

From Ethiopia to the Nations

God's global purpose and our part

This is a 5-day mission training equipping Ethiopian and Eritrean believers to reach the nations—with a special focus on Somalis in Minnesota. By the end of the training participants will understand God's heart for the nations, gain practical cross-cultural ministry skills, develop a burden for unreached peoples, and leave with a concrete plan to engage Somalis in Minnesota and other unreached peoples globally.

Day 1: God's heart for the nations

- The Missio Dei (Ashu)
- Abraham: Blessed to be a blessing (Markos)
- Jesus and the Great Commission (Mussie)

Day 2: The World Christian Movement (Markos)

- The story of global Christianity
 - + Acts to today
 - + Major mission movements
 - + Indigenous missions
- The rise of the Global South
 - + Africa's role in world missions
 - + National missionary movements
 - + The future of missions

Day 3: Understanding Somalis and other Unreached People Groups (Somali Team)

- Understanding Somali culture
 - + Somali history
 - + Clan structure
 - + Honor and shame worldview
 - + Family and community values
- Understanding Islam
 - + Basic beliefs
 - + Similarities and differences
 - + Respectful engagement
- Sharing Christ with Somalis
 - + Building friendships
 - + Hospitality ministry

- + Story-based evangelism
- + Prayer ministry
- Creating a Somali ministry strategy (Team assignment: develop a 1-year ministry plan)
 - + Prayer strategy
 - + Relationship-building strategy
 - + Outreach activities
 - + Follow-up plan
 - + Leadership development

Day 4: Mission trip to Somali community (Somali team and local pastors)

- Orientation and prayer
- Visit a Somali neighborhood (in small groups)
 - + Observe businesses, community centers, mosques and family life (pray quietly, ask God what He sees, record observations)
- Visit Somali-owned business (coffee shops, restaurants, markets). The goal is to buy something, learn names, ask respectful questions and build relationships.
- Somali lunch experience: Eat at a Somali restaurant. Pay attention on hospitality, family values and similarities between Ethiopia/Eritrea culture and Somali culture
- Prayer walk
- Debrief: What did you learn? What Challenged you? What stereotypes were broken? How can your church build relationships? What next step is God calling you to take?
- Follow up challenge: Each participant commits to one action within 30days:
 - + Meet one Somali person
 - + Visit a Somali business
 - + Invite a Somali family for coffee or a meal
 - + Pray weekly for Somalis
 - + Join a Somali outreach effort
 - + Support ministry among Somalis
- Prayer time for the Somalis

Day 5: My role in God's mission (Mussie, Ashu and Markos)

- Becoming a World Christian
 - + Go
 - + Send

- + Pray
- + Welcome
- + Mobilize
- Developing a personal mission plan: My next 12 months
 - + People I will pray for
 - + People I will reach
 - + Mission giving goal
 - + Mission training goal
 - + Ministry involvement goal
- Church action plans: Each Church develops 12-months action plan
 - + Mission education
 - + Somali outreach
 - + Prayer ministry
 - + Partnership opportunities
 - + Mission giving goals
- Commitment challenge: Participants to commit to one or more of the following
 - ☐ Pray for Somalis in North America and beyond
 - ☐ Build a friendship with a Somali family
 - ☐ Participate in outreach efforts
 - ☐ Support missionaries financially
 - ☐ Mobilize others for mission
 - ☐ Take Perspectives course (www.perspectives.org)
 - ☐ Explore missionary service
- Prayer and worship

Discussion questions around the table (these any other throughout the week)

