

DISCOVERING MY LIFE MISSION - PART 4

Becoming A World-Class Christian

GOD'S GLOBAL PLAN - God has always been interested in the *entire* world.

"Jesus said, "Go into all the world and preach the Good News to everyone." Mark 16:15

"And the Good News about the Kingdom will be preached throughout the whole world, so that all nations will hear it; and then the end will come." Matthew 24:14

We are all called to be ON-MISSION

The development of internet & air travel make the world smaller & our responsibility for mission greater.

WHAT ON EARTH IS GOD DOING?

The Status of Christianity in the World

"Look at the nations and be amazed! Watch and be astounded at what I will do! For I am doing something in your own day, something you wouldn't believe even if someone told you about it." Hab. 1:5 (NLT)

The Good News - The church is far bigger than you think

- 2017, there are 2.4 billion Christians (33% of the world's population) according to David Barrett, leading researcher.
- The Church is growing explosively *outside* of Western countries (the Majority World)
 - In 1900 – 77% of believers were from Europe or N America.
 - In 1981 – 51% of believers were from Europe or N America.
 - In 2017 – 32% of believers were from Europe or N America.

Examples: from 2000...

In Brazil - the church is growing 17-20,000 new believers *a week!*

In China – the church is growing 20-30,000 new believers *a day!*

"China on course to become 'world's most Christian nation' within 15 years" read the headline in the Daily Telegraph in April 2014

- The availability of the Bible in other language has increased dramatically.
 - 1800 – 67 languages
 - 1900 – 537 languages
 - 2000 – 2800 languages
- The Jesus Film has been seen by over 2 billion people and over 100 million have prayed to receive Christ!
- The number of mission agencies is increasing
 - In 1900 – 600 mission agencies
 - In 1998 – 4,650
 - In 2017 – 5,300
- Since 2002, the majority of missionaries are from the Majority World (developing world)!
- The Church is cooperating in world mission partnerships as never before.

THE WORLD SITUATION TODAY

- With 7.5 billion people in the world, over 5 billion people are lost without Christ!
- There are still around 2,000 **unreached people groups** in the world. 2.1 billion people who have *no known visible witness* for Christ! They are never going to hear about Christ unless someone goes to their culture to tell them.

The four words that best describe the unreached people in our world are:

ASIAN

ISLAMIC

URBAN

UNDER 20

- Urbanization will continue to increase dramatically up to 2050
- Since 2007 more people live in cities than rural areas, for the first time in history.
- Now there are 31 cities over 10 million in size.
- In 2012 over 1 billion people, nearly a seventh of the world population were living in squatter settlements connected to these huge cities.

- By 2025, this is expected to rise to over 25% of the world's population living in squatter settlements.
- Currently there are more than 100 million street children in mega-cities; they live and sleep on the street.
- Youth under 20 continue to increase (Uganda has 55% of population under 18yrs)
2000 – 2.383 billion under 20
2005 – 2.404 billion an increase of 21 million in 5 years
2010 – 2.436 billion an increase of 32 million in 5 years
According to "Advocates for youth" 40% of world population is under 24yrs.
- London is the most ethnically diverse city in Europe with over 200 languages spoken.

The problem is not the harvest. It's the lack of HARVESTERS

"The harvest is great, but the workers are few. ³⁸ So pray to the Lord who is in charge of the harvest; ask him to send more workers into his fields." Matt. 9:37

"For 'Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.' ¹⁴ But how can they call on him to save them unless they believe in him? And how can they believe in him if they have never heard about him? And how can they hear about him unless someone tells them? ¹⁵ And how will anyone go and tell them without being sent? That is why the Scriptures say, 'How beautiful are the feet of messengers who bring good news!'" Rom. 10:13-15

The Big Question: AM I willing to be used by God?

"The eyes of the Lord search the whole earth in order to strengthen those whose hearts are fully committed to him." 2 Chron. 16:9

WHAT IT TAKES TO BE ON - MISSION FOR GOD

We must make 5 major shifts in our thinking.

1. WE MUST SHIFT OUR THINKING FROM SELF CENTEREDNESS TO GOD CENTEREDNESS.

"When the Holy Spirit has come upon you, you will receive power and will tell people about me everywhere - in Jerusalem, throughout Judea, in Samaria, and to the ends of the earth." Acts 1:8

"For God has not given us a spirit of fear and timidity, but of power, love, and self-discipline. ⁸ So never be ashamed to tell others about our Lord." 2 Tim. 1:7-8

2. WE MUST SHIFT OUR THINKING FROM LOCAL TO GLOBAL

Watch the world news with "missionary eyes" then pray!

"From one man God created all the nations throughout the whole earth. He decided beforehand which should rise and fall, and he determined their boundaries. His purpose in all of this was that the nations should seek after God and perhaps feel their way toward him and find him--though he is not far from any one of us." Acts 17:26-27

3. WE MUST SHIFT OUR THINKING FROM TEMPORAL VALUES TO ETERNAL VALUES.

"Dear friends, I warn you as 'temporary residents and foreigners' to keep away from worldly desires that wage war against your very souls." 1 Peter 2:11

*"Soldiers don't get tied up in the affairs of civilian life, for then they cannot please the officer who enlisted them. 2 Tim. 2:4
"Seek the Kingdom of God above all else, and live righteously, and he will give you everything you need." Matt. 6:33*

4. WE MUST SHIFT OUR THINKING FROM SECURITY TO SERVICE.

"If you try to hang on to your life, you will lose it. But if you give up your life for my sake and for the sake of the Good News, you will save it." Mark 8:35

5. WE MUST SHIFT OUR THINKING FROM COMFORT TO SACRIFICE

"I plead with you to give your bodies to God because of all he has done for you. Let them be a living and holy sacrifice—the kind he will find acceptable." Rom. 12:1

'Peter said, "We've left our homes to follow you." ²⁹ "Yes," Jesus replied, "and I assure you that everyone who has given up house or wife or brothers or parents or children, for the sake of the Kingdom of God, ³⁰ will be repaid many times over in this life, and will have eternal life in the world to come.'" Luke 18;29-30

"Store your treasures in heaven, where moths and rust cannot destroy, and thieves do not break in and steal. ²¹ Wherever your treasure is, there the desires of your heart will also be." Matt. 6:20-21

How am I using my Time, Talent & Treasure?

"After all, what gives us hope and joy, and what will be our proud reward and crown as we stand before our Lord Jesus when he returns? It is you! ²⁰ Yes, you are our pride and joy." 1 Thess. 2:19-29

Will anyone be in heaven because of you?

"Then I heard the Lord asking, "Whom should I send as a messenger to this people? Who will go for us?" I said, "Here I am. Send me." Isaiah 6:8