Can’t you see, we are in the war of the ages, we must adopt a wartime lifestyle and say goodbye to easy living and comfort. We must simplify, give, go, endure, and work for Christ Jesus. We must endure hardship, Timothy. Don’t be allured to comfortable living!”

The call to a Wartime lifestyle is a call to. . .

- Accept the Call
- Discipline your life
- Simplify your life
- Focus your life
- Make great sacrifices
- Give, go, work

Whether you are called to GO or called to SEND – equal commitment and equal sacrifice for all!

**WILL YOU?**