- **Why do you think God has brought many Ethiopians and Eritreans to America?**
- **What unique advantages do Ethiopian and Eritrean believers have for reaching unreached peoples?**
- **How can Ethiopian and Eritrean Churches become sending Churches?**
- **What would it take to send missionaries from your church?**
- **Name countries of the world where Ethiopian and Eritrean Christians you know live (How they can live as a missionary where they live and increase the missionary force)**
- **What similarities exist between Ethiopian/Eritrean and Somali cultures?**
- **What misunderstandings often exist between Ethiopian/Eritrean and Somalis?**
- **How can Ethiopian/Eritrean believers overcome prejudice?**
- **What fears do Christians have about witnessing to Muslims?**
- **What questions might Muslims ask Christians?**
- **How can your church become more welcoming to Somalis?**
- **Is reaching Somalis easier in Minnesota than in Somalia? Why or why not?**
- **What resources would be needed to reach the Somalis in Minnesota?**
- **What is one thing your church can start immediately to reach the Somalis? What would be the biggest obstacle? How will you measure success?**

Abraham: Blessed to be a blessing

The Bible isn't simply a random collection of writings; it is the story of God's redemptive mission in the world. From Genesis to Revelation, Scripture reveals God's initiative to create, redeem, and restore all things through His covenant love and grace. The Bible exists because God is a missionary God. God's mission has always been global. God's mission didn't begin with the Great Commission.

OLD TESTAMENT: God calls Abraham and his descendants not just for their own blessing, but so that "all nations will be blessed through you" (Gen 12:3). The Law, Prophets, and Psalms all bear witness to God's unfolding plan for the nations.

NEW TESTAMENT: The Gospels reveal Christ as the fulfillment of God's mission, and Acts shows the Church sent out to continue His mission "to the ends of the earth" (Acts 1:8). The Epistles guide communities living out that mission. Revelation concludes with the vision of all nations gathered around God's throne (Rev 7:9).

If God were not on mission:

- There would be no covenant with Abraham, no Exodus, no prophets calling Israel back to their purpose.
- There would be no incarnation, no cross, no resurrection, and no Great Commission.
- The Bible itself would lose its purpose, because every page is connected to God's pursuit of humanity and His desire to reconcile the world to Himself.

In short, the Bible is the written record of the mission of God. It exists because God's mission was unfolding and His Spirit inspired people to record it, so that future generations would know and participate in that mission.

The Bible is "mission-shaped". It exists because God is on mission, and the Church exists to continue that mission.

Few quotes from well-known authors:

- "If you take mission out of the Bible, all you are left with are the covers."
Christopher Wright
- "Mission is central to the Church's identity, not just one activity." David Bosch

- “We must be global Christians with a global vision because our God is a global God.” John Stott
- “The Church is missionary by nature; the Bible is the record of God’s sending.” Lesslie Newbigin
- “The Bible forms a community sent into the world as participants in God’s mission.” Darrell Guder
- “We don’t ask people to serve the church; we equip the church to serve God’s mission” Anonymous

Lord had said to Abram, “Go from your country, your people and your father’s household to the land I will show you. I will make you into a great nation, and I will bless you; I will make your name great, and you will be a blessing. I will bless those who bless you, and whoever curses you I will curse; and all peoples on earth will be blessed through you.” (Genesis 12:1-3)

- 1) God’s promise reveals His purpose: God could have revealed His purpose in the form of direct commands about what He wanted to see done. Instead, God chose to reveal His purpose in the form of a promise, a promise that was both personal and immensely global: *to bless all the families of the earth*.
 - God’s promise: A mandate is better than a mere command. Because God extended His mandate initially in the form of a promise instead of as a direct imperative command, the emphasis is on what God would do far more than it was on what Abraham was expected to attempt. God emphasized the outcome that He wanted to see happen among all of earth’s peoples rather than ordering Abraham to do a job with step-by-step directives. When you think about it, what better way could God use to convey His purpose to entire faith family that would be co-working with God for thousands of years! Through this promise of God we see Him as the God of history, the God of covenant, and the God of mission.
 - God’s promise repeated: God’s desire to bring blessing among all nations is not a small add-on idea that pops in the New Testament. God’s purpose is embedded in the very formation of the people of God. God repeats His promise 5 times to Abraham and his family (Genesis 12:1-3, 18:18, 22:15-18, 26:4, and 28:14).
 - God’s promise confirmed: God could have revealed His purpose by assigning to Abraham a list of tasks that needed to be done. Or God might have indebted Abraham with blessing in a way that would have obligated Abraham to repay His kindness by doing expressly “missionary” tasks. But God apparently does not use obligating contracts to enforce the servitude of His people in His mission purpose. Instead, God “gambles” that He will gain their loving obedience. In

