

# Perspectives on the World Christian Movement --- Key Lesson Points

## Biblical

### 1 Purpose - The Living God is a Missionary God

- Why God's covenant with Abraham discloses the destiny of every nation of the planet.
- Why you are sure that God is a global God, and not a tribal deity who favors one people over all the others.
- How the entire story of the Bible provides a strong mandate for a mission to all nations.
- Why the enterprise of missions has substantial biblical basis that invites every believer to fulfill their part.
- How God's first promise in the Garden of Eden reflects His mission purpose.
- How to express God's single mission purpose as it unfolds in three directions: toward God, on behalf of all nations, and concerning satanic evil powers.
- How God fulfills His promise progressively through history.

### 2 Passion - The Story of God's Glory

- Explain how the entire story of the Bible unfolds toward a purpose of God's glory in global worship.
- Value worship as a relational act that reveals and delights God and fulfills His love for people.
- Explain the story of the Bible as God revealing glory to the nations in order to receive glory from the nations.
- Show how several of the main events of the Bible's story cohere around the theme of God's unfolding plan to bring about global glory by worship from the nations.
- Recognize the mission purpose found in the "Lord's prayer."
- Explain the sentence: "Missions exists because worship doesn't."
- Explain how both an expansive and an attractive force have always been used by God to advance His mission purpose.
- Describe how the mission objective of planting churches in unreached peoples brings about God's greater glory.
- Explain how compassion for people's needs can be integrated with passion for God's glory.
- Grow with biblical passion for God's glory and kingdom.

### 3 Hope - Your Kingdom Come

- Define and use the concepts comprising the theme of the kingdom of God in the Bible.
- Explain the surprise of "the mystery of the kingdom" in terms of the Messiah coming not just once, but twice.
- Explain how Christ intended the missionary enterprise to extend His "D-Day" victory at the cross.
- Explain the mission significance of a "two-tier" timeline of history, in which a present evil age persists even though it is invaded by a coming kingdom age.
- Explain what it means to advance the gospel of the Kingdom.
- Explain how Matthew 24:14 gives hope and focus for completing world evangelization.
- Understand how Jesus pursued His life-work guided by a vision of the kingdom of God as a fight against evil.
- Pray with bold hope and with strategic purpose for God to restrain evil powers in order for people to hear the gospel and to hope for lasting change.

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## 4 Mandate - Mandate for the Nations

- Explain the strategic value of Jesus working with a few leaders to launch a movement to reach the entire world.
- Explain the strategic value of Jesus' focus on the Jewish people.
- Tell the story of how Jesus taught and modeled ministry to the Gentiles.
- Explain the Great Commission, describing Christ's expectation of what is to be completed among all peoples.
- Describe the strategic value of focusing on people groups as it helps to complete the entire task of world evangelization.
- Explain how Jesus sends His followers on mission in the same way the Father sent Him on mission.
- Present the best biblical grounds for explaining the lostness of humankind in response to the ideas of universalism.
- Respond to the challenge of pluralism by presenting features of the uniqueness of Christ that mention His works, words, death, and resurrection.

## 5 Witness - Unleashing the Gospel

- Explain how God helped the early Church to be faithful to Christ's mandate to be witnesses.
- Describe the crucial importance of the Acts 15 council for understanding how to present the gospel to the nations without presenting cultural obstacles to following Christ.
- Explain how the mission purpose of God is fulfilled by planting churches more than in any other activity.
- Describe both the apostolic and congregational structures of the church using the terms modality and sodality.
- Explain how prayer can be strategically offered for people throughout a city in such a way that God's hand is revealed, allowing the gospel to move rapidly.
- Explain how Paul's strategy of suffering defeated evil powers with the weakness of Christ rather than the power of Christ.
- Explain the strategic value of suffering and martyrdom in terms of the triumph of truth, the defeat of evil, and the glory of God.
- Describe some of the biblical grounds for hope for a tremendous ingathering at the end of the age, in the midst of a time of great hostility to Christ.

## Historical

## 6 Momentum - Expansion of the Christian Movement

- Tell the "broad-stroke" story of how God's blessing has continued to extend to all peoples throughout 4,000 years of biblical history.
- Describe the progress of the gospel to different geographic areas and cultural basins in each of the five 400-year epochs since Christ.
- Explain how the gospel advanced even when God's people were disobedient.
- You will understand different "mechanisms" of mission: people "coming" or messengers "going," either voluntarily or involuntarily.
- Illustrate the idea that God's blessings are to be passed on, or they might be taken away.
- Describe some key mission leaders and movements in history and their strategic approaches.
- Describe the two functional structures of the Church through the centuries using the terms "modality" and "sodality."

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## Finishing - Eras of Mission History

- Recall the approximate dates, emphasis, leaders and student movement associated with each of the three eras of Protestant missions history.
- Explain the four stages of mission activity (within an era).
- Explain the tensions of the transitions between the eras.
- Describe a "people movement."
- Use the E-Scale to describe the cultural distance of missionaries from their intended hearers.
- Use the P-Scale to describe the comparative socio-cultural distance of existing churches from would-be followers of Christ.
- Describe the increase of the non-Western missionary force in recent years.

## 8 Faithful - Pioneers of the World Christian Movement

- Describe the commitment and zeal of "First-Era" missionaries.
- Describe how Carey, Taylor, and Townsend were each motivated by the vision of completing world evangelization.
- Explain the rationale that William Carey used to argue that the Great Commission was a binding mandate for believers in the present day.
- Explain how Carey's motto—"Expect great things from God. Attempt great things for God." —helps explain the attitude and actions of the pioneers of the mission movement.
- Explain why Hudson Taylor founded a mission society.
- Explain why Cameron Townsend began translating the Bible.
- Describe the ways that women have been an important part of mission efforts throughout history.
- Explain how the Moravian community is exemplary to the Church today in areas of motivation and persistence.

