

PACIFIC2NATIONS – Mission Training

A BIBLICAL PERSPECTIVE on MISSION

Is Mission peripheral?

Matt 28: 19-20
John 3:16
Isaiah 45:22-23
Luke 10:1-3
Acts 1:8

An afterthought?

Just a good thing to do?

These scriptures above show that Missions is not an optional extra for the Church to do but rather a must. However, rather than just take isolated verses, we must realize that in fact Missions is the very basis for the Bible – it's the backbone.

THE ABRAHAMIC COVENANT

Genesis 12: 1-3 – sets apart Abraham as a missionary.
sets apart Israel as a missionary nation.

(N.B. Election is not elitism. Election is a call to service. Israel's election involved duty to witness to the nations). They were to proclaim to all nations the Name of God.

Genesis 26:3-5. The same call is given to Isaac.

Genesis 28:13-14. The same call is given to Jacob.

JESUS' LAST COMMAND

The Great Commission (Matt 28:19).

N.B. The Old Testament foreshadowed this command. Jesus' daily teaching anticipated it.

Can Jesus transform self-centered Jews into cross-cultural apostles?

Matt 24:14 "And this gospel shall be preached throughout all the earth, as a testimony to all nations and then the end will come".

N.B. Nations – Greek word is *ethnos* i.e. ethnic group, people group, tribe (Rev 7:9).

Examples of Jews fulfilling the Covenant:

Joseph	Egyptians	Daniel	Babylonians
Naomi	Moabites	David	Philistines
Esther	Persians	Jonah	Assyrians
Moses	Midianites	Solomon	Arabia
Maid	Syrians		

Some of these were unwilling and unplanned missionary endeavours, but God's purposes.

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THE TASK REMAINING

Status of the World Christian Movement:

1. The Church exists in almost every country of the world.
2. Christianity is the largest religion of the world.
3. Growth of Christianity is exceptional in places

And Yet

4. Half the world's population has not heard the gospel.
5. And they will not hear unless someone goes cross culturally.

Eight thousand people groups remain unreached and only 18% of the work force work amongst these.

THE GREAT IMBALANCE

Where we use most of our missions finances:

World A (unreached)	World B (Evangelized Non-Christians)	World C (Christians)
0.01%	0.09%	99.9%

“All these are a loud call to Christians!” (William Carey).

TWO DISTINCTIONS TO BE MADE:

- a) Evangelism and missions. Missions – cross cultural Evangelism – is not cross cultural
- b) Regular missions and frontier missions: Regular missions – where a work is already established
Frontier missions – unreached people groups.

Fifty-five passages in scripture refer to the Abrahamic Covenant of Israel's obligation to missions.

Psalm 67 Psalm 72:12 Isaiah 49:6

JESUS, MESSIAH FOR ALL PEOPLES

The Abrahamic Covenant provided the backbone of Jesus' ministry, since Jesus was concerned with Gentiles as much as with the Jews.

His Genealogy

Matthew 1:1-7, Luke 3: 23-37. Four of the five women mentioned were gentiles.

Tamar	Gentile – Canaanite	Rahab	Gentile of Jericho
Ruth	Gentile of Moab	Bathsheba	Gentile “Hittite”
Mary	Jew		

Proclamation Announcing Jesus' Advent

Zechariah's prophecy – Luke 1:68-70

Jesus presented at the Temple – Luke 2: 29-32

Anticipation of John the Baptist's ministry – Luke 3:4-6

Fulfilment of Abrahamic Covenant

Light of revelation to the Gentiles.

“All flesh” – Galilee to the Gentiles

Launching of Jesus Public Ministry

Began among the Gentiles – Matt 4: 13-16

Continued among Gentiles – Matt 4:23-25

His Own Dealings with Gentiles

E.G. Centurion; Samaritan woman, Greeks etc – John 12.

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THE HISTORY OF MISSIONARY ENDEAVOUR

THE GREAT CENTURY OF PROTESTANT MISSIONS

The First Era (1792-1910) – The Coastlands

William Carey (1761-1834) “We must not be contented with praying without exerting ourselves to use the means for obtaining those things for which we pray. We must expect great things from God, and we must attempt great things for God”

In 1792 he wrote “An Enquiry into the Obligations of Christians to Use Means for the Conversion of the Heathens.”

Second Era (1865-1980) – Inland Areas

Hudson Taylor (1832-1905) founded “China Inland Missions” in 1865. Reached into the interior of China. He was committed to learning “to move man through God and by prayer alone”.

Third Era (Post 1934) Hidden People

Started with Cameron Townsend and Donald McGavran and their emphasis on reaching the unreached hidden people groups.

McGavran was a missionary to India. He saw the caste system and the need to evangelize each caste.

These people groups can be divided into five major categories:

Tribal (unreached)	3000
Muslim	4000
Hindus	2000
Chinese	over 1000
Buddhist	1000

N.B. There are over 400 evangelical churches to every unreached people group! It can be done!

BUT WE NEED:

- New – well prepared missionary teams
- Active churches
- Co-operating mission agencies
- Fervent faithful prayer

Luke 10:23. Need more labourers

Isaiah 55: “Why spend money on what is not bread?” Jesus said - My bread is to do my Father’s will.