Genesis 22, Abraham demonstrates that he would freely obey in faith, letting the God who gave the promise determine how and when He would keep His promise. At that moment God declares that because of Abraham's obedience, God's promise for Abraham's part in the global destiny was sure to come forth.

- 2) God's people formed to participate in His purpose: Even though the promise emphasized that God Himself would do a marvelous thing among the nations, Abraham and his descendants were not to be passive spectators
 - Not passive, but active communicators of blessing: "...so that you will be a blessing" (Genesis 12:2) and "so that in you all the families of the earth will be blessed" (Genesis 12:3). The express purpose for God's choice of Abraham was for him and his family to play the key role in His global purpose.
 - True significance: In contrast with the people of Babel, who wanted to "make a name" for themselves (Genesis 11:4), God assured Abraham that He would make Abraham's name great. The way of highest significance in life lies not in acquiring security and self-made prestige. As with Abraham, significance lies in being a blessing to the nations. We are blessed to be a blessing. It is far more than a duty, it is our destiny.
 - Participating with God as His priesthood: God's covenant at Sinai reveals God's purpose for His people. God's people are to be distinctive, a holy people of unique value among the peoples of the world. God's people also to be God's priesthood declaring God's glories to the world.
- 3) What is God's purpose: God pursues one singular purpose which is reflected in Psalm 67: that He be glorified in global worship! To accomplish that end, God acts with a determined purpose that will not only affect all peoples, but defeat evil spiritual powers. There are 3 directions of God's mission:
 - Toward God: God desires that worship will come to Him from every nation. Therefore, world evangelization is ultimately for God.
 - For people: God intends to bring redemptive blessing to every people. He will redeem a people from every people.
 - Concerning evil: God will overcome evil powers in order to liberate people and ultimately, to bring all things under His everlasting and complete governance. This kingdom reign is the substance of the blessing He brings to the nations.
- 4) The whole Bible as the greater mandate: The biblical mandate for missions is not limited to a few Bible verses. We should never rely on a few apparent proof texts of a cause. We must look beyond isolated verses to see the mandate through and through the entire story of the Bible. Most of us learned the Bible using a story-by-story approach. Lessons from these stories are usually applied to our personal concerns. Because of this we may have wrongly assumed that the Bible is a loose

collection of stories with no overriding, integrating purpose. Furthermore, we may be quite selfishly mistaken to conclude that the Bible is all about our personal lives. The reality is that the Bible is far more about God than it is about people. With God at the center the end of it all, the Bible can be seen, not as disjointed collection of ancient stories and statements, but rather as a single driving saga. It is a story that runs right through every part of Scripture—and it is still unfolding today. Here are few examples from the Old and New Testament: Genesis 41:38-40, Exodus 9:16, 12:12, 12:38; I Samuel 17:45-46; 1 King 8:41-43; Daniel 6:25-27; Matthew 28:18-20; Mark 16:15; Acts 1:8; Revelation 7:9.

This all-encompassing story of the Bible is about what God began and what God will finish. As we behold God at work throughout the Bible, we will encounter God's own zealous passion. Christ wants us to share in His passion in order to enter His mission.

Passion is the heart set free to pursue that which is truly worthy. Those who set their hearts on that which is most worthy—the glory of God—live with joy-filled abandon. Their hearts are both seized and satisfied with the ambition for Jesus to be ardently worshiped. That love comes to dominate and integrate all other desires so as to live in the freedom of single-minded purpose.

The Church Missional History

We look some significant players used by God in order to emphasize the church history book is not completed. The book has started a new chapter, a chapter to be written by us.

