

## An Overview on Becoming a World Christian

### 1. Missions Defined

“The partnership of God and man in accomplishing the Great Commission: a) across the street and b) cross-culturally . . . with a priority placed on the least reached people groups.”

### 2. A World Christian Defined

“A Christian whose daily lifestyle reflects a focused partnership with God and other like-minded individuals in His global mission.” – Pastor Blake McDonald

### 3. The Goal of Missions:

#### a. To Glorify God

- 1 Corinthians 10:31 “And whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God.”
- Isaiah 43:6-7 “I will say to the north, ‘Give them up!’ and to the south, ‘do not hold them back.’ Bring My sons from afar and my daughters from the ends of the earth – everyone who is called by My name, whom I created FOR MY Glory, whom I have formed and made.”

#### b. To populate heaven with worshipers representing every people group on earth

- Revelation 7:9 “After this I looked and there before me was a great multitude that no one could count from Every nation, tribe, people, and language, standing before the throne and in front of the Lamb. . .”

#### c. A Church for every people and the gospel for every person.

- Habakkuk 2:14 “For the earth will be filled with the knowledge of the glory of the Lord as the waters cover the sea.”
- Romans 15:20 “It has always been my ambition to preach the gospel where Christ was not known, so that I would not be building on someone else’s foundation.”

### 4. Why Do People Get Involved in Missions . . . in Life?

- a. selfishness – What’s in it for me?
- b. humanism – What’s in it for others?

- c. The Glory of God – What’s in it for God?
5. Where do We Go for Direction? Obviously, we go to the Word of God! Is that sufficient? Well, that depends on how you view the Word of God! How do you see it?
- a. The Bible is a collection of stories with no underlying theme.
  - b. The Bible is a book about God redeeming mankind thru Christ (Christian Humanism).
  - c. The Bible is a book about God’s principles for successful living (Christian Humanism).
  - d. The Bible is a book about God – history (His Story). There is a sense in which you can say the Bible is a story of His Glory. In the words of Steve Hawthorne, from the study guide to Perspectives on the World Christian Movement, “Most of us learned the Bible using a story-by-story approach. Lessons from these stories are usually applied to 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 and the end of it all, the Bible can be seen, not as a disjointed collection of ancient stories and statements, but rather as a single driving saga. It’s a story that runs right through every part of Scripture – and it’s still unfolding today. 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.”
6. A Brief Biblical Overview . . .
- a. From the O.T.
    - Creation Genesis 1-2
    - The Fall Genesis 3
    - The Flood Genesis 6-9
    - The Tower of Babel Genesis 11
    - The Call of Abraham Genesis 12
    - Psalm 67:1-7
  - b. From the N. T.
    - The Book of Acts: Key verse: Acts 1:8 “But you will receive power when

the Holy Spirit comes on you and you will be My witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth

- There are Seven Key Missionary Events in the Book of Acts
  - chapter 2 At Pentecost many Jews from many nations had voluntarily come to Jerusalem for the feast of Pentecost and God used it to reach them.
  - chapter 8 **Persecution** in Jerusalem (involuntary going: believers dispersed)
  - chapter 8 **Philip** and the Ethiopian Eunuch (Here is a voluntary going and the first cross cultural evangelism.)
  - chapter 10 **Peter's** vision (The Gospel comes to Gentiles!)
  - chapter 13 **The Antioch Church** sends out the first cross cultural missionaries.
  - chapter 15 **The Jerusalem Council** addresses what the gospel message is regardless of the cultural context.
  - **Paul's** missionary journeys
    - Chs. 13-14 the first journey includes Cyprus and Turkey
    - Chs. 15-18 the 2<sup>nd</sup> journey includes Jerusalem, Turkey and Greece.
    - Chs 18-20 the third missionary journey occurs and includes Turkey and Greece.
    - Chs. 21-28 Paul's is imprisoned. He starts in Jerusalem via Caesarea and Malta and ends up going to prison in Rome.

c. Revelation 5 and 7

7. What is the bottom line? From the beginning to the end, God is about glorifying Himself through redeeming mankind. He reveals Himself in order that we might know Him and make Him known to others in order that we might be saved: justified, sanctified and glorified and thus be in a position to glorify Him in our life.