We need to commit ourselves to setting definite goals and developing specific means to accomplish the task of the great commission within a specified time frame. It is not enough for us to go across the world and do a good job. We must work towards finishing the task.

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FINDING YOUR PART IN THE GREAT COMMISSION

Matthew 28: 18-20.....read this:

The commission is for every Christian. We must find our part in fulfilling it. “The greatest passion that can burn in the heart of man is to know the will of God and get it done”. S.D. Gordon

To fall in love with God is the greatest romance.
To search for Him is the greatest human adventure.
To find Him is the greatest human achievement.

Luke 10:2-3.....Look, pray and go

LOOK

John 4:35
Rev. 3:17
2 Cor. 10: 13-16. The regions beyond.....
God’s question: “What do you see? Jeremiah 1:11
When we see, what is our response?

Christ’s example – Matthew 9:36-38
Matthew 14:14

Catch a World Vision

See God’s world-wide purpose in Christ
See a world full of possibilities through Christ
See a world full of people without Christ.
See my world-sized part with Christ

PRAY

We must beseech the Lord of the harvest to send forth labourers.
“Never stay at home in your prayers. If the gospel is universal, prayer cannot restrict itself to being local”.

N.B. There is a great need for spiritual warfare.

GO

Go across the bounds of: Social Barriers
 Linguistic Barriers
 Cultural Barriers
 Physiological Barriers
 Educational Barriers etc...

Isaiah 6:8 Who will go for us?
Matthew 28:19, 20 We must meet, preach, teach, make disciples, baptize.

Did the disciples go?

Andrew	Scythians north of the Black Sea
John	India, Isle of Patmos
Philip	Upper Asia, Scythia, Phrygia
Bartholomew	India, Armenia, Phrygia
Matthew	Arabia, Ethiopia, Parthia

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Thomas	India, Ceylon
Simon	Egypt, Cyrene, Mauritania, Libya and others parts of Africa, Britain
Jude	Asia Minor, Greece
Paul	Spain, France, Britain
Peter	Rome

THREE TYPES OF INVOLVEMENT IN MISSIONS

1. Equippers:

Inspiration: Training: Promotion

2. Senders:

The need is for active senders, not passive ones.

Active senders will usually demand a daily involvement.

Perhaps as many as three ardent senders are needed for every effective missionary on the field.

- Their spirit and heart are with missionary
- Berger: was Hudson Taylor's sender

What does it mean to be an active sender?

Pray

Daily! Pray 'beyond' your missionaries. Pray for those things and people for which your missionaries themselves agonize in prayer. Pray in the Holy Ghost. Prayer will involve communication with those on the field – correspondence.

Give

Sacrificially and consistently.

Adjust your own lifestyle

Look at ways to save money and give to missions.

E.G. George Mueller:

Built five of the largest orphanages in the world and cared for over a thousand orphans.

Gave over half a million dollars to school work.

Circulated nearly two million bibles and three million books and tracts.

Gave over a quarter million dollars to missionary work.

In sixty years this man, without personal resources, who died with less than 300 dollars, had placed in his hands to distribute about seven and a half million dollars.

Serve

Serve your missionary, while on furlough.

Help care for affairs at home.

Encourage

Letters, phone calls, birthdays, visits, advice etc.

Train

A survey course on missions will enable a sender to grasp and gain an understanding of what the missionary is doing and why he is doing it.

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STUDY: **The Philippians** – example of active senders.

Philippians 1:7	Partners in the grace God had given Paul
Philippians 1:5	Partnership in the Gospel
Philippians 1:19	Actively prayed
Philippians 4:10-18	Gave sacrificially
Philippians 2:25	They sent encouragement
Philippians 3:17	They knew Paul

3. Goers

“What a high calling is offered to anyone who will pray, Here am I, send me!” Jim Elliot. Isaiah 6:8
 Jesus said “Pray ye therefore the Lord of the harvest that He will thrust forth labourers into His harvest”.
 Matt 9:37, 38

The prayers were the very ones sent forth.

Be ready to be the answer to your own prayers.

Preparation to GO Involves Three Areas

1. Character Development 2 Peter 1:2-12

A Godly character is the essential requirement to being useful to God and being fruitful in His service.

E.G. Saul had a crown on his head but far from being a king in his heart – character flaws.

David – was a king at heart long before a crown was placed on his head.

You must discipline your strengths and guard your weaknesses.

2. Gain Experience

Get a career

Go on an overseas trip

Learn a language

Be involved in leadership

Develop practical skills

Seize opportunities

Do some correspondence, bible courses etc.

Study the word (2 Timothy 3:16 and 2:21)

3. Sharpen Your Vision

Read books

Listen to missionary speakers

Consecrate yourself to prayer

Learn about different missionary societies and opportunities available

Conclusion:

We each have but one life to live. The most important and exciting thing we could ever do is to discover God’s will for our lives and fulfill it.

“MAKE A LIFE NOT A LIVING”

Samuel Zwemer