Ludwig von Zinzendorf

- Born May 26, 1700
- His grandmother read the Scriptures in Hebrew and Greek
- At the age of 6 he was moved by the Lord to consecrate himself.
- Three pillars of his life he developed during his childhood:
 - 1) Deep impression of the suffering of Christ and merits of Christ
 - 2) Firm determination to be holy
 - 3) Outspoken about Christ with his friends
- Domenico Feti painting "*Behold the man*"—This I have done for you. What have you done for Me?
- April 1722—after coming into his inheritance—he purchased a large estate which included the old village of Berthel Dorf "to plant a pleasant garden of the Lord".

- He wanted his estate to become a refuge for the oppressed and persecuted Christians of every kind of denomination.
- In 1722 Moravians find refuge and the new community of Herrnhut was established.
- On Wednesday August 13, 1727 the Holy Spirit was poured out on whole assembly.
- On August 25, 1727 the brethren began the ministry of 24 hour a day prayer. It lasted for 100 years and serve as a foundation for what God is about to do in a Protestant global mission.
- August 21, 1732 Leonhard Dober and David Nitschmann sent to St. Thomas (West Indies) as missionaries to serve the slaves.
- Tentmaking was not an option—it was their fundamental strategy. They were committed to making disciples and modeling a lifestyle.
- “I have but one passion: It is He, it is He alone. The world is the field and the field is the world; and henceforth that country shall be my home where I can be most used in winning souls for Christ.” Zinzendorf

Guidelines for Moravian missionaries

- They were to live humbly among the unreached
- They were to preach the crucified Christ immediately
- Their aim was to watch for individuals seeking after truth
- Missionaries were to earn their own living in order to teach the nationals the dignity of labor and support their own ministry.

Moravians started more missions in ten years than the whole of Protestantism over the previous 200 years. In average they sent 1 out of 12 members.

William Carey (The Father of Modern Mission)

- Born in England in 1761
- God opened his heart towards mission through reading “Last Voyage of Captain Cook”, Andrew Fullers book “The Gospel Worthy of All Acceptation”, asking the Lord of the Harvest to send laborers into the great untouched portions of the world and hearing about the Moravians.
- Village shoemaker by trade, but taught himself Latin, Greek, Hebrew and several modern languages while repairing shoes. *Lesson: God uses availability more than ability.*
- His global mission interest wasn’t encouraged. At one meeting, an older minister told him, “Young man, sit down! When God pleases to convert the heathen, he

will do it without your help or mine!” *Lesson: Great movements often begin with one person refusing to give up.*

- In 1792 published his book “Enquiry into the obligation of the Christians to use means for the conversion of the heathen.” That year he preached his epoch message: “Expect Great Things from God. Attempt Great Things for God.”
- On October 2, 1792 he formed Baptist Missionary Society. On January 9, 1793 he was appointed a missionary to India.
- He arrived in Calcutta, India, on November 11, 1793 to begin his missionary service.
- He faced significant difficulty and challenges:
 - His 5 years old son Peter dies in 1794
 - His wife Dorothy suffered greatly from mental health
 - His translation work that he labored for many years destroyed by fire in 1812. *Lesson: What seems like a devastating setback doesn't stop God's purpose.*
 - Mission funds quickly depleted
 - No converts for 7 years. In 1800 he baptized his first Bengali convert, Krishna Pal. *Lesson: Faithfulness often precedes fruitfulness.*
 - Despite all these struggles, Carey translated the entire Bible into 6 different languages and portion of the Scriptures in 40 different languages and dialects.
- Lasting impact of William Carey in India:
 - 1) Helped establish one of the first long-term Protestant missionary movements in India.
 - 2) Led one of the largest Bible translation efforts of his era. The Bible, or portion of it, were translated into more than 40 Indian languages and dialects under his leadership. His work made Scripture available to millions for the first time in their own languages.
 - 3) Founded the Serampore mission, a model for Protestant mission work worldwide. Through this mission he established churches, schools, printing press, teacher training programs and Bible translation work.
 - 4) Established Serampore College in 1818 to train Indian pastors, provide higher education, teaching theology, arts and sciences and provide education to both Christians and non-Christians.
 - 5) Established one of Asia's most influential mission printing presses. They printed Bibles, dictionaries, grammars, school textbooks, Christian literature and educational materials.