## 9 Strategic -The Task Remaining

- Differentiate between regular and frontier mission efforts using the E-Scale and the P-Scale.
- Define and use the terms people bloc, people group, unimax people group, socio-people, and unreached people group.
- Quote from memory the definition of a people group for evangelistic purposes.
- Explain the essential missionary task using and defining the term missiological breakthrough.
- Describe the rough percentages of the world's population who live in unreached peoples and in reached peoples.
- Recall roughly how many unimax groups there are in the four major cultural blocs of unreached peoples.
- Describe the imbalance of missionary allocation in today's world.
- Explain the biblical grounds for and strategic value of urban ministry.
- Explain how good mission strategy expresses both faith and faithfulness while allowing for the Lordship of the Holy Spirit in mission decisions.

Cultural

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## Hearing - How Shall They Hear?

- Describe what missionaries can do to communicate the gospel with sensitivity in cross-cultural settings.
- Explain how a dynamic integration of beliefs, feelings and values provides an underlying

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- mental map which guides behavior.
- Explain the dynamic of ethnocentrism.
- Explain how a "dynamic equivalent" church can be both a Christ-honoring and culture-affirming church.
- Explain what it means to contextualize the gospel.
- Describe how a redemptive analogy works to help people hear the gospel.
- Explain the importance of distinguishing the "seed" of the gospel from the "plant" which may have sprouted from it in a particular culture.
- Explain what can go wrong when surface-level behavior is not accompanied by conviction about deep-level meaning.
- Define syncretism and describe what can be done to avoid it.
- Describe the kinds of encounters that are needed to communicate the gospel.

### 11 Received - Building Bridges of Love

- Explain how the incarnation of Christ serves as a primary model for communicating the gospel with a grasp of both His renunciation and identification.
- Describe the importance of understandable and credible roles for missionaries in a new culture in order to become viable gospel communicators.
- Describe how a missionary can begin to establish a sense of belonging in a new culture.
- Contrast the way the gospel flows in different social structures found in urban, peasant, and tribal societies.
- Explain the necessity of "bi-cultural" bridges.

### Strategic

### 12 Transformation - Christian Development

- Describe some of the most critical dimensions of global human need, and comprehend the nature of global poverty.
- List and evaluate four approaches to meeting global human need.
- Compare and contrast Christian Relief ministry with Transformational Development.
- Explain why and how Christian Community Development offers the greatest hope and promise for reaching people suffering from spiritual and physical hunger, and is the most effective long-term approach to integrating evangelism and church planting with community development efforts.
- Explain how the gospel offers the best hope of significant transformation for the poor and unreached peoples of the world when church planting movements are underway.
- Answer the charge that Christian missionaries destroy culture.
- Describe the difference between absolute poverty and relative poverty.
- Describe ways that cross-cultural workers have been encouraging reconciliation between people groups.

### 13

### Multiply - The Spontaneous Multiplication of Churches

- Explain why aiming to evangelize whole families is the best way to plant churches that will evangelize throughout a people group.
- Describe the four ways that churches grow.
- Explain why it is important to view the church as a new creation of God.
- Distinguish between examples of: New Testament commands, apostolic practices, and human customs.
- Describe the value of this distinction for church planting.
- Explain the value of emphasizing obedience to Christ in evangelism, church planting, and in training leaders.

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- Describe the process of how a mother church reproduces churches by extension chains.
- Describe what makes a church truly indigenous.
- Explain the value of saturation church planting.
- Recognize the similarities of people movements and multiplying reproducing chains of churches.
- Explain what is meant by "spontaneous" multiplication of churches when missionaries work very hard behind the scenes.

### 14 Breakthrough - Pioneer Church Planting

- Describe why church planting among unreached peoples is difficult, feasible, and crucially important.
- Describe what "extraction evangelism" is and how to avoid it.
- Describe how a "conglomerate" church forms, and evaluate its potential for multiplying throughout a people group.
- Evaluate the practicability of focusing on one people group in culturally distinctive churches that aim not to be exclusive or divisive.
- Explain how culturally diverse churches can lead to reconciliation and unity.
- Describe why new converts often experience great scorn and disfavor from their people and yet should be encouraged to remain in relationship with their people.
- Describe why new converts can aspire to exemplify the finest ideals of their people.
- Use the "C-Scale" to identify and compare contextualization of new churches in a Muslim society.
- Describe some guidelines to guard against syncretism in pioneer church planting.

### 15 Teamwork - World Christian Partnership

- Describe how believers can grow as World Christians.
- Explain what is meant by a "wartime lifestyle" and why it is important for Christians to adjust their lifestyles for Christ's global cause.
- Compare the strategic value of the three roles of: senders, mobilizers, and missionaries.
- Explain how local churches strengthen the mission movement, and yet why they also need to be mobilized by the mission movement.
- Describe biblical models of the core activities of sending (i.e., serving, giving, and praying).
- Explain the value of a church or an aspiring missionary linking with a mission agency.
- Explain why God reveals His will without revealing details of the future to His servants.
- List some of the steps that disciples need to take to become effective missionaries.
- Describe how some churches have been effective in launching frontier mission efforts.
- Describe the value of strategic evangelism and church-planting partnerships.