- 6) Carey strongly believed education should be available to everyone. He helped establish hundreds of village schools, school for girls, teacher training programs and literacy initiatives.
- 7) Carey advocated for several humanitarian reforms: opposed the practice of *sati* (the burning of widows on their husbands' funeral pyres), spoke against female infanticide, supported women's education and encouraged care for the poor and marginalized. The practice of *sati* was abolished in 1829.

James Hudson Taylor

- Born May 21, 1832 in Barnsley, England
- His father's prayer, "If you should give us a son, grant that he may work for you in China."
- December 1849 Hudson Taylor promised the Lord that he would go to China.
- November 1851, moved to Kingston learning to live by faith
- Arrived in Shanghai, China on March 1, 1854 (he was 21 years old). He spent 7 years travelling, preaching, giving minor medical care and distributing books.
- Becoming Chinese to reach China. Unlike most missionaries of his day, Taylor adopted Chinese clothing, hairstyle and customs. Many criticized him, but the Chinese trusted him because he respected their culture. He often said: "Let us in everything not sinful become like the people." *Lesson: Love adapts in order to communicate the Gospel.*
- Depending entirely on God. Taylor made a personal commitment never to ask people directly for money for his ministry. Instead, he prayed and trusted God to provide. Again and again, support arrived unexpectedly, often at the last possible moment. *Lesson: Prayer is not a last resort—it is the first strategy.*
- Returned to England because of poor health.
- China Inland Mission was born on June 25, 1865 on the sands of Brighton's beach. He prayed for 24 missionaries to return with him to China. Within 1 year God provided \$13,000 and accepted 24 missionaries. On May 26, 1866 he and the 24 missionaries left for China. By the time of his death, the mission had sent more than 800 missionaries who established hundreds of churches across China. *Lesson: Big visions begin with obedient first steps.*
- From a letter Hudson Taylor wrote to his sister, "If I had a thousand pounds, China should have it—if I had a thousand lives, China should have them. No! Not China, but Christ. Can we do too much for Him? Can we do enough for such a precious Savior?"

Amy Carmichael

- Born in Ireland 16 December 1867.
- She served in India for 55 years without furlough.
- In many ways Amy seemed an unlikely candidate for missionary work. She suffered neuralgia, a disease of the nerves that made her whole body weak and achy and often put her in bed for weeks on end.
- In 1887 Amy heard Hudson Taylor, founder of China Inland Mission (CIM), speak about missionary life. Soon afterwards she became convinced of her calling to missionary work.
- She applied to be a missionary with CIM and was found unfit because of her health.
- She went to southern India and found her lifelong ministry. Amy's most notable work was with girls and young women, some of them were saved from forced prostitution. Hindu temple children were primarily young girls dedicated to the gods, then usually forced into prostitution to earn money for the priests.
- Amy often said that her ministry of rescuing temple children started with a girl named Preena. Having become a temple servant against her wishes, Preena managed to escape. Amy provided her shelter and withstood the threats of those who insisted that the girl be returned either to the temple directly to continue her sexual assignment, or her family for indirect return to the temple.
- While serving in India, Amy received a letter from a young lady who was considering life as a missionary. She asked Amy, "what is missionary life like?" Amy wrote her back saying simply, "missionary life is simply a chance to die".
- In 1932, a fall severely injured Amy and she remained bedridden for 19 years. However, it didn't stop her from continuing to serve—by writing more books. She wrote 16 of her 35 books during this time.

The 10/40 Window

The rectangular area of North Africa, the Middle East and Asia between 10 degrees north and 40 degrees north latitude (from Morocco to Japan). The 10/40 window is often called "The Resistance Belt" and includes the majority of the world's Muslims, Hindus, and Buddhists. An estimated 5.3 billion individuals reside in approximately 8.948 distinct people groups in the 10/40 window.

The focus of the Christian mission's community 200 years ago was for the coastlands of the world. A century later, the success of the coastland's effort motivated a new generation to reach the interior regions of the continents. Within the past several decades, the success of the inland thrust has led to a major focus on people groups. Today, followers of Christ

are concentrating their efforts on the unreached people groups of the world, most of which are in the 10/40 window.

People Group (PG): A significantly large group of individuals who perceive themselves to have a common affinity for one another because of their shared language, religion, ethnicity, residence, class, situation, etc, or combination of these. For evangelization purposes, a people group is the largest group within which the Gospel can spread as a church planting movement without encountering barriers of understanding or acceptance.

Unreached People Group (UPG): A people group among which there is no indigenous community of believing Christians with adequate numbers and resources to evangelize their people group without outside assistance. Joshua Project defines UPG those PG who have less than 2% evangelical believers.

Frontier People Group (FPG): Subcategory of UPG where there are 1 in 1,000 (0.1%) or fewer Christians, with virtually no established gospel presence. In FPG, every gospel worker is a pioneer. Pioneers often demonstrate 1) A vision from God 2) A trust in God 3) A specific action plan 4) Perseverance through difficulty 5) A need for others.

Unreached Unengaged People Group (UUPG): are UPG who has no known active church planting efforts underway. A PG is no longer UUPG when these are present:

- Apostolic effort in residence
- Commitment to work in the local language and culture
- Commitment to long-term ministry
- Sowing in a manner consistent with the goal of seeing a Church Planting Movement emerge.

People Groups Counts: There are two ways to count PG. 1) Traditional: Counting by country 2) Alternative: Not considering country boundaries. For example, the Afar people exist in Ethiopia, Eritrea and Djibouti. In the traditional counting they will be counted as 3 but in the alternative counting is counted as 1.

In the traditional counting, there are 16,436 PG and 7,162 are considered UPG and 4,823 are FPG. In the alternative counting, there are 10,432 PG and 4,486 are UPG and 3,218 are FPG. Today our world population is 8.24 Billion and of these 3.62 Billion are UPG.

Our world is like a waffle, not as a pancake. The syrup is like the Word of God and needs to move up and down of the waffle to fill each square. Our world is one large waffle with 16,436 squares. Many squares are saturated with the syrup yet others are still waiting for

the sweet syrup.



Disciple: A follower of Christ who hears, obeys, and shares the Good News with others, then trains them to do the same.

The Rise of Mission in the Global South & the Hope for Ethiopian Mission

For nearly 200 years, the modern missionary movement was led by primarily Churches in Europe and North America. Thousands of missionaries crossed oceans to bring the Gospel to Africa, Asia and Latin America.

Today, the center of Christianity has shifted. The majority of the world's Christians now live in the Global South. God is raising missionaries from nations that were once mission fields to become mission forces.

One hundred years ago most Christians lived in Europe and North America. Today Africa has more Christians than any other continent. Latin America has experienced tremendous church growth. Asia has become one of the fastest growing mission-sending regions. The Gospel has moved South. Now the missionaries are moving south to north, east to west, and everywhere in between.

God is raising the Global South. God often chooses unexpected people. For example, Joseph from prison, Moses from exile, David the shepherd and the disciples from Galilee. Likewise, God has chosen many churches in Africa, Asia and Latin America to help complete the Great Commission.

Characteristics of many Global South churches include:

- Passionate prayer
- Sacrificial giving despite poverty
- Strong evangelical zeal
- Experience with persecution
- Growing youth population
- Willingness to serve in difficult places

God always use those who depend on Him the most! The Church history book isn't closed. The book has started a new chapter...a chapter to be written by us!

It is our time

God has a vision and He is working to accomplish His vision. We find from Scripture that His vision is grand and we all have part in it.

- God's vision is that all nations, tribes and tongues will stand before His throne and worship Him. Revelation 7:9-10
- God's vision is that believers from every tongue and tribe will function as priests and kings and reign on earth. Revelation 5:9-10
- God's vision is that all the earthly kingdoms will be given to the saints, who will reign on earth eternally. Daniel 2:44, 7:27; Revelation 22:5
- God's vision is that the earth will be filled with the knowledge of the glory of the Lord as the waters cover the sea. Habakkuk 2:14
- God's vision is that the gospel will be preached in all the world as a witness to all the nations of the earth. Matthew 24:14
- God's vision is that the believers will go and make disciples of all nations, baptize them, equip them and send them to make more disciples. Matthew 28:18-20, 2 Timothy 2:2
- God's vision is that every knee shall bow and every tongue shall confess that Jesus is Lord. Romans 14:11, Philippians 2:10-11
- God's vision is that from the rising of the sun to its going down, incense (prayer, praise and worship) and pure offering (lost souls) will be offered in His name in homes of the people of the world. Malachi 1:11, Romans 15:16

God's steps to accomplish His plan

1) First it was Jesus' turn

- He left heaven to come to live among us. Luke 2:10-11, John 16:28a, Philippians 2:6-8
- He came to earth to be a sacrifice for sin, to show us the Father, to show us how to live and to lay the groundwork for a new era in God's redemptive work. Matthew 16:21, Luke 19:10, John 14:9,
- Jesus sends His followers on mission in the same way the Father sent Him on mission. John 20:21

2) Then it was the disciples' turn: Jesus instructed the disciples to make disciples of all nations (Matthew 28:18-20) and told them As He was sent by His Father, He is sending them to the world (John 20:21). Given the realities of their time, it was "mission impossible"

- Physically impossible: There were no planes, cars, telephones, social media, internet, fax, radio, TV, computers...
- Numerically impossible: The world population is estimated to be 170-200 million people 2,000 years ago and there were only about 500 disciples.
- The whole world was unreached people groups: The mission field was the whole world not just the 10/40 window.
- Financially impossible: Missiologist believe the total asset of the church was about \$10,000.
- Sociologically impossible: Most of the early converts came from the poor, uneducated and outcasts—not held in high esteem.
- Legally impossible: Preaching the gospel was considered a crime.
- They didn't have Bible schools or Seminaries to equip leaders—even they didn't have the New Testament yet.

Yet the early disciples "turned the world upside down" (Acts 17:6)—though they didn't have the building, the program, and the technology like us. The gospel expanded from Jerusalem to Rome in mere 30 years!

3) Now is our turn: The mission epicenter has come to us. Looking back for the last 2,000 years, the Holy Spirit was moving the center of gravity for mission from region to region. We can see in church history where the center of gravity starting in Jesus time in Capernaum (Matthew 4:12-13), then moved to Jerusalem (Acts 1:4,8), then moved to Antioch (Acts 13:1-3), then moved to Asia Minor—today Turkey (Revelation 1-3), then Europe (Eastern and Western), then America and now Africa. A little background...

- In 1900 there were only 9 million Christians in Africa. Today there are over 700 million! (US and Canada, in comparison, only 270 million)
- Since 2018 there are more Christians in Africa than any other continent.
- By 2050 the number of Christians in Africa will be more than the number of Christians in Latin America and Europe combined (the 2nd and 3rd largest continents with Christians).

Understanding Culture

We make ourselves heard every day. To make God Himself heard isn't a feat of speaking, but an act of assisted hearing. It is a marvel of heaven's power.

The Gospel can't be discovered by people; it must be disclosed to people. The Gospel isn't just information; it is essentially an invitation to relationship. This is why God wants everyone to get a chance to hear His invitation. He sends messengers to convey that message. As messengers we need to understand culture well to communicate well. Culture has 4 different yet related layers. The external layer is what we "do" and the three inside layers are what we "be":

- 1) Behavior: Customs, products, languages
 - What is the normal or appropriate way that things are done?
- 2) Values: Standards of conduct and judgment
 - What is good or best
- 3) Beliefs
 - What is true
- 4) Worldview
 - What is real

Values, beliefs and worldviews are mental resources we use to help us make decisions about how to get our needs met—they are the source of our actions and behaviors.

Awareness of these four layers of culture is essential for the Gospel to be effective in a cross-cultural setting. When we go/enter a new culture—we notice the difference in value and belief then finally we see the different worldview.

If our impression of another culture is that it "makes no sense"—then we can be sure that we are not making sense to them either. The solution is to become a LEARNER!

Ethnocentrism: based on our natural tendency to judge the behavior of people in other cultures by the values and assumptions of our own.

Contextualization: to communicate the Gospel with faithfulness to the original biblical presentation and with relevance to the new cultural situation. Three ways to contextualize: The message, the messenger and the movement.

Redemptive analogy: a non-foreign form to make bridge to communicate the Gospel truth.

World Christian Discipleship

Teamwork: The only heroes who operate alone are figures of fiction. The true stories of accomplishment and significance always unfold as stories of teamwork. In Christ, one's life is multiplied by others. The only way to exchange the illusions of fame and self-importance for God-granted greatness and blessing is by walking in partnership with others.

World Christian: World Christians are not any better than any other Christians. They are simply taking God's global cause seriously and personally. God's agenda and His heart become the guiding principle for all their decisions.

World Christian Lifestyle: World Christian lifestyle is a "Wartime" lifestyle. Our values must be aligned with our vision. We need four disciplines to align our values with our vision (moving from being in danger to become dangerous: Community, prayer, simplicity and learning).

Turning good intentions into real life decisions

- 1) The discipline of Community: Walking with others (Acts 1:8)
 - Make choices to connect deeply with others who are following Christ.
 - Have 3 kinds of friends (like Paul and Timothy, Paul and Barnabas and Paul and Peter).
 - Get connected or develop relational links with those who are active in the global work of the Lord.
 - Plan on being part of something larger than yourself.
 - Find a band of like-minded people to keep you accountable.
- 2) The discipline of Prayer: Co-working with God
 - Focus your prayer on God's global purpose and pray about things that will bring blessing to all nations.
 - Pray regularly. Use *Joshua Project's Unreached of the Day app*
 - Start or join prayer gathering for the unreached.
- 3) The discipline of Simplicity: Living to give
 - Live to give: regularly and strategically

- Get free of debt
 - It may be harder to live counter-culturally, with a simple lifestyle, where we are than to live cross-culturally in a foreign country.
- 4) The discipline of Learning: Grow what you know
- Keep increasing in the truth of God's Word and the facts of God's world.
 - Read as many books/journals about mission

Four Practices

Learn to excel in one or a few of the following 4 practices. Focus on one, but don't ignore the others. Plan on practicing all of them during your lifetime.

- 1) The practice of GOING: Immersing ourselves cross-culturally
- 2) The practice of WELCOMING: Connecting with those who come to us.
- 3) The practice of SENDING: Supporting those who go.
- 4) The practice of MOBILIZING: Empowering others in His purpose.

Next Steps and Conclusion

- Share with others what you learned through this training
- Invite an international (a Somali) over a meal
- Help your church adopt an unreached people group
- Start or join a mission team at your church
- Go on a short-term mission
- Begin financially supporting a missionary
- Start learning a new language
- Start or join a prayer group for the unreached
- Volunteer your time to serve in a local ministry
- PRAY...never stop speaking with the Father
- Be faithful where you are...that is your ministry
- Never leave the Word...it is your reference point for reality
- Believe all that the Father says is true...in your head and your heart
- TRUST...that where He calls He will provide
- Step out and risk...you will never go back